

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

April 18, 2016

1:00 to 2:30 PM

Center for Geographic Information and Analysis  
301 North Wilmington Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Room 770A

**MINUTES**

1. Chair Stan Duncan welcomed Bob Brinson, Dan Madding, Ryan Draughn, Tim Johnson, Joe Sewash, Bob Coats, and David Giordano and on the phone Doug Newcomb, John Farley, Kathryn Clifton, and Alice Wilson

2. Minutes of the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Management & Operations Committee were approved for adoption as submitted.

3. Quick Updates

a. AddressNC and Census Geospatial Data

Bob Coats, Governor's Census Liaison, reported that the Census Bureau will conduct tests including a test of address canvassing beginning in October in Buncombe County. Address canvassing will be targeted to areas experiencing growth or where address data is inadequate. Testing will include a comparison of results from field work and from office verification using orthoimagery. Mr. Coats requested that the Census Bureau evaluate Buncombe County addresses in *AddressNC*, but he does not expect that to occur. He added that *AddressNC* is under consideration to be included in the Governor's budget. Also, the Census Bureau's partnership staff expressed willingness to participate in North Carolina events as needed. Mr. Coats confirmed that there will be half as many local field offices and half as many workers doing field verification of addresses for Census 2020 as compared with Census 2010. Targeting hard-to-enumerate areas is the strategy. Overall, about 25 percent of addresses will be verified by field work. The Census Bureau is still committed to the Geographic Support System Initiative and *AddressNC* as a data source.

Joe Sewash reported that he and Luis Carrasco did a presentation on *AddressNC* at the GIS in Transportation Symposium two weeks ago in Raleigh. US Department of Transportation (US DOT) and Virginia counterparts also presented in the session, attended by 50 people. There was good discussion about content and engagement with Next Generation 911 at the state level. National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) released a position paper providing input to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) steering committee on success factors for the National Address Database. The steering committee is considering a home and steward for the national database. Agencies involved include the Department of Commerce and US DOT. Also, the comment period on the FGDC addressing standard for developing and maintaining address data (555 pages) closes April 25.

Mr. Sewash observed that the FGDC steering committee manages the National Geospatial Data Asset catalog, a portfolio management system for Framework data. There are themes that are collections of layers. The Transportation theme is under the purview of US DOT. The steering committee is trying to determine if the address data layer fits in the Transportation theme or if Addressing should be its own theme. There is insufficient guidance on how to create a new theme and get it approved. If Census and Commerce host the National Address Database, it would need to be an accessible database that is not subject to Title 13 processes and restrictions.

In discussion, Mr. Sewash added that the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) standards and a white paper regarding point placement (e.g., on a building footprint) recognize that it is more important to document point placement for each record than to require all points to be placed in the same way. Each record should have information about whether it is a driveway point, or a building access point, or a point on a building footprint, etc. Also, in NC, only 40 percent of the address points have a field indicating whether the address is residential or commercial. Having that distinguished in address data is valuable to all. Further, a flag indicating single-family versus multi-family addresses can be useful for address verification and other purposes; this is included in the Geographic Support System Initiative (GSSI) guidelines.

Regarding Mr. Sewash's discussion with Greg Hanks, Assistant Chief of the Geography Division of the Census Bureau, in February, the proposal was for NC to compile local address data in *AddressNC* and pass that to the Census ahead of the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process. In turn, the data issued by the Census to local governments in the LUCA process would be more current and more congruent, providing a better base for review of addresses. In a follow up with Mr. Hanks at the end of February, Census was still evaluating the approach and timing.

After the LUCA process, another set of data from *AddressNC* would have value in GSSI for Census 2020. Mr. Coats added that engagement in the Census processes are beneficial to states.

Mr. Duncan has shared with John Correllus that address data is a Council priority along with *NC OneMap* and *NC Parcels*. He would like Mr. Sewash and Mr. Coats to do a presentation on address data to the Council at its August meeting. Mr. Duncan will work on informing local governments about the importance of defensible populations counts in 2020.

Mr. Farley added that NCDOT is working with Tom Morgan and John Bridgers of the Secretary of State's Office on improving geographic data for municipal boundaries that is timely for the Census Bureau. Also, NCDOT will publish statewide data for all public roads that will be another statewide resource that would be valuable to the Census Bureau. An official partnership with North Carolina will be needed as well as NC legislation concerning authoritative sources. The centerline data should be collected and compiled once and maintained in one place. This is a collaboration opportunity. North Carolina has the advantage of the state being staffed and funded to maintain road data; the partnerships need to be worked out. Mr. Duncan observed that roads data can be added to ongoing discussions with NC Association of County Commissioners and NC League of Municipalities about geographic data.

#### b. Orthoimagery

Tim Johnson reported that all imagery has been acquired for the Coastal Region (2016). The US

Marine Corps will get a first look at imagery captured over installations in the quality review process. Also, the re-flights in the Sandhills region were completed and will go through quality review.

CGIA submitted a proposal to the NC 911 Board to acquire imagery in 2017 in the Eastern Piedmont, a 26-county area including Fort Bragg and its neighboring counties. Mr. Johnson will brief the Board on April 22 prior to a Board vote on the proposal.

Mr. Coats pointed out that the Military Affairs Commission is developing maps related to the military mission and base sustainability in North Carolina. A concept is “sentinel land use” related to military training routes and avoidance of land use conflicts.

c. NC Parcels

David Giordano displayed the latest map showing status of *NC Parcels* by county. More than half of the counties have been updated in 2016 so far as the spring update is well underway. Mr. Duncan is working with NCACC to encourage full participation by counties. He clarified that all properties, whether privately or publicly owned, are mapped and coded with a parcel identification number.

4. Discussion of Session Law 2014-120 (pages 7-9 re: GS 89C – Engineering and Land Surveying)

John Farley recently notified Stan Duncan and Tim Johnson that Session Law 2014-120 (originating as Senate Bill 734) included new language regarding engineering and land surveying. It came to Mr. Farley’s attention in the context of NCDOT’s development of a right-of-way management system. Some of the NCDOT agents were working on legal descriptions for state property and questions arose about licensing requirements related to land surveying. Mr. Farley pointed to General Statute Section 89C-25 (7) as the exemption for employees of State agencies and local governments from professional land survey licensing requirements, as interpreted by the Attorney General in 2010. He was told that the limit on Section 89C-25 had been removed by the General Assembly in 2014. Section 89C-25(7), the main basis for the Attorney General’s opinion, was replaced by 89C-25(7a). In addition, Kathryn Clifton found that Session Law 2015-264 added a clause “or public utility service” to follow the word “product” in 89C-25(7a) and changed “direct supervision” to “responsible charge.”

The Council and its constituents are clearly stakeholders concerning legislation related to geographic information, but there was an absence of information and outreach to the GIS community about that change in the statute, before or since its enactment. The impact on GIS operations in state and local government is not known. There is a history behind the exemption going back nearly 20 years. Gary Thompson gave assurance to the Local Government Committee and the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee in 2013 that statutory changes to accommodate a mapping science competency for professional land surveyors (Session Law 2013-98) would have no effect on the exemption for state and local government GIS practitioners. The language of GS 89C-25(7a) that was introduced and enacted in 2014 is difficult to interpret in terms of practical effects if any.

From the local government perspective, Ryan Draughn found that NCLM's regulatory staff recalls consulting with a committee of local government engineers and not being aware of an impact on local government. Mr. Duncan found that the NCACC was not aware that the change in the statute could affect local government GIS. Alice Wilson pointed out potential cost implications for local governments if the exemption is not still in place.

Is it an issue for state and local government? Conversations are needed. Mr. Duncan will contact Gary Thompson as well as David Tuttle, legal counsel for the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCBELS), and Alex Rankin, surveyor and Council member, to seek more information. Mr. Johnson consulted with an attorney in the Department of Information Technology about the language of the statute and learned that an interpretation may be needed to clarify, but more information is needed.

Whatever the interpretation of this particular statute, the expectation is that members of the Council and its standing committees will bring issues like this one to the attention of the Council in a timely way for information, discussion, and action if necessary.

## 5. Committee Reports

Alice Wilson reported that the Local Government Committee met in February. Topics included opportunities to participate in program planning for the 2017 NC GIS Conference, work on an e-book about the value of GIS, and redistricting process with local boards of election. Mr. Coats pointed out that local review of block boundaries for the Census is underway, proceeding through the end of May. LGC has also proposed changes in LGC Bylaws.

Ryan Draughn reported that SMAC will meet on April 20. SMAC will consider approving a charter for the 2022 Reference Frame working group. The group will evaluate the impact of the proposed standard for vertical and horizontal datums on GIS applications in North Carolina and proposed solutions. For more information, Gary Thompson reported on the 2022 Reference Frame to the Council in August 2015 (see [http://www.ncgicc.org/Portals/3/documents/GICC\\_Minutes\\_20150813.pdf](http://www.ncgicc.org/Portals/3/documents/GICC_Minutes_20150813.pdf) , page 3).

On the topic of geographic names, SMAC and the NC Board on Geographic Names are working to clarify procedures to assure timely and thorough review and communication. SMAC intends to consolidate documents for a complete, consistent reference document.

Regarding the Federal Interagency Committee, Mr. Newcomb reported that the general meeting was held at the NOAA labs in Beaufort on March 16. Don Fields presented his work on remotely sensed data on submerged aquatic vegetation in estuaries and changes over time. Julia Harrell presented on mobile data collection methods. Coley Hughes of Albemarle Pamlico National Estuarine Program described work on modeling fish passage. William Beatty reported on transportation data sharing between states (called "Every Day Counts"). US Forest Service plan reviews are underway and are getting feedback from GIS users. The 3DEP program managed through the US Geological Survey will have another round of grants for elevation data. Mr. Newcomb added that the FOSS4G conference had plenty of good presentation proposals.

Dan Madding reported that TAC continues to work on a white paper for recommended practices using mobile applications. Wilson County recently contributed. Mr. Madding still needs information on open source applications, such as Roam software discussed at the FIC meeting, and asked Mr. Newcomb to help him find an expert to contribute text to sections of the report. Mr. Madding may trim parts that do not have content.

Mr. Madding added that he has a staff person who is interested in standards for land use/land cover. On another TAC topic, Mr. Sewash confirmed that a new technical architecture system design document in the Department of Information Technology is not imminent.

## 6. Council

### a. Meetings

Upcoming meetings this year will be held in the State Education Board Room: May 11, August 10 and a rescheduled November meeting, now set for Wednesday, November 9.

### b. Agenda for May 11 Council Meeting

The technical presentation will be on the NC Coastal Atlas by Tom Allen of East Carolina University. The Value of GIS segment will be featured again. Also, John Correllus will provide an update on DIT in a 10-minute segment.

### c. Appointments

Appointments are still pending. Names have been submitted to the Governor, the House and the Senate.

Regarding current Council members, Mr. Duncan reached out to the Community College System to encourage regular participation.

Mr. Duncan emphasized that all Council members are expected to communicate with their respective organizations to share information from the Council and generate information for the Council.

## 7. Other Items

David Giordano reported that the *NC OneMap* team is researching alternatives to the Geoportal Server software as a platform for data discovery and access, with the goal of providing an easier, more efficient consumer experience.

Tim added that CGIA is working with DIT to redesign the Council website. The challenge is to make the site dynamic within the templates and branding for consistency.

## 8. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be scheduled for June 20, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM.