



North Carolina  
Geographic Information Coordinating Council  
Local Government Committee

MINUTES  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
May 22, 2013, 2:00 PM

#### PROCEEDINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Local Government Committee (LGC), a committee of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC), was held on May 22, 2013.

#### PRESENT

LGC members:

Jessica Brannock, High Country COG, representing ARCED  
Lucy Cardwell, Currituck County, representing NCPMA  
Kathryn Clifton, City of Salisbury, representing NCLM  
Gene Hume, Buncombe County, representing Carolina URISA  
Joseph Sloop, Forsyth County, representing NCLGISA  
Julie Stamper, Pasquotank County, representing NCACC  
Alice Wilson, City of New Bern, representing APA-NC and SMAC rep

Others:

James Armstrong, Richmond County, SMAC Rep  
Pam Carver Henderson County, WGSP Co-Chair  
Stephen Dew, Guilford County, WGOP Rep  
Ricky Hall, Alamance County, WGOP Rep  
Wright Lowery, Wake County, STRMP Rep  
Tom Tribble, CGIA, Staff to the LGC

#### ABSENT

None

## APPOINTMENTS

Julie Stamper welcomed Alice Wilson as the official LGC appointment by the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NC). Julie announced that the GICC approved the revised LGC bylaws, adding APA-NC as an organizational member of the LGC. She noted that Alice was the one who suggested that APA-NC become a member. Alice opined that the change will be of great benefit to both the LGC and APA-NC and noted that the APA-NC actively tracks legislative issues that may affect local governments. GIS in the City of New Bern is located in the Planning Department. Tom Tribble also welcomed Alice and noted that this is the first organizational addition to the LGC since it was founded in 2002. He agreed that it will be good to have planners represented and said the GICC and CGIA was very supportive.

Tom reported on the process for the 2013-15 LGC appointments. Tom reminded the members that LGC appointments are for two years and are staggered to ensure continuity. He suggested that Alice's tenure be for 2013-15. The three members whose terms are expiring are Kathryn Clifton, for the League of Municipalities, Gene Hume, for Carolina URISA, and Jessica Brannock, for the Association of Regional Councils. In June Tom will contact Ryan Draughn, NCLM, Tim Muhs, President of CURISA and Scott Miller, President of the Regional Councils GIS Group, to seek their appointments.

In early July, once the appointments are made, the LGC will hold an election for chair. The position of chair is elected annually. Once the new LGC is in place, the LGC will need to consider other appointments.

**Action Item** – Tom will contact organizations that are scheduled to make LGC appointments for 2013-15. Once appointments are made, Tom will work with the LGC members to schedule the election for chair.

## REPORTS

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP). Pam Carver, Land Records Supervisor for Henderson County and Co-Chair of the WGSP, reported on the Integrated Cadastral Exchange Project. This project is funded by US Environmental Protection Agency. Partners include the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians along with various state and local North Carolina organizations.

The goal is to integrate county cadastral data and to share the data with North Carolina users but Pam emphasized that a big part of the project is to share the data with the EPA Exchange Network. Data on the EPA Exchange Network will not be public information. Integrated cadastral data for North Carolina users will be public.

The Project Team includes the Secretary of State's Office, CGIA, NCDOT and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The WGSP and NCPMA serve in an advisory role. On February 4, the team released a Request for Proposals for a private contractor to build an application to translate county parcel data to a statewide standard. The intent is not to

require counties to adopt a common standard for field names. Proposals were submitted on March 7 and delivered to the evaluation team on March 11. The goal was to have a contract in place by the end of April. Pam acknowledged that the review of the proposals was delayed, partly by the difficulty in scheduling meetings. The evaluation team made a recommendation on a vendor on April 24. She anticipates a contract will be signed by the end of this week.

The delay will put some pressure on the contractor and the project team. There is a deadline of September to show progress to EPA. In the next three months, the software application will need to be developed and tested and the cadastral data for the counties participating in the pilot effort will need to be transformed. The expectation is to complete the work for 25 counties – 25% of the state – by the end of September. She encouraged the participating counties to help the team meet the deadline. She expressed hope that meeting this deadline will convince EPA to expand the project to cover the entire state.

Julie asked how many proposals were received. Pam said seven proposals with over 900 pages to read. All of them met the qualifications. Originally the evaluation team was given a week to review and evaluate the proposals. This proved impossible and contributed to the delay. She noted that the review was very structured, under the procurement rules of the NC Office of Information Technology Services. She said the process was rigorous but that she enjoyed it.

Tom asked if 25 counties have volunteered to participate in the initial effort. She said yes. The counties were chosen strategically, both for geographic distribution, an urban and rural mix, and groupings so that the team can address adjacency issues. Pam said the effort by NC Geodetic Survey to update the county boundaries will be important to resolve edge-matching issues.

Julie recalled that the counties in the Eastern Carolina Council comprised one group of counties and asked if Alex Rickard's departure for a new job will affect the participation by this group of counties. Pam said she expects Alex to continue to work on the project.

Tom asked if the pilot project will be limited to the 25 counties or can additional counties be accommodated. Pam noted that the translation of street centerline data in the WGRT project was not difficult and thinks the parcel project may be able to take on additional counties, especially if the county person is willing to undertake the task of mapping their parcel data to the statewide schema with the translation tool. However, given the late start, the project team needs to focus on the goal of 25 counties.

Tom asked if the vendor will be ready to start as soon as the contract is signed. Pam said the evaluation team carefully scrutinized the vendors' proposed timelines and schedules and gave significant weight to this factor.

Julie commended Pam and the committee for the progress, especially given the frustrating delays over several years.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). Alice Wilson reported the SMAC met on April 10. Ken Taylor, Chief of NC Geological Survey, joined the SMAC. Dr. Taylor is also the State Geologist, the 13<sup>th</sup> person to hold that position since 1823. His GIS experience has been in the area of emergency management and hazard mitigation.

The State Government GIS Users Committee is still working on the Esri Enterprise License Agreement and struggling with the funding model for allocating the costs across agencies. The State pays a fixed cost to Esri for an unlimited number of licenses. The issue is how the costs are distributed among the various state departments. Previously ITS paid the cost for the ELA and under this arrangement, other departments could have as many licenses as needed. ITS no longer has appropriations to pay the fee. The costs are now allocated according to a formula based on the number of licenses in each department. This method creates a disincentive for agencies to acquire licenses even though the ELA permits an unlimited number. The challenge is finding a way for the State to pay the base ELA fee without imposing disincentives on individual agencies.

The SMAC received a report on the NCBELS's proposed legislation to license GIS practitioners doing mapping science. Alice reported that Gary Thompson acknowledged that the definition of "mapping science" is not in the legislation or rules and could be added. In the near term, NCBELS could define "mapping science" in a policy statement. For a definition to be added to the rules for NCBELS, the entire set of rules would come under review by the Rules Commission in what would likely require an 18-month process since all rules will need to be reviewed.

At the SMAC meeting Alice raised the LGC's concerns about the DMV project to solicit street centerline and address data from local governments. Alex Rickard agreed to raise the concern with Chris Tilley, NC DOT and Co-Chair of the WGRT.

Lynn Phillips, US Marine Corps, took a new job and resigned from the FIC EC. The FIC hope is to replace her with someone from the military. Alice asked if LGC members have suggestions for a replacement.

Regarding the WGRT centerline project, 84 counties have been loaded to the translator. The WGRT anticipates completing the remaining counties in the coming months. A question came up at the SMAC about discontinuing NC StreetMap, which was the first tool for acquiring local street centerlines. In 2013 no one has updated street centerlines on NC StreetMap. Alex reported at the SMAC meeting that a statewide seamless street centerline file is expected to be completed by NC DOT in 12-16 months and this should eliminate the need for NC StreetMap. The SMAC agreed that a plan needs to be developed, including outreach to NC StreetMap account holders, before retiring it.

Silvia Terziotti reported at the SMAC that appropriated funding for Hurricane Sandy response includes money to fly LiDAR over the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. Nineteen counties in North Carolina are identified as priority 1 areas. Silvia is working on a proposal.

Alice said that Hope Morgan, with GTM, reported on the release of their new Flood Release Information System (FRIS). Alice reported that 50 eastern counties are included in the initial release. Floor elevations are available for buildings in the flood hazard areas. Users can enter an address and determine if a location is at risk for flooding, hurricanes, fire, etc. The tool can also be used to calculate the cost of replacement. Alice said the tool is not currently working for all counties. GTM is working to complete the FRIS statewide. Alice said the site will be very useful.

At the SMAC meeting Gary Thompson reported that NC Geodetic Survey is partnering with NOAA to collect airborne and terrestrial gravity data that will be used to create the models to generate heights from LiDAR.

Working Group for Orthophotography Planning (WGOP). Stephen Dew reported on behalf of Ricky Hall. Stephen and Ricky are the new LGC appointments to the WGOP, which met on April 8. The imagery for the 2012 Coastal Imagery project has been delivered and the 60-day review process ended April 15. Among the deliverables were 100:1 compression mosaics. Some counties prefer the 50:1 mosaic that was provided in 2010. Julie noted that Pasquotank was one of those counties and received a higher resolution mosaic from CGIA. Stephen said that GTM will create two map caches for the 2012 imagery, one in Web Mercator and another in State Plane coordinates.

Imagery acquisition for the 2013 Eastern Piedmont Imagery project was completed by mid-March. Local government staff will have the opportunity to use the online VOICE tool to review the 2013 imagery starting in August.

The 2012 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) leaf-on imagery is now available. The NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DAG&CS) is providing a WMS services for true color and color infrared imagery. Stephen said that Dan Madding at DAG&CS will distribute the data upon request. Tom noted that the WMS service is accessible through NC OneMap.

A question arose at the WGOP meeting if any counties are acquiring orthoimagery on their own. None were reported although Iredell County is acquiring oblique imagery. Alice said she heard that Alexander County may be acquiring orthoimagery this year. *(Post meeting note: George Brown, Alexander County GIS Coordinator, confirmed that Alexander flew imagery in February 2013 in preparation for reevaluation.)*

Gary Thompson reported at the WGOP that the National Geodetic Survey will release the GEOCON 2007 and 2011 models, which will transform NAD 83 to the 2007 and 2011 realizations, within eight weeks. Esri plans to integrate the models with a patch soon after.

The WGOP is working to update the GPS standard. Gary Thompson is leading this effort. Three sections are in progress but Gary is looking for someone to draft the section

on recommended practices for applying recreation grade GPS to positional correction. Hope Morgan will check with one of GTM's contractors to see if they can assist.

Another topic of discussion was the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, on which Gary Thompson serves. The NGAC is working on a guidance document for agencies and recommending partnerships to support the 3D elevation program.

The WGOP discussed oblique imagery. Some counties are seeking approval to use NC 911 funds to acquire oblique imagery. A question arose about the need for a standard for oblique imagery. The WGOP first needs information on how local governments are using oblique imagery.

Finally, as noted in the SMAC report, the WGOP discussed the effort to develop a proposal for Hurricane Sandy funding to acquire LiDAR for the 19 counties affected by that storm.

Julie commended Stephen and Ricky for the most thorough WGOP report ever. She again thanked them both for representing the LGC on the WGOP. Tom noted that the LGC may elect to add another representative to the WGOP, one representing a county in Western-South Ortho project, scheduled to be flown in 2015.

Tom also reported an update to the counties scheduled to be flown in 2014 for the Western-North project area. Randolph County, part of the Triad metropolitan area (Greensboro/Winston-Salem/High Point), was originally scheduled to be flown in 2015 but has been moved to the 2014. Stephen echoed that it made sense to fly Guilford, Forsyth, Randolph and Davidson counties at the same time. A proposal to move Randolph County to the Phase 3 project was made to the NC 911 Board, which approved the change.

NC OneMap Geospatial Portal. Tom reported he has a special announcement. Later this week, the Geospatial Portal will be upgraded. Those on the RSS feed will receive the announcement or you can see the Blog on the NC OneMap page. Or simply go to the Geospatial Portal. There are a number of improvements.

- On the Search page, keyword hints will be displayed as you type in your search string.
- The search results for web services will be displayed with a service availability percentage, indicating the reliability of the service.
- The Browse tab will include an alphabetical listing of resources available. This is back by popular demand. When the Geospatial Portal was released, the old alphabetical list was abandoned. The feeling was that searching by key words would enable users to find what they needed. But surveys indicated that users still want to see the alphabetical listing so it will return.
- The 2012 imagery will be available for download and as an image service. The 2010 imagery will continue to be available. Availability of the historical imagery will be delayed until some problems with the Esri WMS are resolved.

Julie agreed that the alphabetical list is valuable as a user may not know what data they want and therefore what to search for. Tom said the NC OneMap team is sincere about listening to the needs of users.

Stream Mapping Advisory Committee (STRMP). Wright Lowery, Wake County and LGC appointee to the STRMP, reported that the STRMP is meeting regularly and last met on April 11. The primary focus is developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between North Carolina and USGS for editing the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), especially for local or high resolution streams.

USGS is the owner of NHD, which is based primarily on 1:24,000 scale surface waters. For the NHD to reach its full potential, especially to state and local government users in North Carolina, there is a need to incorporate local resolution data. Wright indicated a key issue is to develop consistent rules for editing the NHD when adding local resolution data. There will need to be an agreement on who has edit permission and those with edit permission will need the proper training from USGS.

Wright noted that some local governments are mapping surface water data for the county or a watershed. For the data to be incorporated into the NHD, the data will need to undergo a review to ensure the data are in compliance with the NHD standard. He suggested that local governments need to be informed so that the data they collect can be added to the NHD.

The STRMP will meet on June 3 and thereafter monthly to work on hammering out the details for the MOU. The committee will be reviewing MOUs that other states have with USGS.

Tom agreed that it is a good idea to conduct outreach to local governments that may be mapping local resolution stream data and encourage them to ensure that the data meet some consistent standard. But the outreach may be of limited value until the STRMP or USGS can provide a standard or directions on how to ensure local resolution stream data will be consistent with the NHD format. Will the STRMP or USGS provide some guidance?

Wright anticipates that the MOU will cover not only the process but the specifications or requirements. He said he will raise this issue with the committee.

Once guidance is available, Julie suggested that the STRMP may want to conduct workshops or training at various professional meetings in North Carolina, perhaps working with NCPMA, CURISA and others.

Alice attended a wetlands workshop on Pivers Island that included presentations by staff from DENR and Raleigh Bland ([Raleigh.W.Bland@usace.army.mil](mailto:Raleigh.W.Bland@usace.army.mil)), US Army Corps of Engineers, and Amy Adams, ([amy.adams@ncdenr.gov](mailto:amy.adams@ncdenr.gov)), DENR Division of Water Quality. Alice mentioned the work of the STRMP. Ms. Adams stated that only DENR or US COE can legally determine if a stream exists. Perhaps the STRMP needs to reach

out to these folks and confirm who has responsibility, especially before local governments do any mapping. Wright said that DENR DWQ is an active member of the committee but that the US COE is not involved. He will share the information with Matt Duvall, co-chair of the STRMP. Alice emphasized the importance of having an official database so that counties are using the correct data when buffering streams and identifying area in which development may be restricted.

**Action Item** – Wright will communicate the LGC concerns to the STRMP.

**Action Item** – Once the STRMP provides more information on the specifications and requirements for mapping local resolution data, the LGC use an LGC Alert to notify local governments.

Julie thanked Wright for another very thorough report and thanked Wright for representing the LGC on this committee.

NC Board on Geographic Names. Tom reported on some recent developments related to the work of the NC BGN. Recently a map was displayed at a public meeting in the Charlotte area. The map included a stream with an offensive name. This led to the introduction of a bill in the NC Senate requesting that the GICC petition the US BGN to change the name. It turns out that the name had been changed to Salem Creek in 1985 and is listed in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). Years ago the GICC adopted the GNIS as the official North Carolina names repository. It is unclear which map was displayed at the meeting, possibly an old USGS topo map. However, the map could have been published more recently using a stream database that does not reflect the name change.

The SMAC has recognized that it needs to do a better job of outreach and communications to the GIS community and others about newly adopted feature name changes. The SMAC plans to develop a communications plan to better communicate with the stakeholders, including the GIS community, in hope that name changes will be integrated into existing databases. This is especially important with offensive names. Tom said the communications plan will likely include a list on the NC OneMap and GICC websites of all name changes in which the NC BGN has been involved. There may be quarterly notices issued to the various list serves as well as other methods of outreach.

James Armstrong understands the need for name changes, especially in the case of offensive names, but asked if the history of the old names will be forever lost. Tom replied that the GNIS retains the old name and anyone can search it. The goal is to ensure that current databases are using the accepted feature names.

Ricky asked if localities have a say in changing name. Tom clarified that the NC BGN does not initiate name changes, unless it discovers offensive names. The NC BGN responds to petitions from cities, counties, private citizens or other organizations requesting a name change or to name an unnamed feature. The NC BGN reaches out to

the community, often including Boards of County Commissioners, City Councils or other local officials, to establish local usage and to determine local support for the name or a rationale for changing the name. The NC BGN must also ensure compliance with national requirements and policies. The NC BGN may deny petitions, especially if there is local opposition. Tom cited a couple of examples, including one that involved significant local opposition to changing a stream name that had been used locally for more than 100 years and another that violated a US BGM policy not to name features after a commercial development. He said the process is rigorous and may take a year or longer before a decision is rendered.

Tom noted that Amy Durden, City of Elizabeth City, is the LGC appointee to the NC BGN.

Standards Committee. James Armstrong is the LGC appointee on the Standards Committee. The committee has not met recently. As noted earlier, a group led by Gary Thompson is reviewing the GPS standard. There is also a suggestion that an oblique imagery standard be developed and this may be moved up the priority list. Tom mentioned the Standards Committee may be looking for someone with expertise in oblique imagery. Stephen echoed that the WGOP is unsure about how to develop an oblique imagery standard and welcomes advice from anyone with expertise.

Julie said that Durham 911 asked for a standard so there is some pressure from local governments for a standard. Ricky echoed this comment and said counties are also seeking approval from the NC 911 Board to use funding to acquire oblique imagery and suggested the 911 Board may want to have a standard in place before approving the use of 911 funds for oblique imagery.

Stephen also mentioned that Pictometry's patent on oblique imagery has expired and that new companies will likely be competing for business.

## GICC AND M&O REPORT

Julie reported that several new GICC members were in attendance at the May meeting, reflecting the change in state department secretaries with the new administration. Art Pope, the State Budget Director, attended although he was a bit late. Julie was encouraged by his interest. At the M&O meeting, it was noted that the Senate budget included a small increase in funds for CGIA after several years of cuts.

Julie said the M&O expects to take action soon on establishing a Census working group. Bob Coats, State Data Center and the state's liaison to the Census Bureau, will likely be involved. The M&O wants to have good representation from local government and Julie asked for suggestions on local government folks who could participate. Alice suggested the State Demographer and also David Nash, with the City of Fayetteville. Tom mentioned John Gallimore, Davie County, as a possibility. Julie suspects that the Census working group will report to the M&O and will likely work closely with many of the existing working groups.

Julie announced that Dr. Lee Mandell has resigned as chair of the GICC. She said Lee has been chair for five years and devoted an amazing amount of time to GICC initiatives, despite being retired. Lee believes in term limits and that it is time for new leadership. She expressed her appreciation to Lee for his efforts. Tom agreed that Lee devoted incredible energy to this job, clearly understood the issues and that the GICC made great progress under his leadership. Julie noted the difficult challenges the last few years with the economy and budget situation.

#### STATUS of NCBELS PROPOSED LEGISLATION

House Bill 301 was introduced to license GIS practitioners doing “mapping science.” In April the bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce along with a large number of other bills. According to Gary Thompson, it is unclear if any action will be taken on the bill during this session due to the volume of bills. Tom reminded the members that the legislation does not require local government employees collecting data to be licensed as a surveyor. The LGC’s concern is the possibility of increased costs if a local government contracts data development work to a private firm, which may have to employ a licensed surveyor to certify the data.

#### LGC ACTION LIST

Action items from the March meeting are complete. The only open action item is that LGC members will continue to provide suggestions on local government candidates to serve on committees. Tom said he is managing a list of candidates but encouraged members to submit additional names.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

There was no new business

#### NEXT MEETING

The next LGC meeting is scheduled for August 28.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20.