



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
• Federal Interagency Committee

MINUTES
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE – Executive Committee
April 14, 2009

3916 Sunset Ridge Road,
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Jerad Bales, Chairman

Members in attendance:

Jerad Bales, USGS - Chairman
Doug Newcomb, USFWS – Vice Chairman
Matt Duvall, NRCS – Secretary
Steve Strader, USGS – At-Large-Member

Members not in attendance:

Holly Hixson, USFS – At-Large-Member
Laura Pickens, USFWS – At-Large-Member

Guest:

Cam McNutt – NC DWQ

CGIA Rep: Due to a last-minute scheduling conflict, Tom Tribble, CGIA staff to the FIC, was not able to attend this meeting.

- a) Discussion on regulatory use of blue lines on NRCS soils maps by state agencies.

Discussion ensued on regulatory use of blue lines depicting water (river, stream, creek, etc) on soils maps produced by the NRCS. Matt Duvall discussed the production methodology of these cartographic features on the soils maps as a cartographic representation of low spots where water might flow to. No field or other data collection capabilities are used to depict these water routes other than the interpretation of a cartographer as to where any water that might be in that location would flow based on topographic data on the maps. It is not known for sure whether there is even water at the location.

Cam McNutt, representing NC DWQ, which has state regulatory authority for water quality in the state, indicated that the state has used a combination of the USGS topographic quad sheets with the NHD blue lines on them and the NRCS soils maps with their blue lines on them as the basis for locating waters in the state to be regulated. The blue lines on USGS quad sheets have either some field work behind their creation or GIS interpretation using medium resolution imagery and elevation data as source. However, the density of the blue lines on the quad sheets at 1:24,000-scale is not sufficient for NC DWQ regulation activities. Large numbers of medium and smaller streams are not included on the USGS product.

The NRCS soils maps have greater density of water-related features but there is no collected data behind the existence of the blue lines other than the cartographic interpretation as discussed earlier. There is concern by NRCS on the use of these maps for state regulation although there is no known better statewide data source in NC. The local resolution surface waters mapping program in NC will have better surface water data for the state as multiple phases are completed in coming years but only Phase 1 is currently completed. Phase 2 awaits funding at present from the NC General Assembly.

No resolution to this issue was found by the group but it was determined that the issue would be brought to the attention of the Surface Waters Mapping Advisory Committee, a standing advisory committee of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC). This advisory committee has broad membership (federal, state, local government) and has dealt with the development of the Phase 1 local resolution surface waters creation. Matt, Cam, and Steve Strader will bring the issue to their attention and report back to the FIC afterward.

Action: Duvall, McNutt, Strader

b) Discuss possible ways to survey or measure the extent to which the federal community is using NC OneMap to download data – orthos – or other data types.

Steve Strader brought this to the attention of the executive committee for Tom Tribble. The state has done online surveys of the local government and state government agencies in NC to see what and how much each constituency has downloaded data from NC OneMap, in particular digital orthophotography, for their business uses. NC CGIA would like to conduct a similar survey of federal agencies located in and/or doing business in the state to see if and how they are using the NC OneMap data download capability for federal government purposes. The survey is a relatively short 7 question survey so it will not take considerable time to complete. Steve Strader will contact Tom Tribble and arrange to work with Tom to craft an email to the entire federal community that is part of the FIC to which the survey or a link to the survey will be attached. The plan is to do this prior to the May FIC meeting.

Action: Strader

c) Discussion about filling the vacant seats on the FIC Executive Committee ensued and ideas about areas of the federal/tribal entities in NC that could be very valuable to the executive committee in the future. Ideas were shared about what organizations could bring exceptional value to the FIC. There was no resolution of this issue and it will be discussed once again at the

FIC meeting in May. For FIC members who receive this set of minutes, you are asked to seriously consider becoming a member of the Executive Committee to help us support the efforts of federal agencies in the state.

Action: Discussion item at the full FIC meeting in May.

d) Note was made to the Executive Committee of a new project with the NC Division of Emergency Management, Office of Geospatial and Technology Management titled North Carolina Sea Level Rise Risk Management Study. Doug Newcomb and Silvia Terziotti, USGS are both members of the team working on this project. Initial meetings were held April 2-3 at SAS in Research Triangle Park.

The next meeting of the FIC is scheduled for May 12, 2009 at the NC Water Science Center, Raleigh, NC 27607, 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. A telecom line will be arranged and if there are visual presentations on the agenda, a webex session will be arranged.

The FIC Executive Committee Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.