

Geographic Information Coordinating Council  
**MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

January 14, 2016

1:30 to 2:30 PM

NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

2 W. Edenton St.

Hall of Fame Room

**MINUTES**

1. Chair Stan Duncan welcomed Bob Brinson, Dan Madding, Ryan Draughn, Tim Johnson, Joe Sewash, Jeff Brown, and on the phone, Kathryn Clifton, Doug Newcomb, and Bob Coats

2. Minutes of the September 21<sup>st</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved for adoption as submitted.

3. Quick Updates

a. Census Geospatial Data

Bob Coats reported that the Census 2020 redistricting program is in its first phase and will utilize a free software package—Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) based on QGIS. The Census Bureau demonstrated the new Census block geography as a starting point for the Block Boundary Suggestion Program (BBSP, submissions due May 31) and will present again in a webinar in February. The software will be used for all geographic updates including the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). Mr. Coats has contacted the NC League of Municipalities (NCLM) and the Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) to consider distributing copies of the software to all jurisdictions. County boards of election will be involved.

Mr. Coats discussed Census priorities with the Director of the Census Bureau, including GUPS and a Community TIGER project based on Esri software that ties into the Geographic Support System Initiative (GSSI) for which Joe Sewash has been the point person for North Carolina. Community TIGER would be a geographic data resource for local governments to verify boundary changes and addresses that would not be subject to Title 13 confidentiality restrictions. This would enable greater data sharing between federal and local governments. State resources such as statewide parcels and statewide address points could be shared through Community TIGER.

Mr. Coats will be at Census headquarters in April for a series of meetings and would be pleased to convey any concerns of the Management and Operations Committee or the Council with the Census Bureau.

Also, the Census Bureau has tentatively scheduled a presentation to the General Assembly on February 11<sup>th</sup> (or during that week) on the topics of redistricting and other programs including the Geographic Support System Initiative and related timelines. There may be opportunities for other meetings with Census officials. Mr. Duncan pointed out that the Council meets on February 11 at 1:00 PM. In addition, Mr. Duncan had a recent conversation with Paul Meyer,

NCLM Executive Director, and would like to suggest that Mr. Coats add Christopher Nida (NCLM Director of Research and Policy Analysis) and Linda Millsaps (NCACC Research Director) to the Working Group for Census Geospatial Data to help bridge contacts at the local level. Mr. Duncan emphasized the value of statewide addresses and other geospatial elements that play a role in sales tax collection and distribution and other applications beyond counting residents. Mr. Duncan recommended a meeting to include Mr. Coats, Kevin Leonard, NCACC Executive Director, Paul Meyer and their staffs, David Baker from the Department of Revenue, and Joe Sewash to discuss outreach opportunities and applications of address data. Mr. Duncan will set up a meeting. Mr. Coats added that Bob Joyce of the UNC School of Government was a resource for the General Assembly concerning redistricting in the last Census. Looking ahead, recent Census population estimates indicate that an additional congressional district is likely in North Carolina.

Mr. Sewash added that the preliminary program for the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) conference in Maryland in February has numerous presentations on the Census including GUPS and Community TIGER. He offered to brief Mr. Coats after the conference.

Mr. Newcomb reminded Mr. Coats that William Beatty of the Federal Highway Administration intends to discuss a boundary issue, as a follow up to a discussion in a meeting of the Federal Interagency Committee.

On the topic of GUPS software, Mr. Coats found that the Census Bureau will not offer GUPS for download. The Census Bureau will distribute copies on request. Also, Mr. Newcomb will contact the GUPS team to inquire about a presentation for the FOSS4G conference in Raleigh in May.

Also, the Census Bureau is developing a new online interface to serve all Census data and it includes mapping features with background imagery. It will be released in the summer, but American Fact Finder has added some of the mapping features already.

#### b. Orthoimagery

Tim Johnson reported that the Southern Piedmont and Mountains (2015) phase is scheduled to deliver imagery products to all 24 counties (Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and GIS coordinators) in a series of regional distribution meetings January 19-28 led by Darrin Smith and Ben Shelton of CGIA. Public release via NC OneMap is on schedule for the first week in February. The project team has worked hard to do final corrections, processing, and packaging for delivery.

Mr. Johnson described the need to re-fly, at the contractor's expense, a portion of one of the 2015 study areas including a portion of the Fort Bragg/Camp Mackall footprint. For the first time in the statewide program, some of the imagery did not meet state specifications for visual quality. The 2015 imagery in those locations will be delivered to PSAPs as part of a complete package and will be suitable for use in emergency communications and for other purposes. Imagery that did not pass inspection will be superseded by 2016 imagery acquired in the same locations. Replacement products are expected in June 2016 and will be delivered to the PSAPs in the area.

For the coastal phase (2016), the project team selected four imagery contractors to cover four study areas comprising 27 counties. The project has an agreement with the US Marine Corps for permission to acquire orthoimagery within their boundaries (permission had not been granted in 2012). USMC will take delivery of imagery over installations and share the imagery with the local PSAPs in Onslow County and the City of Jacksonville. In addition to the Marine Corps areas, an agreement was reached with the Harvey Point installation for imagery acquisition without local government access to the imagery. Approvals to fly are also in place for installations of the US Air Force, Army, and Coast Guard. The 2016 flights will begin as early as February 1. The selected contractors are Atlas Geographic Data, Spatial Data Consultants, Surdex, and the Sanborn Map Company.

#### c. NC Parcels Project

Jeff Brown displayed a status map showing 52 counties with parcel data updated since September in the NC Parcel Transformer. The other 48 counties have data transformed earlier in 2015. The Working Group is encouraging county data managers to use the tool on their own to keep data current in the Transformer with spring and fall updates. So far, 15 counties have registered with the Transformer to get log-in permission for self-service updates. There is interest from more counties. An NCID is required to participate directly. Mr. Duncan suggested additional communication from the Council and associations to counties to promote continued participation.

Accomplishments in 2015 included:

- 100 Counties updated in the NC Parcel Transformer
- Automated process to refresh the NC OneMap Database and Geospatial Portal
- Continuous operation of the cloud application by the Carbon Project, Inc.
- Minor enhancements to the NC Parcel Transformer and the Master Schema
- User guides for updating their parcels in the Transformer
- Presentations to professionals in workshops and conferences
- Technical assistance from the Working Group for Seamless Parcels and CGIA
- Technical assistance from NC OneMap team
- Cost share from NCDOT and NCDA&CS

In 2016, the plan includes:

- Update 100 counties in the NC Parcel Transformer (spring and fall)
- Maintain statewide parcels in NC OneMap
- Operate and maintain the Transformer by the Carbon Project, Inc.
- Reach out to professionals in workshops and conferences
- Provide technical assistance from the Working Group for Seamless Parcels and CGIA and the NC OneMap team
- Continue to build stock of “do-it-yourself” counties
- Continue cost share from NCDOT and NCDA&CS and others if possible
- Find a solution for sustainable, full funding to operate and maintain statewide parcels

Mr. Brown reviewed the elements of a business case for recurring funds for NC Parcels Project. The updated draft includes scenarios where current standardized multi-county parcel data saves time, money, property and even lives in emergency events. In brief, for approximately \$83,000

per year, the NC Parcels Project could sustain the statewide resource and achieve benefits far in excess of the cost.

Mr. Madding pointed out that the capability to select parcels with “Present Use Value” would be valuable if the concept could be captured in a field in the master schema for NC Parcels. (A county assessor may determine land value for acreage in agriculture, forestry and/or horticulture so that tax amounts reflect present use, not market value based on highest and best use). In the case of military installations seeking to conserve land to avoid incompatible adjacent land uses, cost share to support conservation may be related to tax revenue foregone in present use value assessments. Mr. Brown will take the issue to the Working Group for Seamless Parcels, currently reviewing the state’s core cadastral data content standard and the master schema for NC Parcels. Mr. Duncan added present use data would be useful, but cautioned that quality and availability varies by county.

#### 4. Committee Priorities for 2016

Kat Clifton explained that she is now working for Davidson County and has more capacity for serving as LGC chair. The committee discussed advantages of having a vice chair as well. Concerning LGC priorities, work continues on an e-book to document and display the value of GIS in government operations. Also, LGC identified the need for a better understanding about requirements and expectations of boards of election and geospatial representations of voting districts and other boundaries.

Dan Madding reported that TAC continues to work on a document for recommended practices using GIS in mobile applications. He needs more comments on a draft distributed in December and he needs more information on a variety of software platforms. Doug Newcomb offered to solicit information from the FIC.

Regarding the FIC, Mr. Newcomb explained that the committee continues to work on its goal to share data. For example US Fish & Wildlife Service shared old imagery with the US Marine Corps. The FIC has much interest in analyzing new LiDAR data; for example, Mr. Newcomb derived tree canopy height from LiDAR and will load to the USGS ScienceBase system for distribution. This could become discoverable through the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal. He has also developed a vegetation index dataset from the National Agriculture Imagery Program imagery for North Carolina.

Ryan Draughn reported that three items came up for M&O attention in the SMAC meeting on January 13. First, the Namibia Statistics Agency sent a message to NC OneMap requesting permission to adopt and modify the NC State and Local Government Metadata Profile. Subject to communication between CGIA and the Federal Geographic Data Committee, SMAC recommended that the Council Chair send a letter to grant permission and thank the agency for its interest. CGIA will follow up with Mr. Duncan.

Second, SMAC identified a need for the NC Board on Geographic Names and CGIA to get more information from the US Board on Geographic Names to ensure that both boards are completing all steps required for renaming geographic features in North Carolina.

Third, the Stream Mapping Advisory Committee (Stream MAC) proposed new wording for a Division of Water Resources (DWR) rule concerning adoption of new stream maps. The rule previously applied to the Jordan Lake watershed, but the rule is likely to extend to all areas. The old wording directed both the Council and the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to approve stream maps that would apply to rules and regulations. To draw a proper distinction between a technical assessment of the quality of new stream maps (more strictly the methods/processes to produce the maps) and a policy assessment of the applicability of new stream maps to rules and regulations, the Stream MAC proposes this wording:

(iii) A hydrography dataset developed using processes/methods approved by the Geographic Information Coordinating Council. Prior to approving a mapping process/method under this sub-division, the GICC [...] shall assure that edits, deletions and additions to the hydrography dataset follow approved processes/methods. The EMC will make a determination as to whether these rules shall apply to edits and additions to this hydrography dataset after a 30-day public notice and opportunity for comment. Hydrography developed by the approved mapping processes/methods under this sub-item shall not apply to projects that are existing and ongoing within the meaning of this Rule as set out in Item (6).

Mr. Sewash explained that the Stream MAC interprets the wording but is not in a position to make a recommendation. Cam McNutt of DWR advised that comments to the EMC before it meets next in March would be timely. Mr. Duncan and Mr. Draughn will follow up on this issue before the next M&O meeting.

#### 5. Council Priorities for 2016

Mr. Duncan met with State Chief Information Officer Keith Werner and John Correllus, Director of the Government Data Analytics Center. Mr. Duncan stressed the importance of keeping statewide parcels current. Another priority for the Council is to support efforts to develop and maintain address data for multiple purposes, with sustainable funding. With statewide parcels and new statewide roads, North Carolina has complementary datasets in place. Mr. Duncan urged committee members to help develop priorities for the Council with a goal of keeping North Carolina one of the leading states in GIS.

#### 6. February Council Meeting

One of the technical presentations will be by State Archives on archiving geospatial data. A second technical presentation will be decided this week.

#### 7. Future Meeting Dates:

February 15, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.