



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
Local Government Committee

MINUTES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
March 11, 2015, 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 March 11, 2015.

PRESENT

LGC members:

Jessica Brannock, High Country COG, representing ARCED
Lucy Cardwell, Currituck County, representing NCPMA
Kathryn Clifton, Chair, Town of Spencer, 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
Benita Staples, Mecklenburg County, representing NCACC

Others:

Pam Carver, Henderson County, WGSP Representative
David Nash, City of Fayetteville, Census Working Group 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. She introduced Benita Staples as the new representative for NC Association of County Commissioners.

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.

Kat asked members for information about GIS in local government enterprise for the next newsletter topic. How does GIS fit into the organization and how is it integral to local

government operations? Alice added that New Bern hired a consultant to find ways to coordinate GIS among departments and identify ways that GIS can be of more value to more departments. Alice would be interested in being interviewed for newsletter content; Kat will be in touch.

Alice enjoyed the GIS Conference and looks forward to looking at presentations online when posted. Kat also attended and was excited to see so many people (about 80 percent made it through the winter weather). She suggested that interactive presenters also have back-up slides to distribute later that capture the session for those who were attending a different breakout session or want to review.

Travis attended the conference and was very involved with CURISA as a board member. He did outreach regarding CURISA training and was in the booth.

Stephen Dew pointed out the session on LiDAR by Hope Morgan, Gary Thompson, and Keith Johnston was very informative, including a good overview of orthoimagery and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS).

Metadata. Kat observed that LGC could have a positive influence on metadata after getting the State and Local Government Metadata Profile from the Metadata Committee. Alice suggested that training will be important to implementing metadata successfully. A discussion of datasets for local government metadata highlighted parcels as a priority dataset. Online files, especially, need documentation of currency and attribute definitions. Issues to consider include consistency in metadata creation and management within a jurisdiction if more than one data manager is publishing data. Templates can help with consistency. Other popular locally published datasets are streets, zoning districts, municipal boundaries, county boundaries, address points.

Kat explained the value of online training resources, such as a narrated set of slides or a video of a presentation on metadata for local government data managers. Considering limited time and travel budgets, online learning has an important role. Jeff added that the audience at a session on metadata at the NC GIS Conference expressed divided preference for a webinar versus in-person training. Only a few preferred self-learning online resources.

GICC/MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Kat reported that the GICC met February 11. Dianne Enright (Department of Health and Human Services) and Joseph Sloop spoke about the value of GIS from their perspectives. Joseph emphasized ways to explain concepts and gain support from upper managers. His Council presentation also highlighted opportunities to collaborate on statewide efforts including NC 911 and school safety mapping.

Kat encouraged LGC members to see Council minutes (<http://www.ncgicc.org/GICCM Meetings.aspx>) to read the statements on the value of GIS, and think about content for 2-page newsletters to reinforce statements of the value of GIS. There may be other presentation forms that are easy to consume.

Regarding the NC GIS Conference, despite the adverse weather nearly 800 people attended, there were 41 exhibits booths, and 15 student presentations.

Also, Gary Thompson presented on the planned national change in datum in 2022. This deserves attention from local governments to minimize impact on geospatial data management.

Jeff added that the Chair of the NC 911 Board, Chris Estes, State Chief Information Officer, announced at the GIS Conference that the 911 Board unanimously approved CGIA's proposal for another 4-year cycle of statewide orthoimery, beginning in the coastal region in 2016. The letters of support from LGC members and their associated organizations were important in the outcome. Richard Taylor, Executive Director, answered a question about the value of orthoimagery outside of emergency communications by referring to examples in the letters of support (thank you, LGC).

Kat observed that, before the statewide program, county orthoimagery projects were subject to budget conditions and priorities that could delay acquisition. Predictability is valuable.

LGC MEMBERS/APPOINTMENTS

Update on the status of LGC members:

The NC Association of County Commissioners appointed Benita Staples as stated in today's introductions.

Kevin Jamison, Jackson County, will join the Working Group for Orthophotography Planning as another local government representative. Thanks to Lucy Cardwell for assisting in reaching out to Kevin.

There remains one seat on the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee that could be filled by LGC. While this is not urgent, it is an opportunity for a local government person and someone who could start service before Alice rotates off.

REPORTS

Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP)

Pam Carver reported that the project team continues to make progress on expanding data in the NC Parcel Transformer. To date, 32 counties have been published on NC OneMap with standardized fields. Another 22 counties are in progress. There are only 21 counties not yet in progress; those are scheduled through May. The plan is to update the original 25 in May and June (using the saved translation models) with the goal of publishing 100 counties in 2015. There is excellent participation; no refusals to date. Jeff added that another 8 to ten will be published in the next few days. A goal is to refresh parcels twice per year. The NC Parcel Transformer generates county jobs that are time stamped. For multi-county web services, Kat urged the team to find a way to timestamp each record. The current standard schema has fields to capture parcel feature revision (CAMA records

and GIS records), but not publication date by record. [Jeff verified later that the web services have an added field “TRANSFORM_DATE” that captures the date of transformation by record; for shapefiles produced by the Transformer, zip files are date stamped and county metadata records have the publication date].

Pam encouraged LGC members to look at parcels in NC OneMap and note the translated fields (geometry is published as received in the source parcels). Pam intends to ask property mappers to look at standard fields that are not populated with a matching county field and consider exporting more fields to fill in the missing values. She explained that the standard schema is based on federal standards and use cases, e.g., for multi-county emergency management scenarios. Pam has noticed wide variation in what fields counties choose to publish. Data managers may not be aware of the value of some available fields in CAMA systems to a wider audience. She urged county data managers to find ways to improve the source dataset that gets translated to the standard for NC OneMap. Kat expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Working Group for Seamless Parcels.

Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)

Alice Wilson reported that the SMAC met January 14. She briefly recapped the meeting by topic.

Transportation: Statewide street centerlines with about 90 attributes will be published by NCDOT before the end of 2015, and NCDOT will maintain the data quarterly. It will be discoverable via NC OneMap and consumable as a web service.

Elevation: New LiDAR data are in progress for eastern NC. Data will be available for authenticated users (NCID) via a “clip and ship” function for tiles of data. Larger downloads will be available on request. John Farley requested a plan for refreshing the derived elevation products that are currently served (as web services) by NC OneMap.

Cadastral: see WGSP update above.

Hydrography: This is a complicated dataset. The Division of Water Resources is looking at stream naming in state and federal data. The Stream Mapping Advisory Committee is working on stream data requirements.

Municipal Boundaries: Tom Morgan is collecting municipal boundaries from each county in his role supporting the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) for the Census Bureau and a Census effort called the Boundary Quality Assessment and Reconciliation Project (BQARP). Census intends to compare municipal boundaries and parcel boundaries to identify inconsistencies.

Addresses: NC OneMap serves static address point data (complete in late 2014).

Other items of note:

Regarding standards and practices, Tom Morgan is leading the creation of a Cadastral Manual as a guidance document for cadastral mapping.

The NC Board on Geographic Names has three requests for name changes for streams. Silvia Terziotti is now the sole USGS Liaison for North Carolina following the retirement of Gary Merrill.

NC OneMap is serving 2014 imagery.

State Government GIS User Committee summarized a report to the General Assembly from the State Chief Information Officer that included a recommendation that state agencies continue to distribute geospatial data at no charge.

Working Group for Orthophotography Planning (WGOP)

Stephen Dew reported that 2014 imagery was delivered to Public Safety Answering Points in late January and released online early in February, discoverable and accessible as web services and downloadable tiles from NC OneMap. Acquisition of 2015 imagery is underway by five contractors. The group is also receiving updates on LiDAR acquisition. The group will finalize a guide for oblique imagery intended to inform local governments considering oblique acquisition. Jeff added that Stephen did the bulk of the writing on what is not a standard but an informative and brief (8 pages) document. Stephen added that ASPRS is working on a national standard for oblique imagery.

Kat commented that the orthoimagery delivery session in Rowan County was very effective in presenting information about the 2014 imagery. She appreciated the documentation of quality control that highlighted the value of the online visual quality control tool for local participation early in the review process as requested by the NC 911 Board. She encouraged participation in the 2015 project area in the summer.

Jeff added local government participation on the Working Group has been valuable. He acknowledged that the imagery process and products have been and can still be improved, and advice from local data managers has made a difference.

Stephen asked LGC: Delivery has been in county units; considering municipal boundaries, would it be useful to have an application added to the portable drive delivered to PSAPs whereby map-based or coordinate-based functionality pulls tiles for a desired jurisdiction. Would that be a useful application? Kat commented that it would save hunting for and selecting tiles in a county collection and would be valuable to share. This would be different from applying an index shapefile as a reference for tile names. Stephen will work with Jeff and Darrin Smith of CGIA and keep LGC informed.

Jessica added that the imagery services are very useful, particularly for her work involving more than one county. She has linked the services to all of her applications as a base map. Stephen noted that imagery services make extraction of tiles from a portable drive obsolete for base map viewing purposes. But, Kat noted that having a local copy of imagery can overcome an interruption of service and can perform somewhat better for tasks like digitizing impervious surface. Having both a local copy and web services may be the best approach currently.

Stream Mapping Advisory Committee

No report.

Working Group for Census Geospatial Data

David Nash reported that he attended the working group meeting on December 15. Bob Coats, the Governor's Census Liaison, is chairing. There are four processes to which local governments need to report regarding annexations:

- Census Bureau, Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
- Secretary of State (by NC law, but not geospatial data)
- State Demographer for population estimates (data, but not mapping)
- NCDOT for Powell Bill streets and boundaries

Preparations for Census 2020 include BQARP (noted above) to replace the legacy boundaries in the Census data. This will tie into the parcel project. Other preparation for Census 2020 is not urgent, but Bob Coats urges GIS data managers to be aware of opportunities to take advantage of programs in the next few years.

In response to a question about local data sharing, David's understanding is that data sharing for municipal boundaries is common. Committee members confirmed sharing, from "sneaker-net" to FTP transfers. David observed that municipalities may prefer to continue to make individual BAS submissions to the Census Bureau.

Technical Advisory Committee

No report.

Standards

Metadata (discussed above).

Professional Development Opportunities

Alice noted that GIS Conference presentations will be online (forthcoming), with audio recordings for many of the technical sessions. Jeff will notify the committee when they are ready (see <http://ncgisconference.com/presentations.html>)

Lucy pointed to the Land Records Management Program workshops upcoming this spring as a good opportunity for learning and credits. The NC Property Mapping Association is a sponsor. See the registration form for more information at <https://www.secretary.state.nc.us/Land/thepage.aspx> (Lucy will forward to the group).

LGC ACTION LIST

Jeff explained that LGC is up to date on actions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jeff explained that the planned GIS Showcase to demonstrate a few examples of GIS applied to state and local business processes was cancelled due to the winter storm on February 25. He acknowledged the good ideas and examples provided by LGC and hopes there will be future opportunities. The GICC got a brief preview and a presentation from Joseph that highlighted the value of GIS.

NEXT MEETING

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

May 27

August 19

December 2

ADJOURNMENT

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