

Geographic Information Coordinating Council
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

July 18, 2016

1:00 to 2:30 PM

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

MINUTES

1. Chair Stan Duncan welcomed Bob Brinson, Dan Madding, Doug Newcomb, Tim Johnson, Joe Sewash, and Jeff Brown and on the phone Kathryn Clifton and Ryan Draughn
2. Minutes of the June 20th meeting of the Management and Operations Committee were approved for adoption as submitted.
3. Quick Updates

a. AddressNC and Census Geospatial Data

Joe Sewash reported that *AddressNC* received programmatic funding in the recently passed budget. The project team is working on a draft charter and a project management plan. John Correllus will be the executive sponsor and there will be a steering committee. Luis Carrasco, CGIA, will be the project manager. In the first year, the three-part focus of the project will be (1) outreach and support to local governments for context and engagement, (2) aggregation of local address data and quality control by the state, and (3) development of a services based model. Beyond compiling the dataset, the project will make the data available through services such as geocoding, reverse geocoding, address verification and validation for data entry applications, tabular database support and standards to support data analytics, return mail registry, and US Postal Service intelligent mail barcodes. An example is a service that identifies the nearest address to a given point of interest. The goal is wide ranging uses of addresses for efficiencies for state and local governments.

b. Orthoimagery

Tim Johnson reported that the project team is closing out the Southern Piedmont and Mountains (2015) phase. The re-flights in the Sandhills region covering about 60 percent of the contractor's study area were successfully processed, re-reviewed, and delivered to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and GIS coordinators. The closeout with Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall is complete. Imagery in the re-flight locations has been updated on NC OneMap. A final report to the NC 911 Board will conclude the phase.

For the coastal phase (2016), CGIA will hold training sessions for the online quality control tool on July 21 and 26. Starting August 1 and continuing into early September, four to five counties begin the visual quality control process each week and continue for up to 60 days. Mr. Johnson displayed the schedule showing the sequence of groups of counties. Also, CGIA is coordinating the delivery of imagery captured over installations of the US Marine Corps for their quality

review. Final delivery of that imagery will be for the Marine Corps only. Also, horizontal quality control, managed by Gary Thompson, will take place earlier in the project schedule for the most efficient delivery of final products.

The NC 911 Board approved the Eastern Piedmont phase (2017) and work is underway. This region now includes Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties to enable flights over Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall to occur entirely in one phase for efficiency. A new agreement with Fort Bragg is in progress. Contracts for the project are under review. The parties are CGIA (with NC911 Board) and NCDOT Photogrammetry and NC Geodetic Survey (with CGIA). Approvals are expected this month. The typical timeline is in progress, with the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process in the fall, contracts signed in December, and flights beginning in February.

c. NC Parcels

Jeff Brown displayed the latest map showing the status of NC Parcels by county, with 88 counties updated in 2016. Reasons for pending updates for 12 counties include local personnel changes and tax software changes. The Working Group for Seamless Parcels is assisting and the expectation is to complete all by the end of July. The next wave of updates will occur in the fall. Mr. Duncan pointed out that the earlier the spring 2017 update can occur (integrating parcels with tax data as of January 1, 2017) the better for being able to use a fresh set of parcels to respond to questions from the General Assembly and others early in the year. Mr. Johnson pointed out the programmatic benefits of making data consumers confident that NC Parcels is getting updates from all counties every six months as planned. Operation and maintenance of the NC Parcel Transformer and parcel data on NC OneMap continue. Also, 35 counties now have data managers who have an NCID and have applied the Transformer directly. Mr. Brown added that the project team continues to work with counties to populate more of the standard fields (e.g., site address) from source files for more complete and consistent data from county to county in the statewide collection.

Kathryn Clifton added that, in Davidson County, she informs parcel data consumers who call her about the statewide parcel resource available on NC OneMap. In many cases, users seek multi-county data. She observed that populating fields such as parcel size in acres is an advantage for her county when an economic developer is analyzing potential locations.

Also, the revised parcel data content standard approved by SMAC and coming before the Council next month includes a few new fields to be added to the NC Parcel Transformer at an opportune time.

d. Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Tim Johnson reported that he attended a forum last month at Next Generation Air Transportation (NGAT) office on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). It was attended by 160 people from public, private and academic organizations. NGAT's Kyle Snyder led the forum. Representative John A. Torbett who sponsored legislation on UAS, introduced the session. NGAT has formed a consortium of public and private entities including the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and its Division of Land and Water Stewardship, and the NC Division of Emergency Management that received a Certificate of Authorization (COA) to start working with UAS.

Also, NGAT received a blanket COA from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that allows NGAT to work anywhere in the country, an important milestone. In June the FAA issued Part 107: Small UAS Operations Rules. Mr. Johnson described the limitations for small UAS. For North Carolina governance, a permit is required for each operator, after FAA approval. [NCDOT Aviation Division](#) is in charge of permits. UAS Program Manager Chris Gibson leads the NCDOT effort and would be an informative presenter at a Council meeting. NCDOT duties include operator testing. Pilot certification varies by state, creating a challenge for private operators. A larger challenge is data management for anticipated large volumes of data and how to transfer data from the source to users. From the Council perspective, Mr. Johnson recommends:

- Gain awareness of what NCDOT is doing and consider a role for the Council
- Be involved in the consortium to represent state and local government
- Get a better idea of what companies are authorized for UAS services in North Carolina
- Learn more about technologies and their capabilities to supplement what Kyle Snyder presented to the Council last November
- Determine what applications at the state or local level would represent a good investment in UAS for practical solutions

Mr. Duncan urged the committee to stay on top of UAS issues.

Mr. Newcomb would like to know if there is a requirement for a Professional Licensed Surveyor to collect and/or process data with a UAS.

Mr. Sewash added that NSGIC has a group that tracks UAS issues. With the new FAA rules, a UAS operator needs to be supervised by a licensed pilot on site, but does not need a pilot's license to operate. Also, the new FAA rules do not include provisions for multiple UAS doing precision flying in tandem for data collection over larger areas, but may in the future.

Enforcement of FAA rules is a concern in the context of what are apparently many UAS vendors.

4. Working Group for Professional Land Surveying and GIS

Bob Brinson reported that the working group members are assembled, have set the first meeting for August 2, and will be ready to report to the Council on August 10. Mr. Johnson is assisting. Regarding the format of the meetings, Mr. Brinson's approach is to meet first as a working group to clarify facts, issues and use cases in preparation for a later collaborative meeting with the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. The August 2 meeting is intended for specifics relating to legislation and rules. The list of working group members is on the Council website.

5. Committee Reports

Kathryn Clifton described a current effort by the Local Government Committee. The committee found it difficult to obtain written descriptions of projects for an e-book on the value of GIS in government operations. Ms. Clifton explained that a more practical approach is to use the "story map" concept; assemble text and graphics from recent winners of the Herb Stout Award (with

thanks to Mr. Johnson), presentations, and other ready sources; and place points on a simple interactive map with text and graphics linked to each point. Content from the snowed-out GIS showcase in 2015 is another source of state and local government GIS applications. Ms. Clifton anticipates that the question “where are you on the map?” will be an incentive for others to add content from across the state. In a brief demonstration, she showed thumbnails leading to graphics and brief descriptions. Hyperlinks to related websites may be possible. Added items can be reviewed before appearing in the published version. It is not publicly available yet. It is currently hosted on ArcGIS Online by Davidson County, but would benefit from a more central server. Mr. Madding expressed interest in a demonstration to the State Government GIS User Committee.

LGC will ask the Council for approval of its revised bylaws. Ms. Clifton’s update of the Council’s statutory reference in the LGC bylaws is timely and should be replicated in other committee bylaws.

Ryan Draughn reported that SMAC approved the update to the parcel data content standard and will recommend adoption by the Council. Mr. Johnson sent the standard to the Council for a 30-day review per standard procedure. No comments from the Council have been received to date. Mr. Duncan observed that the revision does not include a field for zoning; local governments tend to maintain a separate data layer for zoning districts. SMAC will meet July 20. There will be discussion of the revised guidance documents and clarification of processes for the NC Board on Geographic Names in coordination with the US Board on Geographic Names.

Doug Newcomb reported that the FIC Executive Meeting met and planned the agenda for the next general meeting to be held August 25 in Raleigh at noon. The session will feature presentations of methods for classifying land cover from aerial imagery, satellite imagery and LiDAR by three or four federal agencies, to be confirmed. FIC is updating its work plan for this fiscal year.

On behalf of John Farley, Mr. Madding reported that the SGUC Executive Committee will meet next week and prepare for the next general meeting on August 25 in the morning. The PLS/GIS issue has been a topic of discussion in the SGUC Executive Committee. Regarding the ELA, he noted that costs to agencies are constant during the three-year agreement. An update to the SGUC work plan is in progress.

Mr. Madding reported that the Technical Advisory Committee needs guidance from the M&O and Council on topics for the TAC work plan for 2016-2017. Work on a guide to technical architecture is on hold in anticipation of an updated approach by DIT.

7. Council Items

a. Website

The committee discussed the new Council website. Formatting of the member table will be revisited by CGIA. Ms. Clifton recommended an imbedded map for contact information for county and municipal GIS managers. Mr. Newcomb suggested an image map in GeoJSON with attributes as part of the solution.

b. August Meeting

Mr. Duncan noted the full agenda for the Council meeting on August 10, including an update on *AddressNC* and Census 2020 by Joe Sewash and Bob Coats as well as an update on Next Generation 911 by Richard Taylor. The latter will include the planned schedule for conversion which may have implications for integrating statewide geospatial datasets into NextGen 911. Council decisions are expected on the Local Government Committee's revised bylaws and the updated content standard for parcel data. Considering the time demands, the segment on the value of GIS to Council members will be postponed until November.

c. Appointments

Three appointments are still pending. Names have been submitted to the Governor and the House. Regarding Council members by statute, Mr. Duncan will revisit the Community College System and the new President's opportunity to designate a representative who can participate on the Council.

d. Annual Report

Mr. Duncan requested a powerpoint presentation instead of a paper report format, and emphasized the value of reporting what we have done and how we are leveraging our data, knowledge and experience for the future. An important element in the future is Census 2020, the opportunity for a complete population count, and implications for congressional representation and fair allocation of funding among jurisdictions.

Also, Mr. Johnson observed that the "story map" format may be suitable as an additional alternative to a regular annual report format. David Giordano and Brett Spivey joined the meeting and displayed examples of story map formats including an [international example](#), a [project map tour](#), a golf [map journal](#), and a [minor league baseball tour](#) in NC.

The approach is to formulate a story and build the application around the story. For example, showing maps of participating counties as the parcel database expanded over time; and what people are doing or could do with parcels. Displaying examples in specific parts of the state will be important in engaging an audience.

Also, Ms. Clifton sent the group a link to an award winning [story map](#) used for an annual report. The example features brief text with maps, images, and videos.

Mr. Giordano and Mr. Spivey are working on story maps for the Data Visualization Studio on the first floor of the Education Building. They observed that the goal is to simplify text and images. The story itself is the most challenging task to complete. Mr. Giordano provided more information on story map [principles](#).

The committee commented favorably on the story map approach for communicating the work of the Council where there are opportunities for presentations and/or reports. CGIA will proceed with this approach. The schedule is to complete a draft Annual Report by October.

8. Other Items

Mr. Johnson gave a brief update on the NC GIS Conference 2017. The website has been released, registration is open, sales of exhibit booths are underway, and the program committee is identifying topics and presentations. The Council's initiatives relating to imagery, addresses, and parcels will be included in the program. A mobile event tool called "CrowdCompass" could be used to poll participants, evaluate sessions and be applied in other ways. In addition to digital schedules, there will be daily handouts of schedules. Other options for informing participants are under consideration. The conference will include the Herb Stout award competition and a poster session. A new feature in the vendor area will be a demonstration theater for vendors to present at specific times.

9. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.