Geographic Information Coordinating Council

NC ONEMAP GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

October 19, 2015
2:00 to 3:00 PM
NC Department of Information Technology (DIT)

MINUTES

Attending: Chair Stan Duncan, John Farley, Dan Madding, Brett Spivey, Jeff Brown, and Dee Hill and on the phone, David Giordano.

Lacking a quorum, the Chair held the meeting for informational purposes only.

1. Minutes of the September 21st meeting will be considered for approval at the next meeting.

2. NC OneMap Vision and Characteristics

Mr. Brown displayed the NC OneMap Vision and Characteristics (last updated by the Council in 2010). Mr. Duncan welcomed comments in light of changes in technology in the last five years. At a high level, the vision appears to be valid, but does it say what it needs to say?

Mr. Farley pointed out that the paragraph on standards and procedures has been the most challenging and may be the most important now. Regarding datasets going to NC OneMap, currency depends on data providers furnishing data when a version in NC OneMap is superseded by a custodian's latest version. In the absence of formal agreements, some datasets discoverable through NC OneMap may not be the most current available. To insure the highest quality, currency is essential. The vision hasn't changed, but in practice the procedures for sharing data are not achieving the vision fully. There may be some datasets accessible via NC OneMap that were posted for the convenience of users before the proliferation of web services, but lack a reliable update procedure. An example was Census zip code boundaries that were not updated in NC OneMap. Datasets like that may be better accessed through a source website, now that online data access is much improved. The vision still holds. How can we insure that datasets hosted by NC OneMap are the best available?

NC OneMap does not have any formal partnerships. There are informal partners among state agencies, and counties are informally sharing data (parcels, roads, etc.). Should there be formal data sharing agreements? David Giordano pointed out that the first item in the Council's "Ten Recommendations in Support of Geospatial Data Sharing" (2007) was "avoid formal agreements between agencies." Mr. Farley pointed out that a cooperative agreement can spell out expectations, beyond an informal workflow, to insure the highest quality. Another factor may be consolidation of data under the Department of Information Technology, to be determined. Also, Mr. Duncan and CGIA met with GDAC recently to consider ways to collaborate in data management and analysis.

Additional editing notes from the discussion: the term "Internet" may not be sufficient to describe web services. The term "foundation" may not be needed. The description of data may

need to be revised to recognize the hybrid system of central data (NC OneMap Database) and distributed data and services (e.g. NCDOT).

Mr. Duncan encouraged the committee to continue the critical thinking.

3. Priority Datasets
In the context of the upcoming NC Emergency Response Hackshop, Mr. Brown updated the list of Council priority datasets, and the committee reviewed.

Mr. Madding pointed out that the US Department of Agriculture has a map service for 2014 imagery from the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). To make it discoverable on NC OneMap, he will send the service URL to Mr. Giordano, who will point to the USDA service. The NC OneMap geoportal software will glean metadata from the federally hosted service and Mr. Giordano will supplement the metadata if needed.

Many of the datasets are under regular maintenance and ready for application in the Hackshop, including railroads, for example. Some datasets are in progress, including new elevation data and services. LiDAR data acquired in 2014 are available from NC Division of Emergency Management (NCEM). LiDAR Quality Level 2 data are now discoverable on NC OneMap, with a link to NCEM's "Spatial Data Download" site for authenticated access. There are no apparent web services published by NCEM for the new LiDAR data. The Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee continues to work on solutions for updating derived elevation data products for discovery and access on NC OneMap. The list will be modified to show two entries for elevation (LiDAR and derived products).

Mr. Giordano confirmed there is a map service published by NCEM for flood zones, discoverable through NC OneMap.

A transportation dataset that may be applicable in the upcoming Hackshop is hurricane evacuation routes for which there is an NC OneMap web service. Mr. Farley explained that the 2007 version, developed by a joint task force team and a contractor with funding from the Department of Homeland Security, has not been updated. The dataset has not been adopted by a state agency, largely because the information required for maintenance is not available. There are several factors (road construction, road alignment, population, storm modeling, etc.) that could modify the routes over time. This is a dataset that should be updated every few years and published as a service discoverable through NC OneMap. Mr. Madding recommended contacting Matt Kmnitz of the Department of Public Safety who has worked with him on gas station data in proximity to evacuation routes. This is an opportunity to improve one of the priority transportation datasets.

Mr. Brown pointed out that there are still some "orphan" datasets, some of which could be useful in a Hackshop. In particular, the Department of Homeland Security funded a contractor to create several datasets, published in 2007, that are not maintained by a federal or state agency. Mr. Madding reported that his department is working on an update of a point dataset for Emergency Medical Service station locations, and it should be listed separately from the EMS districts.

Fire districts continue to be a challenging dataset. Mr. Madding pointed out that the State Fire Marshall's requirements for fire district boundaries may be different from local government requirements for fire districts involving local taxes and emergency response. Mr. Madding confirmed that most counties have more than one fire district.

Regarding soils data, Mr. Giordano reported that he receives hardly any requests. Consumers tend to go to local soil and water districts and/or download data from the US Department of Agriculture. NC OneMap points consumers to the USDA download site. The only soils map service linked to NC OneMap currently is the Prime Farmland Soils hosted by Mr. Madding's agency. He noted that he would be willing to create a few other versions if there is consensus on what other two or three soil characteristics beyond prime farmland would be most useful to consumers (for example, highly erodible soils related to slope and land conservation)

The committee discussed the old water and sewer facility data and service areas, in need of update but lacking a project or program. Data requests recently came from the Farm Industry Task Force seeking current information on water capacity by jurisdiction to support food processing. This continues to be an orphan dataset.

This raised a question about moving a dataset out of the NC OneMap collection, archiving it but not serving it. When is a dataset not useful in making informed decisions? When is it misleading about the current situation and/or not useful as an historic dataset for analysis and research purposes? A discussion about historical value of datasets and criteria for serving (or not) led to the conclusion that documented criteria and a protocol would be needed to guide data management on NC OneMap. Judgments may be complicated. What is acceptable access from archives? This is a separate issue from ongoing archiving under the data retention schedule for NC OneMap.

4. Feedback from the Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Brown attended recent meetings of DEQ's GeoTeam, and had some feedback on NC OneMap to share. DEQ is making good use of web services from NC OneMap, relying less on an internal share drive where DEQ divisions can post geospatial datasets for other DEQ users. More users are consuming web services instead of downloading copies of shapefiles or imagery files. Also, DEQ is using ArcGIS Online more in recent months, preferring to consume NC OneMap services for imagery and parcels, for example, instead of storing copies and incurring costs locally or in the cloud. This heightens the value of NC OneMap reliability for consistent support of DEQ users. There is anticipation of more web feature services from NC OneMap after successful use of the web feature service for parcels. Recent applications of parcel data include identifying properties in the vicinity of coal ash ponds and analysis of properties and setback distances in relation to potential poultry disease outbreaks and burial of destroyed birds.

5. Other Items from the Group
Regarding tracking hits on specific web services, Mr. Spivey explained that the Department of Information Technology does not have software that can reliably report desired statistics for NC OneMap servers. It would also be valuable to have information about what consumers searched for but could not find on NC OneMap. Not finding desired data in a search could mean the absence of the data on NC OneMap or not using search words that are in a title or set of

keywords that would display the desired result. NC OneMap staff continues to look for a solution for adequate server statistics.

Mr. Brown relayed a message from Dianne Enright, Department of Health and Human Services: GIS Day in Raleigh will take place on November 18 at the City of Raleigh Museum on Fayetteville Street, as in previous years. Participation is encouraged.

6. Future Meetings

November 16
December 14

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.