

Geographic Information Coordinating Council
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

December 4, 2017

1:00 to 3:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. Chair Stan Duncan welcomed Bob Brinson, Bob Coats, John Farley, Dan Madding, Tim Johnson, Jeff Brown and on the phone, Kathryn Clifton.
2. Minutes of the October 9, 2017 meeting of the Management and Operations Committee were approved for adoption as submitted.
3. Quick Updates

Census Geospatial Data

Bob Coats reported on Census programs. The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is proceeding with half of the workshops completed in locations across the state. A workshop for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians on December 13 is open to local governments. According to Census Bureau information, more than half of NC counties are committed to participate to date. The deadline to sign up for participation is December 15.

Mr. Coats met with North Carolina Counts, a nonprofit organization. Its strategy is to contact local governments as well to encourage participation. Mr. Duncan added that David Baker, NC Association of County Commissioners, is contacting local governments to promote LUCA. Also, Mr. Duncan pointed out the free availability of the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS), based on QGIS open source software, for jurisdictions to use for LUCA and other Census programs; additional investments in software and hardware are not required to participate in LUCA. Mr. Farley added that UNC Chapel Hill offers free in-person instruction in QGIS twice a year and NCDOT has taken advantage of that for its GIS training specialist. The contact is Scott Madry (madrys@email.unc.edu). Mr. Duncan emphasized the importance of LUCA participation by counties that border on neighboring states and those that are part of metropolitan areas. Mr. Coats added that address verification does not need to be perfect, but it is worth the effort even if only a few additions are identified.

Also, the Census Bureau will hold training sessions about the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) in February. BAS materials will go out this month.

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 November 8, the second of three meetings to walk through use cases. The next meeting is scheduled for

January 23, 1:00-4:30 PM. The meeting is expected to include discussion of work products. Detailed definitions of practice will take time. Remaining issues and questions will be identified. For example, creating geospatial representations of roads is part of GIS practice. Survey products are representations as well, but purposes of surveying practice are different. Mr. Brinson added that definitions have the greatest impact on private GIS practitioners given the exclusion for government GIS practices. A decision tree was introduced as a tool, but it has not been refined or recommended as a tool for defining specific cases.

Additional discussion emphasized several points. The GIS industry is not defined by a software tool. The [Geographic Information Science & Technology Body of Knowledge](#) (BoK) underpins the industry. Geospatial data in map format is not a “GIS map” distinct from a “survey map” in practice. Geospatial analysis predated computers and software. Also, the concept of accuracy continues to be an issue. Geospatial practice includes resolution, scale, national mapping standards, and other measures that represent accuracy of features. Accuracy concepts are not exclusive to surveying purposes and products. The model law for land surveying is a resource but has not been adopted by NCBEES. Disclaimers can specify the limits of accuracy statements in GIS practice. Ms. Clifton advised writing a set of disclaimers as a product of the working group.

Mr. Duncan concluded the working group is making good progress, and some issues may take longer to resolve than others.

Mr. Madding commented on potential value of a licensing board for GIS practice. Mr. Duncan pointed to the board for registered foresters as an example to consider. He advised the working group to continue considering this issue. This is distinct from the PLS license in mapping science held by Ms. Clifton and a few other GIS professionals who applied to be grandfathered into licensure by NCBEES. Requirements for PLS vary in other states.

Statewide Orthoimagery

Tim Johnson reported progress on the Eastern Piedmont 2017 project. CGIA will deliver products to PSAPs in four regional meetings: downstairs in the Data Visualization Studio on December 11, Fayetteville on the 12th, and Nashville and Smithfield on the 13th. All PSAPs related to Fort Bragg have signed non-disclosure agreements for imagery acquired over the military installations. Release on NC OneMap will take place on December 14th. Deliveries are about six weeks ahead of schedule compared to previous years. For the Northern Piedmont and Mountains 2018 project, contract sign-offs are in progress.

NC Parcels

The fall update is in progress with 83 counties completed so far. More reminders will be going out this week. At least three of the remaining counties have had staff turnover and/or vacancies that have delayed participation. John Bridgers of the Working Group for Seamless Parcels is helping with outreach. In this round of updates, some of the standard fields are being populated by more counties. For example, the field for present use value (yes or no) is now populated by 44 counties. The land use description field is another item receiving extra attention.

Regarding the frequency of updates, a few counties have set up a quarterly update cycle

voluntarily, but some update parcels for publication twice a year at most. Mr. Farley reported a request from NCDOT business units for more frequent updates. Quarterly would be a big help, for example, for a right-of-way unit to use the data for efficient owner notification. The more current the parcel data, the quicker NCDOT can complete a purchase of needed property. In a discussion, the committee acknowledged that capabilities to furnish updates quarterly vary across counties. County updates range from daily to twice a year; those counties with more frequent updates tend to be those where more residential and commercial development and related changes in parcels (subdivisions) and ownership. The output of the NC Parcels Transformer is a zip file that is opened and checked for quality by CGIA. The more frequent a county updates in the Transformer, the more quality control staff time is required. Time per county is limited, but multiplied by 100 is significant. The solution may be to encourage higher-growth counties to set a quarterly routine to submit updates. Data could be captured as of January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Those counties that operate the Transformer themselves would be the initial candidates. Mr. Duncan asked how many counties update parcel data in viewers daily? Ms. Clifton noted many counties are implementing open data sites where the data are as up to date as the source database. This can replace a manual process to prepare zip files for FTP download and save time.

Mr. Farley added that, although the Interagency Leadership Team has not met in several years, NCDOT has initiated data improvements of other agencies' data, given requirements to invest in data and move projects by the end of 2018. He would like to broaden the initiative as before. He added the concept of taking environmental data modeling out of NCDOT and operating under an interagency team. Enterprise data management and data access will come into play. Mr. Madding advised a GIS-centric interagency team.

4. Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Mr. Johnson explained the current situation. The Geospatial Data Act of 2017 has been revised and a substitute bill has been introduced as Senate Bill 2128 and House Bill 4395. This new version simplifies and narrows the definition of geospatial data and 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. The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) deems the revised bill to be worthy of support by state councils. Minnesota and a couple other states have written letters of support already. Private organizations are submitting letters of support as well.

After review of the new language and consultation with NSGIC, Mr. Johnson's assessment of the bill is positive. Setting aside budget concerns, the Act strengthens the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), recognizes the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), and supports a fresh approach to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) to which we all contribute. FGDC will be chaired by the Office of Management and Budget, one of the measures to strengthen the FGDC in its efforts to hold federal agencies accountable for investments in geospatial data. He recommended the Management & Operations Committee act to put the GICC on the record as endorsing the substitute bill.

Mr. Duncan reported two Council members responded with comments on the Geospatial Data

Act—Lee Worsley and Kat Clifton. Mr. Worsley appreciated inclusion of local and regional government representatives on NGAC. After consultation with regional executives, he wanted to be sure the Geoplatform described in the Act enables data download as well as access to web services (confirmed: data download is currently available from <https://cms.geoplatform.gov>). Mr. Worsley also confirmed “covered agencies” subject to reporting requirements do not include lead regional organizations, state agencies, or local governments.

Ms. Clifton was encouraged by the changes in language. The definition of “geospatial data” is more consistent with what the GIS industry recognizes, not as broad as in the previous legislation. She was encouraged that the duties and responsibilities that the FGDC has already undertaken would be codified. A proposed measurement of work being done by the various agencies (summaries, evaluations, responses, etc.) was not previously a requirement. She advised that measurement and reporting should be part of the day-to-day work, not an additional task that takes away from the primary work of the agencies. Ms. Clifton was also pleased that NGAC and its membership would be codified, and that the composition of the committee would be similar to the current make up. She observed that just as North Carolina has made significant strides to promote integrated datasets, the proposed legislation supports the NSDI and its promotion of data sharing and integration from multiples sources. Having a strategic plan and vision for the NSDI is very important. Regarding agency responsibilities, she emphasized the value of ensuring that those receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provide high-quality data consistent with established standards (e.g., ISO geospatial metadata).

Mr. Duncan welcomed additional comments. Mr. Farley emphasized the value of geospatial data for economic development and quality of life. Getting geospatial data into more hands has proven to generate benefits and economic growth. Geospatial data put in the hands of the public by applications like Waze has widespread benefits. Data management is an increasing challenge, and standards and data consistency are critical.

Mr. Madding and Mr. Brinson advised a disclaimer in a letter to specify the version supported in case amended language emerges in the legislative process.

As an example of potential benefits, Mr. Brown described a meeting between federal data managers and state GIS data managers, led by Hope Morgan, in response to an overwhelming amount of data furnished by multiple federal sources during the Hurricane Matthew event. Sorting out the most appropriate sources for state mapping and analysis was very challenging; better collaboration among federal agencies will achieve efficiencies in emergency response.

Voted: Management & Operations Committee approved Mr. Duncan’s proposal for CGIA to draft a letter of support from the GICC and circulate it to the committee for review.

5. Next Generation 911 – NENA letter

At the November 8 Council meeting, Richard Taylor, Executive Director of the NC 911 Board, requested a letter from the Council to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) to urge adoption of the standard for a GIS Data Model for NextGen911 as soon as practical. The standard was reviewed by the public in early 2017 and NENA has been in the process of

integrating comments in a final version. Mr. Johnson participated in a NSGIC webinar on NextGen911 last week and learned that the GIS standard is nearing adoption. He will consult with NSGIC's NENA representative to inquire about further information. When information is sufficient, Mr. Duncan requested CGIA to draft a letter for review. In addition to a letter, the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) opinion piece on the importance of a NENA GIS standard may be suitable for submission to NENA as an attachment or as excerpts integrated in a letter.

Mr. Farley expressed concern about a forthcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) for geospatial aspects of NextGen911. He proposed the Council request the addition of language in the RFP that requires the vendor to collaborate with state agencies and apply data from state agencies, including datasets aggregated from local government sources. North Carolina has a unique data-driven coordination structure in place, ready to collaborate in support of NextGen911.

6. 2017 Annual Report

The Annual Report is still under final review by the Department of Information Technology (DIT). Council [minutes](#) from November 8 include discussion of themes from the Annual Report. Mr. Brown summarized the discussion. Following brief statements of Council priorities, members considered a question:

- How can we collaborate to improve or expand statewide geospatial data?

The Council discussion was lively and filled the allotted time. Four remaining questions may be considered at upcoming Council meetings:

- How can the Council support more applications of geospatial data to meet business needs and to meet the challenges ahead?
- What are ways to collaborate for more integration of geospatial data in information technology for expanded benefits?
- How can the Council benefit your part of the GIS community in NC?
- How can the Council do more to increase the value of geospatial data to the public?

7. Committee Status Reports

Local Government Committee

Ms. Clifton reported the LGC concurred with the NextGen911 opinion paper from SMAC. Local governments in North Carolina have a variety of datasets, specifications, and workflows regarding geospatial data most important for NextGen911. Integration into statewide datasets adds value for many purposes. LGC recommends Council support for statewide roads and addresses to enable vehicle routing and geocoding.

Among Council priorities, LGC is very interested in how the 2022 Reference Frame may be implemented locally. Professional development opportunities get regular attention from LGC. Use of social media could improve communication of learning opportunities. Reaching out to educational institutions would help develop GIS professionals. On the topic of the story map on the value of GIS, Ms. Clifton explained it is a crowd-sourced application that relies on entry of

content. Currently, there is not a way to link to other ArcGIS Online applications. URL text could be included.

Federal Interagency Committee

No report was provided in the absence of the new chair, Scott Lokken of the National Geodetic Survey, who had an earlier commitment.

State Government GIS Users Committee

Mr. Farley reported the SGUC Executive Committee met November 28 and has a full agenda for the general meeting on December 21. Regarding potential renewal of the enterprise license agreement with Esri starting in Fiscal Year 2018-2019, Mr. Farley worked on draft terms and conditions based on DIT templates to attempt to complete that part of the ELA before working on the software items. After DIT review, negotiations will begin with Esri. Meanwhile, there is interest in consolidating licenses across state agencies. This needs research and analysis. SGUC Executives will form a team to assist in ELA matters.

The SGUC Executive Committee has an opportunity to inform DIT merger plans as they develop. Members are beginning to think about ideas and questions. Mr. Brinson added that optimization of functional areas is a likely path. GIS is an example of a functional area. Secretary Eric Boyette has a good understanding of GIS and business it supports. SGUC is looking for opportunities to inform the process based on experience with collaboration.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

In the absence of a SMAC chair, Mr. Brown reported progress by working groups. The land cover group, led by Dr. Kenneth Taylor, meets this Thursday. Twenty volunteers have been identified to analyze business needs based on their experience and information gathered from other potential consumers of land cover data. Also, the Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation is revisiting color infrared imagery as a potential supplemental product from imagery captured by the Statewide Orthoimagery Program. Darrin Smith has done an analysis of process and cost, now under review by the working group.

Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Madding presented the final draft of a guide to open source GIS software and requested review and comment by LGC and the SGUC Executive Committee to finalize the document this month. Ms. Clifton and Mr. Brown will distribute to LGC and SGUC Executives, respectively.

The ad hoc team for the report prepared brief but informative sections on GIS software for desktop, server, database, and cloud functionality. A matrix comparing three desktop software packages appears to be unique for its detail and may be very useful for state and local government GIS professionals in assessing options for acquiring software. For example, the Land Records Management Division in the Department of the Secretary of State, with two infrequent desktop users, may be a candidate for open source desktop GIS software. Mr. Madding will present the guide to the SGUC general meeting on December 21, followed by a presentation by the State Board of Elections about its experience transitioning to open source GIS software, a use case described in the open source guide.

8. Other Items

Mr. Duncan updated the committee on Council member appointments that occurred early in November. He congratulated Ms. Clifton for her appointment by the Governor, as recommended by the NC Association of County Commissioners, to represent local government.

Mr. Duncan recognized Bob Brinson, who was not re-appointed by the Governor as a Council member, for his service to the Council. Mr. Duncan commented that Mr. Brinson has been actively involved on the Council since March 19, 2002 and has served as Vice Chair since January 1, 2010. Mr. Duncan presented Mr. Brinson with a certificate of appreciation, and added that having someone who has been reasoned and steady at the helm as Vice Chair and as chair of the Working Group for Professional Land Surveying and GIS has been invaluable to the Council Chair.

Mr. Duncan announced he has appointed Mr. Brinson to serve as an advisory member of the Council, and Mr. Brinson has accepted. For continuity, Mr. Duncan asked Mr. Brinson to continue his role as chair of the Working Group for Professional Land Surveying and GIS.

9. Future Meeting Dates

The next Management & Operations Committee meeting is planned for Monday, January 29. A draft agenda for the February Council meeting needs to precede the committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.