



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
• Federal Interagency Committee

MINUTES
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
November 10, 2009

3916 Sunset Ridge Road,
Raleigh, North Carolina 27607
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

The meeting was called to order by Doug Newcomb, Vice Chairman, at 9:00 AM and introductions were made around the room and with those on the phone. Presentations and discussions followed introductions.

Members in attendance:

Doug Newcomb, USFWS – Vice Chairman
Steve Strader, USGS - Secretary
Matt Duvall – USDS/NRCS
Silvia Terziotti – USGS
Drew Pilant – EPA
Kent Clary – USDA/NRCS
Roy Vick – USDA/NRCS
Debbie Anderson – USDA/NRCS
Amy Keister - USFWS
Leah Wolter - DHS
Susan Pulsipher – Army Ft Bragg (phone)
Laura Pickens – NPS (phone)
Chase Gatlin – NPS (phone)
Mark Endres – USFWS (phone)
Elizabeth Porter – USACE (phone)
David Wiggins – Census (phone)
Bill Hargrove – USFWS (phone)
Lloyd Edwards - NPS (phone)
Linda Wayne – FGDC (phone)
Holly Hixson, USFS (phone)

Guests:

Janet Lowe – NC DOT

Tim Johnson – NC CGIA

CGIA Staff Representative:

Tom Tribble – Asheville, NC

Program

- a) Presentation by Mr. Tim Johnson, Director, Center for Geographic Information and Analysis on the Statewide GIS Enterprise. Mr. Johnson covered the recent move of NC CGIA from NC DENR to the Office of the State Chief Information Officer (OSCIO). This move better locates CGIA in relation to the statewide GIS implementation plan, which follows the GIS study completed in 2008 for the NC General Assembly. Development of a strategy to implement the plan will begin in January 2010. Quality of data, access to data, cost effectiveness of those data, and outreach to make the data more valuable to the state user community are all things that are of importance to the GICC in its leadership role for GIS in the state. Determination of what technical and data investments to make in GIS in the state will be a key in the implementation strategy.

Mr. Johnson also gave an overview of the statewide ortho project which was announced on September 25, 2009. The NC 911 Board awarded a \$12.3M grant to the City of Durham, NC for the collection of a statewide ortho data layer to support the needs of the 911 community across the state. CGIA will manage the project. The management team will include the City of Durham, the NC Floodplain Mapping Program, NC Geodetic Survey and the Secretary of State's Land Records Management Program. These data will be collected using digital cameras in the winter/early spring of 2010 and will use the state ortho specification as a base. The data will be delivered to the NC Floodplain Mapping Program (FMP) by December 2010 and will be ready for distribution by April 2011. CGIA will develop a plan for storing and distributing the data. NC OneMap will be a delivery mechanism for the state. The goal is to have a single seamless data set that can be used to support emergency response in the state.

To end, Mr. Johnson talked about the role of the FIC as part of the GIS strategy in the state and as a sitting member of the GICC. He emphasized FIC awareness of the Council activities; interaction with state and local governments as well as the Council; FIC members working together to build a strategy for the FIC in the state GIS community; looking for ways to partner with state and local governments; and learning how to interact with and thru the GICC to be more effective in the overall GIS strategy for the state. He noted that the FIC should consider how the Council can support the needs of the federal GIS community in NC. He also asked that the FIC members keep the GICC informed about funding activities. The more the GICC is aware of cost-sharing opportunities, the better prepared the Council will be to share those opportunities with the General Assembly and the Governor. Mr. Johnson's power point presentation will be available on the FIC website at

<http://www.ncgicc.org/Committees/FederalInteragencyCommitteeFIC/tabid/295/Default.aspx>

ACTION: the FIC Executive Committee (EC) will have initial discussions at the next FIC EC meeting in January 2010 on how to build a work plan for the FIC community within the state for GIS and how to interact with the GICC and other sub-committees.

- b) Presentation by Ms. Amy Keister, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the Landscape Conservation Initiative. Building of a landscape conservation cooperative is the essential goal of this initiative. Conceptually, the advent of climate change, population growth, and development creates a complex problem for habitat sustainability. As part of a cooperative, how do federal, state, and local governments, along with private conservation organizations, work together to address this challenge without duplication of effort and misdirection of resources? Can they learn how to work together toward goals that compliment the entire community, sharing both roles and responsibilities? Habitat problems, landscape goals and objectives, and the solutions extend beyond the scope of individual compartmented government programs. A successful wildlife agency in the 21st century will have a capacity for conservation: 1) the capacity to characterize, assess, and predict population and habitat sustainability at landscape scales, 2) new organizational core competencies in landscape assessment, and 3) an approach to partnering that enables a region's private, local, state, and federal conservation infrastructure to operate as a networked, leveraged system, that extends beyond the operational footprint of its programs. North Carolina falls into two (2) of the sixteen landscape conservation cooperatives being established by USFWS across the US- the South Atlantic region consisting of parts of five (5) states, and the Appalachian region consisting of all or parts of sixteen (16) states. A full power point of this presentation will be available on the FIC website at <http://www.ncgicc.org/Committees/FederalInteragencyCommitteeFIC/tabid/295/Default.aspx>
- c) Presentation by Ms. Janet Lowe, Spatial Data Manager, NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and Co-Chair of the Working Group for Roads and Transportation (WGRT) on the current status of the WGRT's CAP grant proposal. The NCStreetmap project revealed some obstacles to data sharing and seamless centerline data: 1) a complicated and time-consuming process to translate from multiple structures into a standard structure, 2) the standard needed more information. In 2009, a WGRT design team met monthly to focus on updating the standard and easing the process of developing a common data structure, including reviewing current federal and other transportation data structure standards. A "quick and dirty" pilot to test the proof of concept using ESRI data interoperability software was run and the results were presented to the GICC in August 2009. The next step is to build a standardized translation tool for users to help standardize the data structure when sharing data. Work already in progress in Washington-Oregon (WA-Trans), the Eastern Band of Cherokee and local NC governments, a GDM-O-Matic tool, the Carbon Project, WGSP-EPA work, and Virginia Geographic Information Network (VGIN) was reviewed by the team. WGRT has decided that implementation of a tool to translate local centerline data into the state standard is needed. WGRT has determined it will submit a 2010 Category 7, Demonstration of GeoSpatial Data Partnerships Across Local, State, Tribal and Federal Government, CAP grant proposal for funding to develop, test, and implement this

translation tool with local governments in NC. Ms. Lowe, on behalf of the WGRT, requested a letter of support from the FIC for this proposal. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the FIC members to write and submit a letter of support to the FGDC for this CAP grant proposal.

Lynda Wayne applauded the initiative to include David Wyatt and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee in this effort.

Leah Wolter suggested that the WGRT investigate the National Information Exchange Model XML/schema. Ms. Wolter can provide contact information.

Susan Pulsipher asked if the WGRT will provide the standard to locals to serve as a starting place. Ms. Lowe indicated yes but noted that the challenge is that many local governments are already committed to their own approach. But the WGRT will be happy to provide a blank structure for them to work from.

NCStreetmap is located at <http://www.ncstreetmap.net/Default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> and the FGDC CAP grant information can be accessed at <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants>. A full power point of this presentation will be available on the FIC website at <http://www.ncgicc.org/Committees/FederalInteragencyCommitteeFIC/tabid/295/Default.aspx>.

ACTION: Doug Newcomb, FIC Vice-Chair and Tom Tribble, CGIA staff support, will collaborate with Ms. Lowe to prepare a letter of support.

- d) Presentation by Mr. Matt Duvall, Mr. Roy Vick, and Mr. Kent Clary, all from USDA/NRCS, on the new soils survey viewer. NRCS is the official source for soils data from the federal government and provides technical assistance on soils for private property owners, government units, and others. Originally, fifty (50) years ago, soils data was presented on paper in maps and they were considered the official source. The advent of digital cartography and GIS has changed that paradigm with digital soils data being the official source today. Mr. Vick expressed appreciation to CGIA for its work in helping to automate NRCS soils surveys over the years. NRCS developed the web soils survey about four (4) years ago, and now the soils survey viewer is designed to provide access to the data for multiple purposes. Bringing soils map units to the viewer is relatively easy, it is the soils interpretations that are more difficult and complicated. The soils database is complicated, with over fifty (50) tables added, but the viewer was designed to make it easier to access and use. The viewer is capable of both data output and tabular reports when run using ARC Map. Other GIS platforms limit output to tabular reports. There is interest at NRCS to run some of the more commonly used soils interpretations in the state and have them available on NC OneMap. It is possible to mash-up multiple county soils data for a more regional look at soils interpretations, such as looking at large areas of possible soils contamination that might stretch across multiple county jurisdictions. Additionally, there are national interpretations that are done for federal agencies such as DHS. Wherever the NRCS soils data exists, the viewer will work with that data. A

recent additional capability is an extension that allows users to create a personal geodatabase for output from the viewer. Access to the soils data and information, and soils data viewer, can be found at <http://soils.usda.gov/>

e) TAC Report – Drew Pilant – FIC Rep to the TAC

At the recent TAC meeting, discussion was primarily on the future of NC OneMap, updating the technology of the application, learning from both users and viewers their vision of NC OneMap, and possible formats such as KML for data distribution. Translations may be an issue.

f) Agency Reports – All

USGS: Steve Strader/Silvia Terziotti – a request for suggestions on any grant opportunities that might exist for creating a GIS capability for a local government was requested. Linda Wayne suggested ESRI and Intergraph as possible sites to check. The new US Topo product from USGS is scheduled for production over North Carolina in late May 2010. The schedule is not set in stone but that is the projection at this point. A website for the maps will be online in the near future. Holly Weyers will be assuming her position as Director of the NC Water Science Center in February 2010.

NRCS: Matt Duvall – East Region/NRCS will be hosting a meeting in Greensboro, NC December 8-10, 2009 on uses of LIDAR and IFSAR data. An invitation to attend was made.

EPA: Drew Pilant – The Coastal Carolinas Ecosystem Services Research Program is continuing with the development of a demonstration pilot for a decision making framework/tool for water quality in the Tar and/or Neuse river basins. If interested, contact Drew.

USFWS: Doug Newcomb – In continuing partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the climate change initiative for the Alligator River Refuge continues. LIDAR data will be collected this winter for the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and the Dismal Swamp State Park area. The raw LIDAR data and a bare earth elevation data set will be returned and an associated land cover product is also anticipated.

NPS: Laura Pickens – A general management plan process is underway, as Hatteras now has a permanent full time GIS person. Laura requested that any data that anyone has that might be of value to her in this position would be welcomed as the data stores for their GIS system are very limited.

CENSUS: David Wiggins – preparation for the 2010 census continues. Election precinct data collection is underway to support redistricting. Census is working with regional and county organizations to collect boundaries for census tracts, block groups, etc., with the state to update the statistical areas for the state recognized tribal units in the state and

with local governments to update boundaries for incorporated places and geocoded address lists. New tigerline shape files for 2009 have been released.

ARMY: Susan Pulsipher – Ft. Bragg has created a geospatial integration office with Kirk Rutkofske leading. Army is starting a pilot for Version 3 of the GIS standard (SDSFIE). Hope is that Ft. Bragg will be included in the pilot.

FGDC: Linda Wayne – (per email) The **FGDC 2009 Annual Report** is now available online and provides status on efforts including the Geospatial Line of Business (GLOB), Imagery for the Nation (IFTN), National Geospatial Advisory Council (NGAC), National Land Parcel Data (pending a formal acronym) including the ‘Parcel Early Warning System’ for foreclosure forecasting, and efforts to draft a new ‘National Policy and Strategy for Geospatial Information’. Check it out at: <http://www.fgdc.gov/fgdc-news/2009-fgdc-annual-report>

2010 CAP Awards are open thru Jan 7, 2010 and though Federal Agencies are exempt from funding, I encourage you to review the funding categories (Metadata, Framework Data Synchronization, Standards Implementation, etc.) and identify opportunities for your key non-federal stakeholders. If you do have ideas for CAP projects, please be sure to include Tom Tribble/CGIA in the dialog so he can serve as a ‘clearinghouse’ to ensure statewide coordination. More info at:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2010NSDICAP/2010CAP>

A final draft of the ‘**Transition to International Metadata**’ document has been produced. This is a preparatory document that outlines the why and how of changing the US metadata standard and provides some practical strategies for preparing for transition. We have outlined the next document in the series, an implementation guide that is based upon the current CSDGM Workbook (aka ‘Greenbook’) and will move forward when the ‘Transition’ doc is completed. If you are interested in reviewing either document and providing critical feedback, email me at Lwayne@fgdc.gov and let me know which document(s) you would like to review.

DHS: Leah Wolter – She is the new Protective Security Advisor, Infrastructure Protection for the SE Region, and is based in Raleigh. Her involvement is with disaster preparedness, incident planning, special event planning, site risk, critical infrastructure, and the development of a data exchange program to improve the HSIP Gold and HSIP Freedom data sets from DHS.

- g) **New Business** – after some discussion on the FIC and FIC EC meeting schedule for calendar 2010, it was suggested that this be a discussion topic for the next FIC EC meeting to be held in Jan 2010. The FIC EC will work to determine a date for that meeting and the yearly schedule of FIC and FIC EC meetings will be on the agenda.

Also, if there are parties interested with funding to support the fourth band in the statewide ortho collection project, contact Steve Strader or Doug Newcomb.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.