

Geographic Information Coordinating Council
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

October 9, 2017

1:00 to 3:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Chair Stan Duncan welcomed Bob Brinson, Bob Coats, Darrin Smith, David Giordano, Jeff Brown and on the phone Kathryn Clifton and Joseph Sloop.

1. Minutes of the August 28, 2017 meeting of the Management and Operations Committee were approved for adoption as submitted.
2. Chair Announcements

The Association of Regional Councils of Governments recommended Mr. Lee Worsley, Executive Director at the Triangle J Council of Governments to serve as the regional government member. This and other appointments by the Governor's Office are pending.

The City of New Bern, led by Alice Wilson, received an award from the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association for an Exemplary System in Government, Distinguished Single Process System. The application assisted the City in finding new uses for vacant lots and abandoned properties owned by the City.

3. Quick Updates

Census Geospatial Data

Bob Coats reported on Census programs. The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is proceeding with more than one-third of counties and 114 municipalities committed to participate to date. Two counties have declined, with follow-up pending. He noted 66 municipalities have declined the invitation to participate, but 27 of those are cooperating with their respective counties for LUCA address verification. LUCA training dates October through December in North Carolina are posted [online](#). Anyone may participate in training sessions. Councils of Government are providing the venues. Also, Mr. Duncan promoted participation during his presentation to the NC Property Mappers Association, and Mr. Coats promoted LUCA at a conference of the NC League of Municipalities. The federal dollars related to population counts were [estimated](#) by the George Washington University for [North Carolina](#). Also, the Census Bureau maintains a [story map](#) for LUCA participation.

Working Group for Professional Land Surveying and GIS

Bob Brinson, chair of the working group, and selected members of the group met with the Surveying Committee of the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors on September

12. The meeting went well, helping to clarify positions and leading to better understanding of the GIS related questions and gray areas needing more discussion. The parties will meet on the morning of November 8 to concentrate on reviewing the use cases that describe geospatial data development. An agenda is forthcoming. Mr. Brinson added his understanding of agreement that an ongoing dialogue would be beneficial to all. Ms. Clifton, who also participated, observed value in defining terminology to clarify practice, and value in meeting in person. Mr. Duncan emphasized the value of Mr. Brinson's deliberate approach to defining issues and use cases before consulting with the Surveying Committee, and to have ongoing communication for mutual benefit. Mr. Brinson added he floated the idea about considering licensing options for GIS professionals to generate some thinking among participants.

Statewide Orthoimagery

Darrin Smith, reporting for Tim Johnson, announced the project team has finished visual quality control for all 26 counties in the Eastern Piedmont and Mountains 2017 region. Early delivery is on track for mid-December through four or five regional meetings for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

For the Northern Piedmont and Mountains 2018 project, the project team has selected four qualified vendors and announced the selections on the CGIA website. The goal is to get purchase orders in place by Thanksgiving. There will be four regions, with assignments forthcoming in the procurement process. Mr. Smith emphasized this is a good time for local governments to plan for piggybacking on the state program for additional imagery-related products. Local governments are welcome to contact one or more of the listed vendors to inquire about products and locations. If a jurisdiction plans to upgrade to 3-inch ground resolution, there is more urgency to get included in flight plans. Contact Mr. Smith for more information.

Mr. Duncan confirmed the value of mid-December imagery for January tax assessment purposes. Mr. Brown reminded the committee of preferences for earlier delivery expressed years ago by local government members of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee and the Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation.

Regarding delivery of imagery products to the Eastern Piedmont region, Mr. Smith clarified that PSAP computer aided dispatch software in many instances requires a single file for imagery. Delivery of a single file (mosaic) covering the county plus seven miles beyond the boundaries ensures the single file will provide visual reference extending into well into neighboring counties. It would be valuable to know which counties load the mosaic in their systems.

NC Parcels

The Working Group for Seamless Parcels met in September for an annual assessment of the program. The group covered priority fields to promote for fuller population from county source parcels. The group gave a presentation to the NC Property Mappers Association last week. Lucy Cardwell of Currituck County explained doing her fall update as soon as she heard about a potential hurricane to be sure she had a back-up copy in the NC Parcels Transformer. She confirmed the ease of running the Transformer. The fall update is underway with 28 counties

completed so far. More reminders will be going out this week.

4. 2017 Annual Report

The Management and Operations Committee reviewed prior the meeting. From one comment, more description of benefits of the Statewide Orthoimagery Program was added. Mr. Duncan acknowledged it is hard to tell a story about the Council in a concise way. The Annual Report is ready to be reviewed by DIT beginning later this week. What would the committee like the Council to hear about the Annual Report on November 8? Mr. Brinson advised sharing the approach of the Annual Report – stating two opportunities in the first two pages intended to grab attention (NextGen 911 and Census 2020), followed by priority initiatives (imagery, address points, parcels, NC OneMap, etc.). Mr. Duncan summarized feedback from Council members urging more attention to direction and policy and less to detailed technical matters. He envisions taking on a new initiative. He noted the maturity of the Council and the challenge of coming up with new big ideas for new initiatives. Also, Mr. Duncan observed that a forthcoming IT strategy from DIT may help guide the work of the Council in the coming year. To date, early stages of DIT work on enterprise data management is relevant to the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal as an enterprise resource.

Discussion around the Annual Report at the next Council meeting can focus on questions such as: where and how should the Council devote its time and experience to benefit the statewide GIS community? Mr. Giordano observed the benefits of data sharing to state agencies and the challenge to avoid a burden on local government data managers; solutions are needed to make data sharing comprehensive, coordinated, and easy.

Ms. Clifton found the content of the Annual Report to be good, but she recommended another version in a format that would be more consumable for a general audience. For example, a story map might be suitable for less technical viewers interested in the GIS community. She offered to assist and Mr. Brown offered to coordinate.

5. NSGIC Highlights

Mr. Brown reported he and Tim Johnson attended the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) conference in Providence, Rhode Island the last week of September. He shared a few highlights.

- The National Address Database is making progress, with acceptance of datasets from several states including North Carolina. However, NAD needs federal funding to realize its value.
- In transportation, a NSGIC committee is working on a minimum content standard for All Roads Network of Linear Referenced Data (ARNOLD).
- Massachusetts' Chief Data Officer displayed an informative graphic of geospatial data consumers, showing a range of user types. Similar information for NC OneMap would make a good graphic. Perhaps a survey is needed to supplement server statistics. One of her messages – don't make people navigate state organizations to find the data they need. Make it easy, and do data-driven prioritization of data maintenance.

- NSGIC members in conversations showed interest in and admiration for NC's orthoimagery program, statewide parcels, NC OneMap, and the GICC. Prime topics in presentations and conversations were address points, NextGen911, and open data portals.
- After the National Parcels Summit, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) decided to purchase a license for nationwide parcels from CoreLogic. The driver for that solution was to have comprehensive data for damage assessments to accelerate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) financial assistance.
- Census 2020 was well presented by Census staff from headquarters and Atlanta. Nancy von Meyer was in attendance and advised that the Boundary and Annexation Program (BAS), not a separate effort on municipal boundaries, is the best way to get current municipal boundaries integrated into Census geography. In addition to Census 2020, Laura Waggoner gave a good presentation on an inventory of federal lands (Protected Areas Database) to which NC contributes.
- IT security issues are gaining emphasis in Idaho and other states. There were also concerns expressed about security requirements for Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) and worries about contaminating state data.
- DHS is funding improvements to the GIS Inventory. NC OneMap metadata records have been harvested by the GIS Inventory.
- North Carolina is in relatively good standing in terms of completeness, consistency, currency, and resolution of statewide geospatial data. Funding for GIS coordination is problematic in many states.
- Tim Johnson was on a panel with representatives from Utah and Oregon to share insights about mature coordinating councils.

6. Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Mr. Brown reported NSGIC remains optimistic that a compromise can be reached. The Geospatial Data Act of 2017 has valuable elements that support federal geospatial collaboration to the benefit of states. Senate Bill 1253 (and House Bill 3522) as written is at an impasse. One outcome could be a revised bill that drops language about federal procurement of geospatial services to be sure there is no impact on the Brooks Act and no impact on public GIS employees or universities. A challenge for NSGIC is to support the GIS profession and advocate for surveyors and engineers and the safety of the public. It need not be either/or from the NSGIC perspective.

Ms. Clifton also contacted the Geospatial Information and Technology Associations' webinar presenter on the topic, John Wertman, and heard optimism but not a recommendation to submit statements from state or local governments. Mr. Duncan concluded it is a wait and see situation.

7. Next Generation 911

Mr. Sloop reported that the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) drafted an opinion piece on Next Generation 911 and sent it out for review by SMAC, the Local Government Committee, and Carolina URISA's addressing group. A few comments were received and the document has been modified to integrate comments. It will be finalized at the SMAC meeting on October 18. He explained the origin of the document and emphasis on NENA's GIS data model,

and the intention to be sure local governments are aware of their potential roles. Also, Mr. Sloop explained the value of structuring data requests by state agencies for NextGen 911 in ways that make it efficient for local governments to share data. He stressed that not every GIS shop is the same, meaning processes may need to accommodate different workflows, capabilities and data quality. GIS will be an important part of NextGen 911 and SMAC want to be sure geospatial professionals are involved in plans. Mr. Sloop confirmed Mr. Duncan's intention for SMAC to present the opinion piece to the Council on November 8.

Mr. Brown observed the Council's longtime principle to share data widely and its concern to make data sharing effective. Mr. Sloop added his observations including the value of a single tool for uploading local data for multiple purposes. Data sharing needs to be easy and data producers need to understand the value. There needs to be an education piece to explain the NENA standards and how local governments can meet needs, for GIS staff and for managers. Many counties are in good shape for data sharing, but making the business needs and benefits clear will be important. Mr. Brown added that explaining the value of priority standard fields in NC Parcels to county GIS coordinators is resulting in better population of those fields from county source datasets. Forums like the NC Property Mappers Association conference help with that communication. Mr. Sloop pointed to the metadata training sessions as good ways to reach out.

Mr. Coats invited a fact sheet on CGIA and/or data sharing to distribute in packets at upcoming Census workshops for Local Update of Census Addresses. Value added by state agencies and roles played that improve data quality could be good to communicate.

8. GICC Meeting November 8

Mr. Duncan explained the location will be the renovated Albemarle Building, home of the Department of Insurance on the corner of Salisbury and Lane streets across from the Legislative Office Building. He urged committee members to think about high level policy and direction looking ahead. The email to Council members will encourage thinking and sharing at the meeting. What are needs the Council could address to the benefit to local government GIS or private GIS service providers? Is the Council missing some key issues? Mr. Sloop observed the success of the NC Parcels Program helps build confidence in state enterprise data initiatives. The same for the Statewide Orthoimagery Program. Local governments look to the State for guidance, standards, and recommended practices. NextGen 911 needs a structured approach to be most effective. There are many local data decisions and definitions (e.g., deeded, assessed, and calculated acres for a parcel) and the more guidance available the more consistency in local data that are compiled in statewide datasets.

Ms. Clifton echoed the importance of parcels and imagery and added street centerlines now published as a statewide dataset as another valuable dataset, and even more valuable when it is routable. She pointed out the value of saving a local government the worry of budget proposals and uncertainty about acquiring imagery. Best practices in data development and management are important. She emphasized the importance of regularly communicating the value of GIS in public decision making.

Mr. Brinson commented that the Council needs to be part of enterprise data management and look for targets of opportunity. Identifying the best data for solving specific business needs and datasets that are inadequate or missing will be important. There may be opportunities to seek support to fill gaps and apply geospatial analysis. We can be ready to point to geospatial data and analysis that can fill out a picture for business decisions that may otherwise rely on statistics, tables and charts without a spatial perspective. This may lead to ways to become part of DIT's and GDAC's strategic planning.

Mr. Coats pointed out the Census Bureau's efforts on "open data" and supporting examples of demographic data applied in new and different applications. Events for coding new applications have taken place in large cities but also Wilmington. The open data concepts are consistent with NC OneMap data access. Are local governments duplicating efforts where state data could be available? What is the role of the Council in open data?

Mr. Duncan announced his intention to allot more time in the Council agenda on November 8 for committee reports to hear more about committee priorities and plans.

9. Committee Status Reports

Local Government Committee

Ms. Clifton reported the LGC met on August 16th and approved its work plan for 2017-2018. Tom Bell of Western Piedmont COG is now a member. Review of Council priorities included attention to the new 2022 Reference Frame and how it might be implemented by local governments. Discussion of the Geospatial Data Act of 2017 and the GITA webinar led to a wait and see approach. A discussion of open source GIS software in support of the Technical Advisory Committee brought up a tool Ms. Clifton found that may be useful to local governments: "Story Map JS" from Knight Lab, Northwestern University. LGC also reviewed the NextGen 911 document described by Mr. Sloop and sent comments. The committee also looked at the Statewide Term Contract 208Z that applies to limited GIS services for state and local governments. The LGC meets next on November 1.

Federal Interagency Committee

Jeff Brown reported on behalf of Silvia Terziotti, the interim FIC Chair. FIC has spent a lot of time discussing geospatial data for emergency response. The next general meeting will feature presentations about GIS and wildfires in western North Carolina by federal agencies and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. A session in the summer helped clarify various federal datasets available for emergency response and recovery that can be useful to state emergency management GIS operations.

Also in FIC meetings, federal agencies have presented projects that produce classified land cover. NOAA, US EPA, and Fish and Wildlife have much technical knowledge and experience to share.

State Government GIS Users Committee

No report today.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

Mr. Sloop reported on key items on the agenda for the SMAC meeting on October 18. The SMAC work plan will be finalized and approved. The NextGen911 opinion piece has been edited and SMAC approval is anticipated. SMAC continues to support statewide datasets for street centerlines, address points and parcels. Research on business needs for land cover data is a new task in the work plan. Also, Tim Johnson has taken responsibility as interim chair of the NC Board on Geographic Names.

Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Madding reported on the assessment of open source GIS software. The committee is developing a document with 11 sections and two use cases. A first draft is complete for all sections except three—GeoServer, PostgresSQL, and PostGIS—where more help is needed from subject matter experts.

The document opens with two use cases that demonstrate significant installations, growing market share, and viable alternatives to proprietary GIS software. The first use case is the NC Board of Elections and the second is the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. The sections on QGIS and GRASS have been reviewed and edited. In addition to text, the document contains a functionality matrix for desktop software that Mr. Madding expects to be a valuable resource.

10. Other Items

Mr. Coats heard from the Census Bureau about a review of the Geographic Support System Initiative (GSSI). Tim Johnson's name has replaced Luis Carrasco's name as the contact for North Carolina. The initiative is not likely to be very active while the Census Bureau focuses on LUCA and other programs for Census 2020.

Also, the Office of State Management and Budget will move temporarily to the Dobbs Building before the end of 2017 while renovations take place in the Administration. This will require new phone numbers for Mr. Coats and his colleagues.

11. Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Duncan recommended not meeting in November. The next meeting is planned for Monday, December 11.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.