

Geographic Information Coordinating Council
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

November 17, 2014

1:00 to 2:00 PM

OITS

3700 Wake Forest Road

Conference Room 4

MINUTES

1. Chair Stan Duncan welcomed Bob Brinson, Dan Madding, John Farley, Doug Newcomb, Tim Johnson, Jeff Brown, and on the phone Bob Coats and Ryan Draughn

2. Minutes of the October 20 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Quick Updates

a. Working Group for Census Geospatial Data

Bob Coats reported that the Census Bureau has asked the General Assembly to designate a liaison for redistricting (geography). The Census is engaging NC in the Boundary Quality and Resolution Project (BQARP), which will include comparison of Census boundaries with parcel boundaries. The Census may wait for NC's statewide parcel collection to reach completion before doing the comparison one time before the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau would like to reconcile to local data to avoid discrepancies. Boundaries would precede work on addresses. The forthcoming business plan for addresses (Joe Sewash) will be an additional resource. Meanwhile, Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) training is scheduled for 2018-2019.

Bob Coats asked the Census Bureau about requirements for aerial imagery that will be applied in the BQARP effort. There may be an opportunity to work out an agreement with the Statewide Imagery Program.

Consistent, accurate jurisdictional boundaries are valuable for many purposes, including sales tax collection and distribution.

Bob has communicated with members of the Working Group individually. He intends to call a meeting sometime in December.

On a related topic, Bob Coats and Jeff Brown have assisted the NCGEAR project with demographic statistics and maps. NCGEAR is interested in the report by Krissy Culler. Tim Johnson will coordinate sharing the information.

b. Statewide Orthoimagery Program

Tim Johnson provided an update on progress in two phases of the statewide program.

In the Northern Piedmont and Mountains (2014) or Phase 3, the imagery has gone through visual quality review with strong participation by local Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and GIS units, and review by NCDOT Photogrammetry, the Department of the Secretary of State Land Records Management, and NC Geodetic Survey in the Department of Public Safety. Contractors have delivered final, corrected imagery for 23 of the 26 counties to date. Geodetic Survey is doing horizontal quality control using a set of contractors, with four reports completed to date. NCDOT Photogrammetry is creating the compressed imagery products (12 counties

completed to date) that will be part of the package prepared by CGIA and delivered to PSAPs in January.

In the Southern Piedmont and Mountains (2015) or Phase 4, the process of contract negotiation is on schedule for completion in a week, regions have been assigned to each of five contractors, and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for December 18.

In the Phase 4 region, Tim emphasized the short time remaining for municipal governments to take advantage of the opportunity to piggy-back on the state contracts for additional imagery-related products for their jurisdictions. Discussions are in progress with the City of Charlotte. The project teamed reached out to Asheville, Gastonia, and other municipalities but have not received word of interest. A few counties have inquired about additional products after outreach by the Local Government Committee.

On a related topic, Doug reported that the US Department of Agriculture is considering a change in the season during which it acquires 1-meter 4-band imagery for the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). There may be value in flying in early spring instead of summer or varying the season over time. Is there an opportunity for partnership with North Carolina if NAIP acquires during leaf-off conditions? This is at a discussion stage only. Dan and Doug discussed plans to process the forthcoming NAIP imagery for NC captured in the summer of 2014. NDVI products may be possible including vegetation change analysis. LiDAR products may be applicable to analysis as well.

Ten local governments have sent letters to Chris Estes (NC 911 Board Chair) and more are needed. CGIA has sample resolutions and will produce a template for county boards of commissioners as requested by Mitchell County. The Secretary of Commerce also sent a letter and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services expressing support to the Board. Dan sent a list of 911 Board members to CGIA for outreach purposes.

4. Annual Report

The Annual Report is in draft form, minus an executive summary. The intent is to describe who we are, what we accomplished, and what we are working on, with more graphics and quotes and fewer words. Committee members will receive a final draft for review and comment around the end of November. Krissy Culler will have an opportunity to review as well.

5. GIS Working Group

Krissy Culler is in the process of drafting the report to answer questions about state GIS capabilities, geospatial data management, and consolidation opportunities, and the feasibility of selling GIS data. CGIA has commented on a first, basic draft. The next version is expected to go to the group. Time may constrain depth in the report. John pointed out that questions of effective data governance remain to be answered, and Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) will be a factor in geospatial data governance under its enterprise function. John Correllus is heading GDAC and has experience with GIS technology. The Working Group did not answer questions about who will be maintaining what data when and where. The hardware side did not get discussion in depth either. John and Doug acknowledged that consolidating infrastructure is challenging and depends heavily on network quality and technical expertise.

6. Council Meeting November 20

The committee reviewed the agenda. The metadata standard will take the most time within the section for committee reports. Steve Averett will do a presentation. Tim emphasized the importance of applying the new standard. Excellent resources are in place and an instructional video may be valuable. Metadata needs to be part of data development and maintenance. Metadata has been valuable internally in large organizations, with NCDOT a good example where metadata informed managers. The standing committees will need to promote the new standard and resources to their respective constituents.

Dr. Hugh Devine has resigned from his Council position as University of North Carolina system designee. He is retiring at the end of December. He was the first and only representative for the President of the University of North Carolina since the Council was legislated in 2001. He will not be available to attend the meeting.

7. Report from Each of the Standing Committees

Ryan reported that SMAC met October 29. The committee approved the revised orthoimagery standard and the new metadata standard by email prior to the meeting to enable timely submission to the Council. Gary Thompson described the process of re-establishing the state boundary with South Carolina, a very interesting application of geospatial data and cooperation between states. Stan will meet with the Greenville County, South Carolina assessor on December 3 to discuss resolving parcel boundaries with Henderson County. Variations in state laws complicate land records.

Doug reported that the Federal Interagency Committee Executive Committee plans to meet in the next few weeks and organize a meeting at the NC GIS Conference.

John reported that the SGUC general meeting last week was informative. Gary Thompson presented on the state boundary efforts. Esri presented information on its current and forthcoming software products. Esri plans to change its licensing model with the next version of ArcGIS (10.3). The new ArcGIS Pro desktop software will be licensed to named users, named through the ArcGIS Online for Organizations (AGOL) software (cloud solution). This means that concurrent licensing of desktop users will go away. State agencies with many GIS users have used concurrent licenses for infrequent users to share access to desktop functionality. This has implications for negotiation of the next Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) with Esri (expiring in July 2015). After a discussion with Esri after the SGUC meeting, John is not sure that the licensing issue can be resolved in a way that benefits state agencies. Over the last several years, state agencies have had slow, modest growth in GIS users. Esri may be rethinking their approach, in the context of the Esri focus on AGOL. Pricing for Esri technical services, terms and conditions, and security are issues to resolve. The ELA has made GIS software more affordable for state agencies (e.g., less than half of the previous cost for CGIA). For budgeting purposes, state agencies need to know what to expect. A conclusion is that Esri appears to be rethinking the ELA, pricing is likely to differ from previous ELAs and the cost to state agencies is likely to increase. Technical services may be particularly expensive for state agencies. More discussions are coming.

The Technical Advisory Committee is completing its document about the practice of compressing imagery. It will be ready to publish and Dan will report this to the Council. It will be posted on the Council website under "Practices". The document will be a useful reference for counties with questions about the compressed imagery products coming soon in the Northern Piedmont and Mountains region. TAC can add to the document for options, e.g., ECW format. Next, the TAC has

started work on technical architecture system design. Dan consulted with Joe Sewash who will assist with a first draft based on current templates. TAC is also looking at cloud computing for GIS. The information presented at the SGUC meeting on AGOL, a fast developing cloud solution, is a start. Again, a document on that topic can be modified over time with changes in technology.

8. Other Items from the Group

The Council meeting dates for 2015 are confirmed: February 11, May 13, August 13 and November 19.

9. Future Meeting Dates:

December 15

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.