



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
Local Government Committee

MINUTES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
December 3, 2014, 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 December 3, 2014.

PRESENT

LGC members:

Jessica Brannock, High Country COG, representing ARCED
Lucy Cardwell, Currituck County, representing NCPMA
Kathryn Clifton, Chair, City of Salisbury, representing NCLM
Joseph Sloop, Forsyth County, representing NCLGISA
Travis Penland, City of Hendersonville, representing Carolina URISA
Alice Wilson, City of New Bern, representing APA-NC and SMAC Rep

Others:

Pam Carver, Henderson County, WGSP Representative
Stephen Dew, Guilford County, WGOP Representative
Jeff Brown, CGIA, Staff to the LGC

WELCOME

Kathryn (Kat) Clifton, Chair, called the meeting to order. Kat welcomed the members and representatives.

CURRENT ISSUES OR CONCERNS

Kat Clifton invited members to participate in a round robin to describe any current issues or concerns in local government GIS for the committee to consider. Travis reported that GIS Day went very well in Hendersonville, including home school children. Henderson County did a fine job describing “coordinates” and a geo-cache exercise went well. Alice asked about letters sent to the NC 911 Board in support of orthoimagery. Jeff confirmed that letters are coming in from local governments, more would be valuable, and there is still time to send in letters to the chair of the Board (Chris Estes, c/o amy.blinson@nc.gov).

Lucy added that NCPMA (Julie Stamper, President) members were concerned about orthoimagery and responded to the request for letters. Kat added that the Town of Spencer's first GIS Day was well received. Topics included GIS applied to bicycle and pedestrian planning, forest preservation, and historic preservation. Alice reported that Craven County held a GIS Day successfully.

One issue that may come up in other jurisdictions: Craven County acquired oblique imagery for internal use and is not sharing the imagery with the City of New Bern. Vendor licensing may be a factor. Alice looks forward to release of new LIDAR data from the Department of Public Safety and looks forward to the NC GIS Conference (February 26-27 at the Raleigh Convention Center).

Alice also shared that New Bern hired a consultant to plan an enterprise GIS. She learned that there was a lot of room for improvement in and between the various agencies. She observed that there would be value in describing recommended practices for managing GIS in a city or county. Jurisdictions are unique, but there may be common tools and approaches that would be valuable to document. Kat added that strategic plans can be valuable and can serve as justification for funding to managers and boards.

Joseph observed that, as Geographic Information Officer, he spends much of his time conferring with city and county department heads and managers in an effort to understand where geographic information may be applied more often and more effectively and communicate opportunities. This was a topic at the national URISA conference, too.

Kat suggested some sort of overview of what GIS can mean to a city or county in a format that could be presented to city or county managers or other non-GIS professionals. The next LGC publication subject might be related to this idea. There may be sessions on this topic at the NC GIS Conference, too.

Stephen added that URISA's capability maturity model may be useful in crafting a piece on local government GIS. Also, Guilford County is obtaining oblique imagery this spring. Kat observed that Rowan County plans to share its oblique imagery with municipalities after six months.

Pam was impressed by the geography skills of students at GIS Day in Hendersonville. Jeff described a successful GIS Day in Raleigh, too.

GICC/MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Joseph reported that the GICC adopted the State and Local Government Metadata Profile as a very positive step. The LGC will want to promote the new standard and help achieve wider development of metadata. He noted that in his experience lack of metadata can be problematic. Stan Duncan gave an update on the report on state agency GIS capabilities and consolidation opportunities being developed by Kristen Culler, Deputy State Chief Information Officer, in consultation with state and local GIS managers. The report will recommend not selling GIS data. The Council also features member statements about the

value of GIS. Joseph urged LGC members to read the GICC minutes (posted online) to learn more about how Council members describe the value of GIS. The Statewide Orthoimagery Program continues to keep on schedule. Richard Taylor was pleased to report that the NC 911 Board is receiving letters from local governments expressing support for statewide imagery. Also, the Technical Advisory Committee will be working on describing cloud solutions, of interest to LGC.

The link to the metadata standard and resources:

<http://www.nconemap.com/DiscoverGetData/Metadata.aspx>

LGC MEMBERS/APPOINTMENTS

Update on the status of LGC members:

LGC has the opportunity to appoint one or two people to the Working Group for Orthophotography Planning. There is a preference for someone from either the Southern Piedmont and Mountains region (2015) or the coastal region (2016) to serve as a technical advisor on the Working Group. Lucy will consult with NCPMA to seek candidates. Jessica will check with counterparts, too. Stephen confirmed that quarterly meetings of the Working Group are informative and to the point.

There remains an open spot on the LGC for a county representative, to be appointed by the NC Association of County Commissioners. After discussion, the committee voted to make a recommendation to the association for a GIS analyst who is active and interested in serving on the LGC.

REPORTS

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP)

Pam Carver reported that the project team is making progress on expanding data in the NC Parcel Transformer. Each county source dataset is a little different. The Transformer is working well. John Bridgers has been working on it also. County data managers have been cooperative. Jeff pointed out that the Transformer application has been undergoing some final modifications, delaying the promotion of it as a tool, but it will be finished soon. Kat added that LGC will be willing to help promote the project as needed. A notice from Stan Duncan and David Baker to county assessors was helpful in getting cooperation.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Alice Wilson reported that the SMAC met October 29. The new State and Local Government Metadata Profile was approved by SMAC by email prior to the meeting, and adopted by the Council. This includes metadata resources for state and local government data managers. NCDOT updated the group on progress on the "ROME" project that involves Esri and will produce a statewide street centerline file, expected the third quarter of 2015. For elevation, LiDAR phases 1 and 2 (of 5) have been completed and they are working on tools for data distribution. Cam McNutt reported on efforts to identify a statewide streams dataset among many in use. There are many issues for the Stream

Mapping Advisory Committee to tackle. For geodetic control, Gary Thompson referred to <http://ncgs.state.nc.us> where state control is displayed with digital flood insurance rate maps. Gary also reported to SMAC on reestablishment of the state boundary with South Carolina where survey work is complete. SMAC also featured a presentation by State Archives on archiving geospatial data. NC OneMap data are being archived through an approved retention schedule. Steve Averett is now a member of SMAC, representing NC League of Municipalities.

Working Group for Orthophotography Planning (WGOP)

Stephen Dew reported that the 2014 imagery has visual quality comparable to last year and the 2015 phase is on schedule. The group intends to review the business plan for orthoimagery (2011) to see if it needs an update. The group continues to work on a document intended for guidance to local governments considering oblique imagery acquisition to compile lessons learned and technical concepts. Stephen shared the outline of the document. He pointed out that software is a key component to enable the various views of oblique imagery. Alice recommended including information about licensing that enables sharing between counties and constituents municipalities. The group will continue to work on ortho, oblique and elevation topics.

Stream Mapping Advisory Committee

No report.

Working Group for Census Geospatial Data

No report.

Technical Advisory Committee

No report.

Standards

The ad hoc Metadata Committee created a web page for resources under NC OneMap to help data managers implement the new North Carolina State and Local Government Metadata Profile based on the new ISO metadata standard. The old metadata standard is still valid as well. There are templates and examples using Esri and open source tools. More resources will be added over time. See

<http://www.nconemap.com/DiscoverGetData/Metadata.aspx>

Professional Development Opportunities

The 2015 NC GIS Conference will take place on February 26-27 (with workshops on the 25th).

Joseph is the GIS Chair for NCLGISA. There is a retreat next week to plan conferences. The intention is to include more GIS topics. Joseph requests information from LGC members and others to identify GIS topics and applications and presenters. It is a great opportunity to inform IT professionals in local government. Contact Joseph. Alice confirmed interest in NCLGISA and raised the topic of where GIS should be located within local government (tax, IT, county manager, etc.) and pros and cons of each.

Joseph will share dates for upcoming NCLGISA events. Kat has an interest in presenting. Topics may include open data as interest grows in the topic and GIS software capability emerges to support open data. GIS and IT as integral part of enterprise solutions for local government continue to be important for successful local procurement and operation of multiple departments. Communication remains a key component. Note: the next NCLGISA conference is May 20-22 in Wilmington.

Travis shared an email about a webinar on field data collection on Wednesday December 10 at 2:00 PM. He will forward to the LGC.

Alice added that the NCDATA list serv (Bob Coats, State Data Center, Office of State Budget and Management) is a valuable resource for Census related information. Contact: bob.coats@osbm.nc.gov

Concerning applications to NCBELS for grandfathered status as a Professional Licensed Surveyor, Kat Clifton, Stephen Dew, and Lucy Cardwell received their licenses this year.

LGC ACTION LIST

- The new Metadata Standard is adopted and ready to apply. Jeff will send out the link to metadata standard and resources.
- Kat completed and submitted the second issue (statewide parcels) to Stan Duncan who approved. It is now online:
http://www.ncgicc.org/Portals/3/documents/ExploringStatewideDatasets_vol1_no2.pdf
- LGC members will continue to share stories and ideas about benefits of statewide data with Kat for future issues. Also, ideas about coordinating GIS in a local government enterprise is a topic of interest.
- LGC needs to find another local government representative for the Working Group for Orthophotography Planning, 2015 region preferred. Jessica and Lucy will offer suggestions for candidates.
- NC Association of County Commissioners needs to appoint a representative to LGC. Jeff and Kat will follow up.
- Jeff will keep the committee informed with a status map on county participants in the NC Parcels Project.
- Jeff will monitor letters received by the NC 911 Board in support of statewide imagery.
- Share ideas with Joseph for GIS presentations suitable for NCLGISA conferences.
- Jeff will provide more information about the NCDATA listserv.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The LGC meetings for 2015, all Wednesdays starting at 2:00 PM:

February 18
May 27
December 2

ADJOURNMENT

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