

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

October 22, 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 declared a quorum, welcoming Bob Coats, Tim Johnson, Jeff Brown and on the phone, Jason Clodfelter and Paul Badr.
2. Minutes of the June 18, 2018 meeting of the Management and Operations Committee were approved for adoption as submitted.
3. Quick Updates

Statewide Orthoimagery

Tim Johnson reported on recent developments. The 2018 Northern Piedmont and Mountains project has completed the VOICE (Virtual Online Inspection Checking & Editing) visual quality review for all 26 counties. Imagery is being delivered by the four contractors. The goal is for delivery meetings to be held starting the first week of December through the 12th, with the NC OneMap image service created at that time for public access. There are no military installations in this region, so all imagery acquired will be served.

He noted that 59 percent of all tiles were reviewed, including all tiles in Alexander County, with good participation for all counties. 7,647 of 8,124 tiles reviewed passed the first time, a pass rate of 94 percent. Issues identified, numbering 652, were resolved by contractors. Looking at a chart of pass rates since 2012, the 2018 project results were comparatively very good. Improvements in pass rates are the result of years of experience on the project for the contractors and better understanding by local government reviewers about what are issues to be resolved. He pointed out the “true orthoimagery” captured over Greensboro and Winston-Salem where buildings were 40 or more feet tall.

For the Southern Piedmont and Mountains 2019 phase, the project team has gone through the Qualifications-Based Selection process for the 21-county region, half of which is mountainous. True orthoimagery will be produced over Asheville and Charlotte. Cost proposals are under review and negotiations will occur late in October. Contracts are expected by mid-December so that flight planning can be completed in January and acquisition can begin by February.

The program encourages local governments to consider buy-up products such as higher resolution (3-inch) imagery. The program’s website now includes a tab with examples of potential products. Ben Shelton is managing the project. The project team includes NC

Geodetic Survey, NCDOT Photogrammetry, and the Land Records Management Program in the Department of the Secretary of State. Also, the Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation, chaired by Gary Thompson, participates in an advisory role for Statewide Orthoimagery. Jason Clodfelter, who participated in quality review of imagery in Forsyth County, found the imagery to be phenomenal, with fewer visual quality issues than previously, and he looks forward to the final products.

### NC Parcels

Jeff Brown reported that the fall update of statewide parcels is in progress. There have been delays for some counties that responded to storm-related needs locally. With news of the approaching Hurricane Florence, the NC Parcels program took advantage of downloadable parcels offered by some of the eastern counties to refresh the standardized parcel data and services on NC OneMap, updating the statewide collection nightly.

The Working Group for Seamless Parcels plans to consult with local government coordinators and planners involved in a regional planning effort by the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation to learn about their application of NC Parcels.

### Census Geospatial Data

Bob Coats reported on Census programs.

- The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is complete and under review by the Census Bureau.
- The Participant Statistical Area Program is beginning.
- The annual Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) will get underway in December.
- Mr. Coats and the State Demographer, Michael Cline, are considering more regional presentations to promote Census 2020, starting in December. He expects an opportunity to promote GICC issues in that outreach effort.
- The North Carolina Complete Count Commission has its first meeting tomorrow, October 23. An executive order is expected this week. There is a simple website to be expanded.
- In recognition of the GICC role in geospatial data related to Census 2020, Mr. Coats asked if the GICC should be represented on the Complete Count Commission. The chair is Secretary Machel Sanders of the Department of Administration. Membership could be expanded, or there might be a subcommittee related to geospatial issues. Mr. Coats suggested that the Management & Operations Committee think about who might be the best person(s) to serve, and he could make a recommendation to the commission.
- The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) economists expressed appreciation for geospatial assistance from CGIA in developing economic estimates of impacts of Hurricane Florence. The State Budget Director found that OSBM analysis was informative to the General Assembly. Mr. Coats expects a need to refine estimates based on more detailed data including actual flood extent and buildings impacted. Flood extent is a challenge, depending on interpretation of various imagery sources and establishment of high-water marks where local data are essential. There may be needs for more geospatial analysis in the weeks ahead. Mr. Coats suggested that the Budget Director may be available to share observations with the GICC at some time.
- Mr. Coats observed that OSBM seeks more information about data available from NC Emergency Management and its accessibility through NC OneMap to support economic

analysis. OSBM wants to ensure that recovery funds are used as effectively as possible. This is a good opportunity for the GIS community to show value added.

#### 4. PLS/GIS

Mr. Rankin inquired about the status of a report on findings from the examination of use cases. Mr. Johnson related that he, Kent Rothrock and John Logsdon have exchanged examples of disclaimers but have not met to go over the material and craft a disclaimer. Mr. Johnson will arrange that meeting.

Also, Bob Brinson had recommended that the larger working group meet to go over findings. In addition, John Wertman, Director of Public Policy, Esri, is interested in the topic and has reached out to working group members. In preparation for the full working group, Mr. Johnson will complete the final summary of the use cases and results of discussion. He gave himself a deadline of mid-November to complete the report and share it with the small group of Working Group members that have met with NCBEES for review and finalization before it goes to the full GICC Working Group for PLS and GIS and other interested parties.

#### 5. Municipal Boundaries

Mr. Coats reported that the working group has had good discussions, but the group has realized there may be other stakeholders to engage who use municipal data. The group issued a survey to state agency GIS coordinators and expects to have 15-20 responses to review to learn more about data collection from municipal governments.

The group has identified a potential workflow that involves county GIS data managers to share boundary data obtained from constituent municipalities, putting less reliance on municipality-to-state data flows. Boundary changes are received by county GIS data managers for tax administration purposes already, so this would reduce the instances of local-to-state data transfers. John Bridgers is organizing a subset of counties to test a new data flow. Mr. Clodfelter volunteered to take part in testing. Forsyth County has all or parts of ten municipalities. He noted that it has been challenging to get up-to-date information from those jurisdictions. Mr. Coats will convey that. It will go on the LGC meeting agenda, as well.

The working group's approach is to use guidance documents and communication to promote data sharing practices first and assess outcomes before identifying specific rules and/or statutory changes. Incentives are favored over mandates, but there may be a need to ask the General Assembly to bless the process for tracking boundaries and distributing money based on boundaries. Existing statutory language may need clarification; a preliminary conversation during the long session may be a way to start. Mr. Coats' understanding is the GICC would be the logical entity to bring forward a recommendation. Mr. Rankin and Mr. Johnson plan to brief Secretary Boyette, based on a brief summary forthcoming from Mr. Coats.

Recommendations from the working group to SMAC are planned for January. Mr. Rankin expressed appreciation for the good progress by the working group.

## 6. Council Meeting Agenda for November 7

Mr. Rankin suggested that the November 7th GICC meeting feature discussion of response and recovery efforts related to Hurricane Florence. John Dorman and others can comment on what happened, what information was most valuable and where it came from, and lessons learned—what did we do right? what could we do better? Other members who will have information to share include Dan Madding, John Farley, someone from Department of Environmental Quality, and local government members or counterparts. Mr. Badr confirmed interest in the environmental impact of the storm. This topic can be the bulk of the meeting agenda. Discussion among members, including Steve Averett of the City of Greensboro who presented on tornado response at the last meeting, may raise related issues and concerns. Mr. Clodfelter will help get information from GIS coordinators in coastal counties to bring a local government perspective either through him or by a guest in person.

Mr. Coats observed that OSBM used demographic data for areas impacted and suggested that an application that offers a disaster dashboard based on harvested open data. For example, New Orleans and Louisiana developed applications after Hurricane Katrina. There is an “On-the-Map” tool hosted by the Census Bureau that has been adapted for federal disaster data. Mr. Brown suggested that OSBM might share information at the Council meeting about how economic impact is analyzed and how geospatial data can inform the analysis. For example, swine operation locations within flood zones was a preliminary view of potential impact to inform conversations in a timely way. Experience may help find ways to make geospatial data more valuable for economic analysis.

## 7. GICC Annual Report

The GICC Annual Report goes to the Governor, the General Assembly leadership, and the General Assembly’s Fiscal Research Division. The department expectation is to submit the report at the end of the calendar year. Mr. Brown displayed the table of contents and draft pages of the GICC Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Content includes the strategic elements and tasks and brief statements of accomplishments. Priorities identified today may be indicated in the report.

Mr. Rankin suggested a 1-page summary as the beginning or concluding page, stating what we do and why it is important. A summary is intended for someone who is likely to scan quickly. Likely readers who may read beyond the summary include staff of legislators, staff of the Governor, a fiscal research analyst, and perhaps members of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology. A reference to the value of GIS and the work of partners in response to Hurricane Florence should be noted as coming in next year’s report.

## 8. GICC Priority Tasks for Elements of Strategic Direction 2018-2019

Mr. Brown referred to a summary of elements that emerged from discussions at three Council meetings. The summary has four categories with numbered elements and suggested committee

tasking. The Management & Operations Committee discussed the elements and tasks and concluded that the five efforts should take priority this fiscal year:

1. Municipal boundaries – establish a data flow for timely maintenance of geospatial boundaries
2. Public access to infrastructure data – identify policies, risks, costs and solutions
3. Streams – develop a higher quality statewide dataset for surface waters
4. Data sharing local-to-state in the context of NextGen911 – including data for roads and address points
5. NC OneMap – make more priority data discoverable and accessible through the portal

In discussion of priority #2, Mr. Johnson has found that other states tend to restrict access to utility data based on homeland security concerns. He will find out more about Michigan's new infrastructure council, created to make better decisions about data related to infrastructure. In another example, New Jersey restricts access with no exceptions. Mr. Rankin explained that the GICC has an opportunity to be a leader and define how policies affect economic development and other public and private processes in unintended ways. Also, the Local Government Committee and SMAC have identified tasks in their work plans, and the respective chairs plan to collaborate on research and analysis.

Also, Mr. Badr identified a need for the SMAC Work Plan to include language about address validation and vehicle routing in its tasking related to geospatial services for address points and road centerlines. Mr. Brown will help make that addition.

## 9. Committee Status Reports

### Local Government Committee

Jason Clodfelter reported that the LGC met on August 22, 2018 and covered several main topics. First, the FY2018-19 LGC Work Plan includes tasks identified by Management & Operations Committee related to GICC elements of strategic direction:

- Promote free and open discovery of and access to geospatial data created and maintained by local governments
- Identify opportunities to collaborate on geospatial data and technical solutions on a regional basis, engaging councils of governments
- Identify jurisdictions in need, priority business needs and data needs and practical ways to assist

As always, LGC members are encouraged to engage their professional organizations in outreach and solutions.

The committee began work on the topic of access to utility data. LGC agreed to produce a survey which could be sent to local jurisdictions to document and provide SMAC and the GICC with the following information:

- Jurisdictions that own/operate utilities
- Public access to local government utility/infrastructure geospatial data
- Local data distribution policies and/or non-disclosure agreements (and copies)

Members are formulating the survey now with the goal of having the survey completed and approved by LGC for dissemination prior to the November 7th GICC meeting. Mr. Clodfelter added that even within a county government, a GIS unit may have restricted access to utility data from the department or commission that manages utilities, so this issue is multi-layered.

LGC is willing to assist as needed in the NextGen911 project. Also, LGC will maintain and promote the Story Map of the Value of GIS in NC – “Are You on the Map?” and sent a notice to NC GIS Listserv on October 16, inviting participation across the state.

The next LGC meeting is scheduled for November 28.

#### State Government GIS Users Committee

No report.

#### Federal Interagency Committee

No report.

#### Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee

Mr. Badr reported that many of the SMAC members were engaged in response and recovery efforts related to Hurricane Florence which set back timetables for some of the SMAC tasks. However, SMAC has made good progress since the August GICC meeting.

- The 2022 Reference Frame and implications for state plane coordinates continue to be discussed by the working group chaired by Gary Thompson.
- Project Manager Ben Shelton reports that Statewide Orthoimagery is on schedule for delivery of 2018 imagery in December, and preparation for acquisition of 2019 imagery is proceeding on schedule. He noted the good work of the four contractors selected again for the 2019 phase.
- Project Manager Hope Morgan expects LiDAR data quality review for Phase 5 of 5 to be completed by the end of the year. A series of issue papers on LiDAR will be released soon as well.
- The Working Group for Orthoimagery and Elevation, chaired by Gary Thompson, will identify lessons learned from imagery acquisition by many parties in response to Hurricane Florence.
- The Working Group for Municipal Boundaries, co-chaired by Bob Coats and John Bridgers, is developing recommendations to make maintenance of statewide municipal boundaries more complete, consistent, timely, and efficient. The approach is to test a new data flow with selected jurisdictions. The emphasis is on guidance and promotion to achieve improvements before recommending changes in rules or statutes.
- The Working Group for Land Cover, chaired by Kenneth Taylor, will do more analysis of business needs for land cover data and do research on land cover products that would be most valuable to users.
- The Hydrography Working Group, chaired by Cam McNutt, continues to collaborate with NCDOT’s Advanced Transportation through Linkages, Automation and Screening (ATLAS) project. The group will evaluate data produced by the ATLAS project in the context of statewide hydrography and present data to SMAC. Also, the group will consider stewardship opportunities with the National Hydrography Dataset.

- Regarding statewide parcel data, the *NC Parcels* project team and county GIS coordinators refreshed parcel data in the statewide collection in many counties in the days before Hurricane Florence. Many eastern counties have been heavily occupied with storm recovery, delaying some of the fall updates.
- SMAC continues to give attention to statewide datasets that are required for implementation of Next Generation 911.
- SMAC approved its Work Plan for 2018-2019, with emphasis on GICC priority tasks.

Mr. Johnson commented that he learned at the meeting of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) that Massachusetts acquired statewide land cover through NOAA at 1-meter resolution based on National Agriculture Imagery Program imagery. Information from the NSGIC member from Massachusetts and Mr. Badr's contacts at Massachusetts Department of Transportation are sources for consultation when the Working Group for Land Cover reaches understanding of the priority business needs and a recommended approach.

#### Technical Advisory Committee

No report.

#### 10. Other Items

Mr. Johnson announced that the NC GIS Conference registration tool is scheduled to be ready November 1st. The program committee has been evaluating topics and abstracts. It plans to organize more presentations related to priorities of the GICC such as the issue of access to water and sewer infrastructure data. The conference takes place at the end of February in Winston-Salem.

Mr. Coats noted that David Cline of the Census Bureau submitted an abstract for the NC GIS Conference, and perhaps he and David can team up on a presentation.

#### 11. Future Meeting Dates

The next Management & Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 17.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.