

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

April 23, 2018  
1:00 to 3:00 PM

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

**MINUTES**

1. Chair Alex Rankin called the meeting to order and welcomed Bob Coats, John Farley, Dan Madding, Scott Lokken, Bob Brinson, Tim Johnson, Jeff Brown and on the phone, Kathryn Clifton.
2. After discussion, minutes of the March 29, 2018 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 in progress. CGIA is preparing to assist Mr. Coats for selected counties. *AddressNC*, State Board of Elections addresses, NC Parcels and NC Roads will be useful sources.

He explained that Census 2020 will not publish information for traffic analysis zones as in the past. Block groups will be the available geography for Census data relating to transportation. The next release of Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) based on the American Community Survey will probably be the last using traffic analysis zones. The Participant Statistical Area Program and the Boundary and Annexation Survey provide opportunities to improve geospatial representations of boundaries and make them more useful. Census Bureau is reaching out to tribal contacts, as well. Mr. Farley expects NCDOT to be able to adapt to the new geography. The American Community Survey is based on block groups as the smallest geography, so there is one less step if data are not translated to traffic analysis zones.

A statewide complete count commission is expected to be established soon. It would do outreach statewide. Counties and municipalities may form complete count committees.

In terms of communication with Mr. Coats, he noted that the Office of State Budget and Management will move to the Dobbs building during the week of June 11.

On a related topic of municipal boundaries, Mr. Rankin discussed boundary data with Secretary Boyette and he talked with Tom Morgan about past work. The State Demographer has organized a meeting to clarify current processes that collect and process municipal boundary data and to explore solutions for a more efficient, consolidated data collection approach to meet needs of multiple state agencies. In addition to the State Demographer, the group will have representatives

from the Secretary of State's Land Records Management Program, NCDOT, CGIA, NC League of Municipalities, and NC Department of Revenue. Considering a solution may require changes in statutes, a working group led by the State Demographer is urged to report to the Management and Operations Committee as the logical way to inform and make recommendations to the GICC. For the next Council meeting, Mr. Johnson suggested a statement by Secretary Marshall to inform the Council of the current process of municipal submissions of boundaries and annexations to the Secretary of State and shortcomings needing a solution.

#### Working Group on PLS and GIS

Bob Brinson reported the group met with the surveyors committee of the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCBEES) on March 20 and completed review of use cases. A quick review of the use cases took longer than expected, but worth the time. He offered some cross cutting summary points and themes to the groups. For example, metadata and disclaimers were discussed as useful tools. The conversations have been good, and discussion of themes will continue May 9 before the Council meeting. He expects the groups will coalesce around a series of agreements, and there is interest in continuing communication and looking for opportunities to collaborate. Ms. Clifton added that Mr. Brinson has done a good job and she appreciates combining meetings on a single day when practical. Mr. Johnson has requested edits to the summary table and will have it ready for May 9.

#### Statewide Orthoimagery

Tim Johnson reported completion of flights in the Northern Piedmont and Mountains on April 5. This was an unusual flying seasons. For example, Boone had only two or three days in March that were suitable for imagery acquisition. Having four contractors to divide up the region was an advantage under the weather conditions in this phase. Contractors met to compare imagery in overlap locations to adjust color balance and clarity in preparation for orthoimagery production. Quality control will occur in the summer. On March 23, the NC 911 Board approved the proposal for imagery in 2019 for the Southern Piedmont and Mountains. Contract preparation is in progress, to be followed by qualifications based selection of contractors in the summer.

#### NC Parcels

Jeff Brown reported that the spring update of statewide parcels has occurred for 40 counties to date. The program has given priority to updates in selected counties based on a request from NCDOT. More reminders are going out. The program has made progress on obtaining parcel use descriptions and present use value from more counties.

There was a good discussion of data quality for those items in the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee meeting last week. Specifically, three counties do not publish land values, meaning analysis of counties cannot be complete. Also, NC Parcels has two standard fields for parcel use descriptions. The approach is to match a field in a copy of the published parcels from a county to a standard field. More than half of counties have a field to match to a standard field for parcel use description. However, there is great variability in how county computer assisted mass appraisal systems (CAMA) describe parcel use. There is a state standard for mapping properties, but not for descriptors from CAMA systems that are joined to mapped properties. The inconsistency is a hurdle for analysis and summary data. The NC Association of County

Commissioners owns and promotes a software that has not been widely adopted. CGIA will follow up to get more information. Mr. Johnson added that he sees an outreach opportunity to county assessors about the tabular data. As more people are using NC Parcels for regional or statewide analysis, the more value in consistency from county to county. More detail about the issue will help identify the best approach to reach consistency in information coming out of tax systems. Ms. Clifton recommended defining the target—a preferred set of parcel use categories/descriptions to which county codes and descriptions can be translated. She noted that CAMA vendors may be part of the solution. Mr. Madding added that in his experience, the parcel use descriptions from county parcel data reveal misclassifications that bring quality into question. Consumers benefit from being able to categorize land use in an area of interest. More information is needed data entry, quality control, and frequency of update to evaluate the content coming out of CAMA systems. SMAC and its Working Group for Seamless Parcels need to get more information and define desired content.

#### 4. GICC Priority Datasets – Status Update

Mr. Brown presented a periodic update on the status of GICC priority datasets. The “Framework Plus” data themes are mostly in regular maintenance or updates are in progress. Datasets are discoverable through the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal with the exception of three datasets managed by NC Emergency Management—LiDAR elevation (bare earth or classified points and digital elevation models), flood zones, and building footprints. CGIA will add address points managed and hosted by the State Board of Elections to the table as part of the address theme. Ms. Clifton requested that the table be verified and posted on the GICC website. Mr. Rankin suggested refreshing twice a year when reporting to the M&O Committee. Mr. Farley urged the Management and Operations Committee and the GICC to keep a close eye on these Framework datasets and what is coming out of Next Generation 911 to ensure one authoritative source for each dataset and not duplicated efforts.

#### 5. Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Mr. Rankin is reaching out to someone who can talk to the Council on May 9 about experiences using UAS. Mr. Farley has invited Basil Yap of NCDOT’s Aviation Division. Ms. Clifton will invite Jeff Jones of the City of Salisbury for a local government perspective.

#### 6. Municipal Boundaries

In addition to the discussion under the Census update above, Mr. Rankin noted an item on the May 9 agenda for Secretary Marshall to share some background on the issue of municipal boundaries and annexations.

#### 7. National Updates

##### Geospatial Data Act of 2017

Mr. Johnson reported that the bill for the current version of the Geospatial Data Act of 2017 is in the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and may be heard in May. The Council continues to have an opportunity to send a letter of support to Congress. He would like

to see the Council be a leader in national GIS issues and move to finalize, sign, and send the letter.

Mr. Rankin explained that he did not sign the letter when he became Chair of the GICC and he was sensitive to concerns among his contacts in the surveying and engineering profession. He acknowledged a valid point raised by Mr. Farley. The Management and Operations Committee had approved the content of the letter prior to Mr. Rankin's appointment, and the previous Chair had signed a draft of the letter. Mr. Johnson explained that review by John Correllus, Deputy State CIO and Chief Data Officer, and Nate Denny, NCDIT's Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs, and minor text edits were not completed until after Mr. Rankin became the Chair.

In a discussion, the committee reviewed the differences between the current version (Senate Bill 2128 from November 15, 2017) and the previous version. In brief, the current version is streamlined, and still contains beneficial elements related to the Federal Geographic Data Committee, accountability of federal agencies, and federal priorities. The current version of the bill dropped language related to federal procurement and narrowed the definition of geospatial data. A concern among GIS professionals with the earlier version were apparent connections between geospatial data, surveying and engineering, and qualifications-based selection (QBS under the Brooks Act) that would adversely affect GIS professionals. Surveyors and engineers interpreted the same language as ensuring requirements for QBS would not be loosened. An endorsement of the current bill should not imply that the federal government should do away with QBS for licensed practitioners (opposition to QBS has been experienced from time to time).

The committee discussed the role of the Council as an advisory body that promotes GIS data and technology and offers advice and recommendations to and on behalf of GIS professionals in North Carolina. The Council coordinates geographic information in several ways, including hearing, examining and resolving issues, and building consensus. The Council has precedence for expressing opinions on behalf of its range of GIS stakeholders. For example, in 2012, the Council wrote a letter to the Federal Communications Commission in opposition to the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by LightSquared Inc. and placed on public notice by the Commission. A ruling favorable to LightSquared would have had a significant impact on users of Global Navigation Satellite Systems.

The committee reviewed the version of the letter as edited by Nate Denny. The letter is addressed to the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation. That committee is likely to hear the bill in May. Ms. Clifton advised addition of contact information for the GICC Chair and the Secretary of Information Technology.

The M&O Committee discussed the possibility of a modified letter or two different letters. In any case, the M&O Committee's letter is a recommendation to the Secretary who may change the letter before it is issued.

Mr. Rankin entertained a motion. Mr. Farley motioned that the M&O Committee accept the letter that is on the table (dated January 5 with edits by Nate Denny). Ms. Clifton proposed an amendment to the motion to add contact information for the signatories in the body of the letter. Mr. Madding seconded the motion as amended. The committee voted in the affirmative.

### National Agriculture Imagery Program

The Council approved sending a letter and assigned the Management and Operations Committee to write the letter. Dan Madding described a two-page draft letter in support of public access to NAIP imagery. Mr. Johnson explained the letter will go through review by the Secretary of Information Technology and federal/congressional recipients will be determined. Mr. Rankin and the Secretary will be signatories. The sooner the letter can go out the better, but the process may take a few weeks. Mr. Johnson will send the letter to M&O Committee members for final review before it goes to the Secretary's office.

### 8. Next Generation 911

Mr. Johnson reported that a selection process is still in progress for a contractor that will build a database for statewide geospatial data (street centerlines, address points, boundaries, etc.) for Next Generation 911, in coordination with state agencies.

### 9. Committee Status Reports

#### Local Government Committee

Ms. Clifton reported she is working on a local government presenter on the topic of UAS for the Council meeting. She continues to follow up on current geospatial buildings and sites data for economic development purposes. The committee has new member appointments. Debbie Brannan of Cabarrus was appointed by Mr. Rankin, George Brown of Alexander County was appointed by the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association, and Ben Strauss of Wake County was appointed by the Association of County Commissioners. LGC meets next on May 15.

#### Federal Interagency Committee

Scott Lokken of the National Geodetic Survey reported FIC will hold a general meeting on May 24 in Asheville. Silvia Terziotti will substitute for Mr. Lokken at the May 9 Council meeting. Draft policies and procedures for state plane coordinates 2022 were released for comment last week by the National Geodetic Survey. August 31 is the end of the public comment period. State submission of state plane coordinates zone proposals will be due before December 31, 2019. Webinars by the National Geodetic Survey are recorded and available online.

#### State Government GIS Users Committee

Mr. Farley reported the SGUC Executive Committee continues preparing for negotiations for the Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with Esri for GIS software. The committee is surveying state agencies for software details. Changes in technology and licensing approach are considerations. Another topic of interest for SGUC is IT optimization and what it means for agency GIS operations. Survey results will inform this discussion as well.

#### Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

In the absence of a SMAC chair, Mr. Brown reported that last week, SMAC reviewed status, concerns, and opportunities for the "Framework" datasets. In brief, NC Parcels is more than halfway through its spring update. The Working Group for Seamless Parcels will follow up on

data quality issues. Elevation derived from LiDAR is progressing toward completion of its 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> phases. Research on potential applications of LiDAR is of much interest.

Water quality rules and stream maps will be a topic at the Council meeting on May 9. There is a public comment period about to open. As background, the General Assembly funded “local resolution” stream mapping in 19 counties in 2004. The data were completed and released for Swain, Macon, Jackson, Haywood, Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany counties in 2007. Funding has not been available to apply the stream mapping plan and create detailed stream data in the rest of the state. Consequently, the only statewide representation of streams is the 1:24,000-scale based dataset that is used for water quality regulation and is integrated in the National Hydrography Dataset.

Apparently, rule makers in 2004 were aware of the GICC because of stream mapping project. Unknown to the Council, rule makers added a role for the GICC with responsibility to approve a new stream map to be used in water quality regulation including riparian buffer rules. The water quality rule making process is about to open for public comment.

Mr. Johnson advised separating the Council from any involvement in or stake in stream buffer rules. The Council does care about location, accuracy and completeness of geographic representations of surface waters. Wording of the rules needs to be modified. The public comment period may open next week and close as early as July 2. Cam McNutt is the lead GIS person for the Division of Water Resources and the chair of the Stream Mapping Advisory Committee under SMAC. Mr. Johnson suggested that he team up with Mr. McNutt for a Council briefing on May 9, and follow up with the M&O Committee on specifics of the language. It will be good to give the Council a heads up on what the M&O Committee plans to do to be timely.

Other SMAC items included the 2022 Reference Frame and state plane coordinates that will be discussed when the working group on the topic meets this spring. Statewide orthoimagery is on track, and the Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation discussed details of color balance, shadows, sun angles and color infrared imagery. The Working Group for Roads and Transportation submitted a revised state data content standard for road centerlines. SMAC approved the revision and will recommend Council approval on August 8, preceded by a 30-day review period. The Working Group for Land Cover will submit a report to SMAC in July on business needs for land cover data.

#### Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Madding is exploring a collaboration with the 2022 Reference Frame Working Group on a white paper on two topics: Understanding the 2022 Reference Frame and Changes Coming to the State Plane Coordinate System and Geospatial Data. It would not be a document of practices, but it could help GIS users understand what to expect.

Mr. Lokken advised that the GIS community needs to be aware of changes. For example, with the introduction of velocity in the datum, data collection date and time need to be included in metadata.

#### 10. Council Meeting Agenda for May 9

The committee clarified the items for the agenda and assigned CGIA the task of allotting time to fit the items into the two hours. Unmanned Aircraft Systems will be featured technical topic.

#### 11. Other Items

None.

#### 12. Future Meeting Dates

The next Management & Operations Committee meetings are scheduled for Mondays, June 18, September 17, and December 17.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.