

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

July 24, 2017

1:00 to 3:00 PM

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

**MINUTES**

Chair Stan Duncan welcomed Bob Brinson, Bob Coats, Dan Madding, Tim Johnson, Joe Sewash, Jeff Brown and on the phone Alice Wilson (for Kathryn Clifton), Silvia Terziotti, and Joseph Sloop.

1. Minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting of the Management and Operations Committee were approved for adoption as submitted.

2. Quick Updates

Census Geospatial Data

Mr. Coats reported on Census programs. The Census Bureau sent out materials last week for Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) to the highest elected officials in counties, municipalities, the State, and tribal leaders. The Governor's Office will designate a point person for state government technical efforts. Census Bureau staff from Atlanta continues to meet local officials for outreach, including meeting every county manager in North Carolina as well as selected municipalities. Local governments are encouraged to register for LUCA by the end of August. Mr. Coats will be informed about sign-ups. Work will begin in February. In-person technical training sessions are to be scheduled, to be organized around councils of government. Census Bureau will promote LUCA at the annual conferences of the NC League of Municipalities and NC Association of County Commissioners. Mr. Duncan requested a brief update to the Council on August 9. Mr. Sewash requested more information on LUCA workflows to inform application of *AddressNC* data in support of LUCA.

Mr. Coats observed the Census Bureau asks a lot of local governments. On the other hand, local governments have opportunities to ask the Census Bureau for statistical area boundaries that may be applicable to neighborhood or other areas. The Participant Statistical Area Program is part of Census 2020 that can improve data for local government uses. Also, an unincorporated place can be classified as a Census Designated Place for which statistics will be generated.

AddressNC

Joe Sewash reported the *AddressNC* project is in planning review in the Touchdown project management system (part of the state government IT enterprise) and is on target for data updates in February 2018. Regarding the National Address Database, US DOT has acquired contractor support and North Carolina has submitted 2014 data for integration in the database. The Federal Geographic Data Committee's Address Theme Subcommittee has established a working group

for state and local update requirements. Mr. Sewash and Dan Ross of Minnesota will represent states in that process.

#### Working Group for Professional Land Surveying and GIS

Bob Brinson, chair of the working group, reported he sent a letter and summary documents to NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCBEES). A response from the board is expected soon with expectations of a meeting between board members and selected members of the working group. Mr. Brinson and Mr. Johnson are ready to follow up with the board within a week as needed.

#### Statewide Orthoimagery

Tim Johnson reported a milestone. The orthoimagery contractors are submitting the first set of 2017 imagery for quality review in the online tool. Quality review begins next week and continues through the end of September including the 30-day review periods by county. A webinar on the quality control process held last week by CGIA had a large turnout. For the 2018 phase, the Qualifications-Based Selection process will begin soon through the Department of Information Technology. Mr. Duncan pointed out that with the release of 2018 imagery late next year, all 100 counties will have received imagery products extending seven miles beyond their respective boundaries.

#### NC Parcels

Mr. Brown reported 97 counties updated parcels in the first half of 2017. The others are expected soon. The Working Group for Seamless Parcels followed up with several nonresponsive counties to obtain more updates. Fifty-two counties have registered with the NC Parcels Transformer for self-service. Carbon Project, Inc. continues to maintain and operate the Transformer in the cloud, and the Department of Environmental Quality is interested in sharing costs along with NCDOT, NC Agriculture and Consumer Services, and CGIA. Mr. Brown confirmed that a few counties intend to do quarterly updates instead of semi-annual. Each update requires quality control by CGIA before publication in *NC OneMap*. Currently, the program budget can accommodate about a dozen counties doing more frequent updates, but not quality control for all counties four times a year. Outreach by local government organizations and the Department of Revenue are helpful. Mr. Brown confirmed that the collection on *NC OneMap* is updated every weekend with counties that have been updated.

#### 3. Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Mr. Duncan began a discussion by noting several assessments of the Geospatial Data Act of 2017 (Senate 1253) by professional organizations, including a supportive statement by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) that addressed concerns about potential impacts on the practice of GIS and GIS professionals. Mr. Sewash, who is a member of the NSGIC Board of Directors, offered more information on the history of the legislation and the current situation. The NSGIC intention has been to be a voice for states in national policy supporting National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) initiatives and in bringing accountability to federal geospatial resources and practices. A prominent stakeholder in geospatial policy, the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS), opposed the 2015 version of the Geospatial Data Act. In 2016, NSGIC facilitated a discussion with MAPPS, legislative liaisons and sponsor staffs to find a way to update the 2015 and 2016 versions to

satisfy objections from MAPPS.

In the 2017 version, the primary differences are in 2b, 2c, Section 11 and Section 12 regarding the definition of geospatial products and practice relative to the Brooks Act and the Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act as they pertain to federal agencies. Mr. Sewash added that the Association of American Geographers (AAG) interpreted Senate 1253 to invite reinterpretation of Brooks and FLAIR that could be harmful to GIS professionals. That has not been NSGIC's intent nor its interpretation. However, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) has recently reviewed Senate 1253 and found the AAG interpretation is feasible. Meanwhile, the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) is facilitating more discussion among professional organizations and seeking potential solutions. The related Senate staff members have asked COGO to develop a unified position by October 1. In parallel, a House companion bill that mirrors the current Senate version may be introduced as soon as this week with understanding there will likely be amendments. Mr. Sewash offered a resource with links to the various documents. He expects NSGIC may issue more statements as the COGO process continues.

For North Carolina, changes in the Brooks Act could have implications for the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) model law and, in turn, interpretations by NCBEES with implications for GIS practice.

Further discussion included concerns from the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee meeting about privatization of federal GIS positions and effects on local or state governments where federal grants are involved. The good things are important, too—a stronger FGDC, National Geospatial Advisory Committee, and National Spatial Data Infrastructure. State and local governments would have more say in federal geospatial investments.

The M&O committee concluded that a brief presentation on the Geospatial Data Act of 2017, following the update from the Working Group for PLS and GIS, would be informative at the August 9 Council meeting. The overview could include history, objectives, timing, benefits and potential impacts, with highlights on the language most relevant to GIS practice, and invite discussion.

#### 4. GICC Priorities

Mr. Duncan continued the discussion from last month. He summarized three buckets of Council priorities, identified as technical assessments and guidance for research and development, advocacy on behalf of Council initiatives, policies and strategies, and support to public and private GIS professionals.

Under technical assessments, priorities taking shape are (1) the Council's "Framework Plus" data themes with special attention to NextGen911 – *AddressNC*, NC Parcels, and NC Roads, (2) other framework data needing the most improvement – streams and waterbodies, (3) potential open source software solutions for state and local government GIS functions, (4) unmanned aircraft systems and potential applications for state and local governments and private GIS practice with attention to GIS and PLS collaboration, (5) GIS and data analytics to take advantage of spatial

analysis, and (6) the roles of *NC OneMap* and state agency portals in the context of enterprise data management. For example, Mr. Duncan commented on a meeting this morning with CGIA and NC Department of Revenue that looked at ways to apply priority datasets to solve problems and increase efficiency in business processes such as sales tax collection and distribution where jurisdiction of each location is required. Mr. Sloop added insight from the SMAC meeting regarding the value in developing a unified representation of statewide streams to meet multiple business needs in state and local government. Requirements for the data and its maintenance will need to be defined and data governance established. Streams are a longstanding issue and the context includes the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). Mr. Johnson sees the timing as good to revisit streams as a data improvement opportunity. Ms. Wilson echoed the value of a unified source of streams as a baseline.

Mr. Duncan continued with advocacy by the Council and by members with their respective organizations, emphasizing Census 2020 preparation and promotion, support to planning and implementation of NextGen911 in ways that leverage investments in required and highly recommended geospatial data, development and maintenance of enterprise services for address data (*AddressNC*), communication of the value of geospatial data and technology as strategic resources, and metadata implementation by state and local data managers.

As a third set of priorities, Mr. Duncan summarized support to GIS professionals in public and private organizations as recommended GIS practices relating to standards, GIS and PLS collaboration, GIS Professional certification, and sharing knowledge and recommended practices.

In a discussion about priorities, Mr. Duncan noted that Mr. Farley called a group of subject matter experts together to consider ways to maintain the statewide collection of all public roads including data from local governments. Mr. Duncan requested that Mr. Farley not create a new working group but utilize the Working Group for Roads and Transportation to sustain the coordination/reporting structure. The working group has been chaired by Mr. Farley or a designee from NCDOT's GIS Unit.

In a discussion about priorities, research into GIS Professional (GISP) certification and labor classifications over a range of years may indicate growth in GIS professionals. Ms. Wilson pointed to surveys by the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association. Other sources of information about GIS in industries include US Departments of Commerce and Labor. Mr. Sloop offered that a study guide for GISP is available online. Another source of information would be opinions of hiring managers and how much weight they give to professional certifications. Mr. Sloop values GISP certification and pays for his employees to apply for certification, which can make a difference for employees' professional development.

Mr. Madding advised keeping the Council and state and local governments informed about unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and related rules and regulations on a regular basis. The conditions appear to be dynamic. A discussion about committee work plans and tasks to keep the Council informed pointed to NCDOT Aviation Division, Department of Public Safety, and other agencies looking to apply UAS to tasks such as fighting forest fires. Mr. Sewash added NSGIC has ties into the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to monitor regulatory issues. The

liability issue is important, too. Focusing on the data output—quality, standards and liability—may be most appropriate for GIS bodies like the Council. In North Carolina, data acquisition falls under the goals of SMAC. Data products and usability is more related to user committees. A technology committee could be cross-cutting to inform the Council and practitioners. The Council is trying to stay on top of this rapidly growing technology and issues related to uses of UAS. Mr. Duncan asked M&O members to think about a practical approach.

#### 5. 2017 GICC Annual Report

Mr. Duncan and Mr. Brown are working on an initial draft. As in the last report, the emphasis will be on challenges and priorities, followed by accomplishments.

#### 6. Committee Status Reports

##### Local Government Committee

Alice Wilson reported the LGC is discussing NextGen911 and what is next, preparation for Census 2020, and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), particularly how to get guidance for purchasing, and guidance on how they may be utilized for small data collection projects and other local government purposes. LGC is interested in hearing more about Professional Land Surveying and GIS as it affects local government and its contractors. Communicating the value of GIS is an ongoing effort by LGC.

##### Federal Interagency Committee

Silvia Terziotti described a follow-up meeting of federal GIS users along with Hope Morgan of NC Emergency Management and Jeff Brown of CGIA that clarified data resources available from federal agencies for hurricane response. There will be a compilation of information from the meeting that will be useful for NCEM as well as federal agencies to find and understand available data for future events.

FIC is getting ready to fill a seat on the Executive Committee and a seat on the SMAC.

##### State Government GIS Users Committee

Jeff Brown reported on behalf of John Farley that the SGUC General Meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup> will feature technical presentations on demographic trends by Rebecca Tippet from UNC and population estimates by Mike Cline, State Demographer.

##### Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

Joseph Sloop reported that he drafted and circulated an opinion piece on geospatial data for NextGen911 to SMAC members, LGC, and an interest group of URISA for review. He plans to integrate comments to produce a version suitable for review by M&O with intentions of presenting to the Council in November. SMAC meets on October 18. Mr. Duncan emphasized the value of taking advantage of statewide datasets that aggregate and standardize local authoritative geospatial data. Mr. Johnson pointed out the opportunity to reinforce the success of state and local GIS collaboration for statewide datasets.

In response to a question from Mr. Madding about a standard for address points, Mr. Sewash explained that *AddressNC* is developing a schema based on user stories and assessing attributes and business requirements in the context of federal standards.

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Sloop concurred that address points and road centerlines extending beyond county boundaries, like the imagery products, are valuable for local government GIS operations. Mr. Sewash explained that data for the entire neighboring jurisdiction, not limited by seven miles related to cell phone transmission, is what is needed for 911 communications. The aggregation of data income standard schemas developed for NextGen911 enable exports to a target county and its neighbors in a common feed. Currently, differing schemas from county to county require different translations of each into a target county's schema. NextGen911 will enable one import and one translation covering all neighboring counties.

SMAC approved the Charter for the Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation.

Also, SMAC discussed priorities for this fiscal year. Hydrography, street centerlines, parcels and address points were priorities and members expressed interest in land cover data. In addition, Dr. Tyrel Moore retired and completed his fourth term as chair of the NC Board on Geographic Names. The chair is appointed by the Council Chair on advice of SMAC. In the meantime, Mr. Johnson will lead the Board on an interim basis through a backlog of names to develop recommendations to submit to SMAC for concurrence before forwarding to the USBGN.

#### Technical Advisory Committee

Dan Madding has a preliminary list of subject matter experts to assist with an assessment of open source software for GIS solutions. A kick-off meeting is planned in August to set a course for the ad hoc group to complete and assessment.

#### 7. Other Items

Council member appointments by the Governor's Office are pending.

#### 8. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting is planned for Monday, August 28.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.