

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 3-4, 2008

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held its second public meeting from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on June 3, 2008 and from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on June 4, 2008. The meeting was held at the American Institute of Architects building in Washington, D.C.

In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

NGAC Members present:

Anne Hale Miglarese (NGAC Chair)
Steven Wallach (NGAC Vice-Chair)
Sean Ahearn
Timothy M. Bull Bennett
Michael Byrne
Allen Carroll
David Cowen
Jack Dangermond
Donald Dittmar
Dennis Goreham
Kass Green
Randy Johnson
Randall Johnson
Jerry Johnston
Barney Krucoff
David Maune
Charles Mondello
Zsolt Nagy
Kim Nelson
Matthew O'Connell
John Palatiello
Jay Parrish
G. Michael Ritchie
David Schell
Eugene Schiller
Chris Tucker

Ivan DeLoatch, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC was also in attendance.

NGAC Members not present:

Timothy Loewenstein

Other attendees:

Jeanette Archetto (Grant Thornton), Jeff Booth (DOE), Lori Mann Bruce (Mississippi State University), Don Buhler (BLM), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), John Byrd (MAPPS), Richard Cooper, Dennis Crow (USDA), Pat Cummins (ESRI), John D'Alessandro (GSA), Mark DeMulder (NGA), Lee Fahrner (DOI), Pedro Flores (NACo), Randy Fusaro (Census), Bonnie Gallahan (USGS), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance),

Shirley Hall (USDA), Carla Kertis (NRCS), Bill Knecht (Johnston McLamb), Toni LaVoi (NOAA), Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress), Vicki Lukas (USGS), John Mahoney (USGS), Scott Perkins (Western Air Maps), Pat Phillips (USGS), Mary Kay Rau (Johnston McLamb), Linda Rowan (AGI), Vaishal Sheth (FGDC), Michael Thieme (Census), Constantin Tudan (DOD), Gita Urban-Mathieux (FGDC)

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Opening Remarks, Overview of Agenda, Introductions

NGAC Chair Anne Hale Miglarese called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, welcomed the Committee members and audience, and summarized the meeting agenda. Ms. Miglarese indicated that she recently accepted a new position with Booz Allen Hamilton. She will continue in her role as NGAC Chair.

NGAC Updates

Ivan DeLoatch, Staff Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), provided a report on the May 1 FGDC Steering Committee meeting. Two significant decisions were made at the May meeting. The first was an endorsement of the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative, including an initial action plan to implement the strategy. Mr. DeLoatch indicated that a more detailed IFTN briefing for the NGAC would be provided later in the meeting by Vicki Lukas. The second FGDC decision was the formal approval of the Framework Data Standard. Many individuals and organizations contributed to the development of this standard. The final standard will be produced in three formats, FGDC, ISO and ANSII standard formats.

Mr. DeLoatch also provided an update on the newly created Executive Committee of the FGDC. The Executive Committee includes representatives of agencies with significant geospatial responsibilities, and will provide initial identification and analysis of issues for consideration by the FGDC Steering Committee as a whole. The Executive Committee developed a set of recommendations on key near-term priorities for the FGDC.

ACTION: FGDC will provide the NGAC with a copy of the key priorities as identified by the Executive Committee. Note – the FGDC priorities document is posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for July 22 at the Department of the Interior.

Review and Adoption of the April NGAC minutes

The Chair briefly reviewed the minutes of the April 2008 NGAC meeting and called for a motion to adopt.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the April 2008 NGAC meeting.

NGAC Bylaws –Review and Adoption – Anne Miglarese

The Chair provided a review of the revised draft bylaws for the NGAC. The bylaws were revised to reflect the comments received at the April 15, 2008 NGAC administrative meeting. The comments focused on two issues, attendance at meetings via conference call under exceptional circumstances, and a process for proxy voting. The revised draft incorporated changes to address these issues. The NGAC discussed the revised draft, and agreed upon one additional change to the wording of the proxy voting provision.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the NGAC Bylaws as revised. Note – the final NGAC Bylaws are posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

NGAC Mission Statement

Barney Krucoff presented the draft NGAC Mission Statement, as developed by the Mission Statement subcommittee (Barney Krucoff, Allen Carroll, Kass Green and Steve Wallach). Mr. Krucoff noted that several other NGAC members provided input on the draft. The NGAC discussed the draft and agreed to several changes. The final NGAC Mission Statement, as approved by the NGAC, is as follows:

NGAC Mission:

To provide strategies regarding the creation, management and dissemination of cohesive geospatial data, information and knowledge to enable commercial, academic, and nonprofit organizations and all levels of government to more effectively:

- ***empower and serve the public***
- ***protect our homeland***
- ***foster economic growth***
- ***advance science***
- ***manage our resources***
- ***prepare for and respond to emergencies***
- ***govern our nation***

DECISION: The NGAC approved the NGAC Mission Statement as revised.

NGAC Transition Plan

Matt O'Connell, Chair of the Transition Plan subcommittee, provided an update on the activities of the subcommittee and the status of the development of the NGAC transition plan recommendations. Subcommittee members are Matt O'Connell, Anne Miglarese, John Palatiello, Kim Nelson, Dennis Goreham, and Charles Mondello.

The goal of the Transition Plan subcommittee is to develop a set of recommendations on key geospatial issues, priorities, and opportunities for the next Administration. The plan will be brief, and will focus on a few key recommendations. The plan will address the following points: 1) Describing why geospatial technology is important and how it can help the new Administration achieve its goals, 2) Identifying a small number of geospatial priorities or recommendations, and 3) Indicating that the NGAC is ready to assist in providing recommendations and advice. It is envisioned that the plan will also identify key political appointee positions that have a significant impact on geospatial issues.

ACTION: NGAC members provide feedback and suggestions to subcommittee on content and issues to be included in draft plan. The subcommittee will develop a draft plan for consideration by the NGAC as a whole at the October NGAC meeting.

OMB Circular A-16 / Geospatial Line of Business Lifecycle Management

Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC), Michael Thieme (USGS), and Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA) provided a series of briefings on several aspects of the Geospatial Line of Business (LoB) initiative. The briefings were in response to the NGAC's request at the April meeting for additional background information on Geospatial LoB activities.

Common Solutions/Target Architecture

Mr. DeLoatch provided an overview and description of the Geo LoB Common Solutions/Target Architecture (CS/TA) document. The CS/TA was developed in 2006, soon after the initiation of the Geo LoB initiative. The CS/TA provides a blueprint for the Geo LoB, outlining a target architecture for federal geospatial programs and describing a series of goals and objectives. The CS/TA also includes a transition strategy to achieve the desired changes. Mr. DeLoatch mentioned that the CS/TA was based in part on the results of a Request for Information (RFI) that was issued to industry partners in 2006 requesting suggestions and feedback on the design of the LoB initiative. The FGDC has established several workgroups to implement the various elements of the Geospatial LoB:

- Common Services
- Geo-enabled Business
- Grants and Contracts
- Joint Business Case
- Lifecycle Management
- Performance Management
- Technical Architecture

Note – The Geo LoB CS/TA document is located on the FGDC website at: www.fgdc.gov/geospatial-lob/CSTA-redacted-march2007.pdf

Geospatial LoB Data Calls

Mr. Thieme provided an overview of the results of budget data calls that were conducted in 2006 and 2007 as a part of the Geo LoB initiative. The data calls were designed to: 1) gain awareness of the investments individual federal agencies were making in geospatial activities and capabilities, 2) use the results to inform the development of the CS/TA and the Geo LoB business case, and 3) to identify opportunities for further collaboration and efficiency. Mr. Thieme described the difficulties agencies have had in tracking geospatial investments, which are often incorporated into larger program investments and not tracked as specific budget items. Mr. Thieme and Mr. DeLoatch indicated that the FGDC planned to incorporate investment reporting into the annual FGDC reporting process as one of the outcomes of the Geospatial LoB.

The NGAC discussed the results of the data calls and agreed upon the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION: The NGAC recommends that the FGDC Staff Director establish a target date to resume the data call process to be included in the annual reporting process

NGAC members also suggested that FGDC and/or OMB consider IV&V and audit strategies as a means to more accurately track investments and expenditures.

Lifecycle Management

Wendy Blake-Coleman provided an overview of the activities of the Geospatial LoB Lifecycle Management workgroup. The goals of this workgroup are:

- Timelier and better quality data and products
- Improved portfolio management
- Stronger partnerships across all levels of government and, where appropriate, the private sector
- Improved strategies for the completion of the NSDI through active portfolio management.

Ms. Blake-Coleman described several upcoming products of the Lifecycle Management workgroup which may benefit from NGAC member comment. These products include a definition of geospatial lifecycle phases; updated definitions of OMB Circular A-16 terms, roles, and responsibilities; and criteria to assess designation of nationally significant themes/data sets.

The NGAC discussed the activities of the Geospatial LoB and requested that FGDC identify specific LoB products and/or deliverables requiring NGAC feedback at future meetings. Several members discussed recently-developed procurement guidelines developed by ASPRS, MAPPS, and ACSM as a good resource for the teams working on LoB activities.

ACTION: FGDC will distribute draft procurement guidelines developed by ASPRS, MAPPS, and ACSM to NGAC and to the Geospatial LoB Team. The draft procurement guidelines are posted at: http://intranet.asprs.org/DRAFT_Guidelines_ExecutiveSummary.pdf

Note – the Geospatial LoB presentation is posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

Adjournment for Day 1

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

The Chair convened the second day of the meeting at 9:00 a.m., reviewed the previous day's activities, and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

Public Comment Period

Opportunity for public comment was provided to meeting attendees. No public comments were offered.

Imagery for the Nation

Bill Burgess (NSGIC), Shirley Hall (USDA), and Vicki Lukas (USGS) provided presentations on the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative.

Mr. Burgess provided an overview of the history of IFTN program. Projected benefits of IFTN include the following:

- Reduced Costs (large area contracting and efficiencies)
- Dependable program with known coverage and schedule
- Meets the business needs of multiple levels of government across the country
- Provides a new model for building the NSDI

Ms. Hall provided an overview of the National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP) and the role of NDOP in facilitating technical and programmatic guidance. Key points included the following:

- NDOP was chartered in 1993
- Membership: BLM, FEMA, FS, NOAA, NRCS, NSGIC, Census, USGS (NGA participates but has not finalized membership)
- Focus: Leveraging resources, minimizing redundant acquisition, assuring availability and public access, investigating and evaluating new technologies
- Role of NDOP in developing the IFTN initiative

Ms. Lukas discussed the status of IFTN development and implementation. The FGDC Steering Committee endorsed the IFTN initiative in May 2008. Subsequently, an initial project plan was developed. Ms. Lukas provided an overview of the plan. Implementation will be coordinated with existing NDOP committees and partner organizations. The project plan identifies seven implementation activities and designates FGDC Steering Committee members as "Champions" of the activities:

IFTN Activities and Champions:

- Technical Planning – Chuck Christopherson, USDA
- Strategy for funding – Jim Cason, DOI
- Strategy for Contracting Centers - Steve Wallach, NGA
- Strategy for Housing infrastructure – Joe Klimavicz, DOC
- Partnership Development – Molly O' Neill, EPA
- Guidance and Direction – Rebecca Ferguson/Dominic Sale, OMB
- Communications – Chuck Gay, NASA

The initial meeting of the IFTN Champions group is scheduled for June 23.

The NGAC had an extended discussion of IFTN. The NGAC adopted a resolution endorsing IFTN and identifying a number of issues to be resolved prior to full implementation.

RESOLUTION: The NGAC approved the following resolution regarding IFTN (2 NGAC members voted against, 1 member abstained)

Whereas seamless coverage orthoimagery has been demonstrated to have crosscutting utility;

Whereas all levels of government are currently investing in orthoimagery, often without coordination or leveraging of the investment;

Whereas the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative:

- provides financial incentives for all levels of government to cooperate in creation and publication of public domain data
- saves taxpayer money by achieving national economies of scale
- sets minimal technical standards ensuring that cohesive national data is created, while allowing buy ups so that varying state, local and regional requirements can be met
- establishes a regular schedule for delivery so customers and partners can plan effectively
- is the model for the development of other critical national geospatial data layers;

NGAC fully endorses the concept of Imagery for the Nation. However, before it is authorized and implemented, the following issues need to be resolved:

Procurement strategy

- Including small business participation
- Use of best practices models (e.g., IDIQ & QBS for procurement)
- Licensing vs. ownership – public domain
- Analysis of capacity and production capabilities

Integrated strategy for funding and implementation of NSDI data initiatives

- Relationship between and among other geospatial data initiatives

Rationalization with National Land Imagery Program

Management of IFTN within the federal government

- Continuous strategy or plan for customer-driven input
- Analysis of cost avoidance or savings
- ROI validation – data, methodology, frequency
- Analysis of cost/benefit

Competition with private sector

- Address acquisition and production issues (no IFTN funding to Federal, State or local initiatives to use “their” assets to produce IFTN products)

The NGAC would like to stay engaged with FGDC as the community works through these issues.

Note – The IFTN presentation is posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

National Geospatial Strategy

The Chair provided a brief presentation on the development of a National Geospatial Strategy, including consideration of short, medium, and longer term priorities for the NGAC. The development of the strategy will be informed by the work of several NGAC subgroups. The Chair introduced the leaders of the subcommittees, who provided updated on their groups' activities.

Note – Ms. Miglarese's presentation on the National Geospatial Strategy is posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

"Changing Landscape" White Paper Status Report

Dave Cowen provided a report on the progress of the Changing Landscapes subgroup. The group includes Dave Cowen, Sean Ahern, and Michael Byrne. The goal of the subgroup is to develop a white paper that describes the significant technological, organizational, and business-related changes that have taken place in the geospatial community over the past 5-10 years. By documenting these changes, the paper will provide a common baseline understanding for development of a National Geospatial Strategy and transition plan.

Dr. Cowen described an initial outline for the paper and asked for feedback and suggestions from NGAC members. Based upon the discussion and feedback, the subgroup will develop a more detailed outline of the paper and distribute to the NGAC. The subgroup will provide a presentation on the paper at the October NGAC meeting.

ACTION: NGAC members provide feedback to Changing Landscape Subgroup. Agenda item for October NGAC meeting.

"Visioning" Subgroup Report

Jerry Johnston and Chris Tucker provided a report on the progress of the Visioning subgroup. The group includes Jerry Johnston, Chris Tucker, and Zsolt Nagy. Barney Krucoff also participated to bring the perspective of the Mission Statement subgroup. The goal of the Visioning subgroup is to develop a vision statement and broad strategy to guide the NGAC's development of a National Geospatial Strategy. The group presented an initial draft vision statement and strategy and requested NGAC feedback and suggestions. Based upon the feedback, the subgroup will refine the draft and distribute back to the NGAC.

Tentative Visioning Subgroup Schedule

What	Who	When
Distribute revised version of vision based on feedback	Jerry	Friday June 20
NGAC members provide feedback	All	Wednesday, July 2
Revised version distributed to team	Subcommittee	Friday, July 18
Report at October meeting	Subcommittee	October 15 – 16, 2008

ACTION: NGAC members provide feedback to Visioning Subgroup. Agenda item for October NGAC meeting.

Organizational Design Subgroup Report

The Organizational Design subgroup provided a report on the activities of the group. The subgroup includes Dennis Goreham, Randall Johnson, Jerry Johnston, John Palatiello, and David Schell. The goal of the group is to explore options and approaches to organizational structure and design as a component of the developing National Geospatial Strategy. The group provided an overview of its initial work on conceptual designs and asked for NGAC feedback and suggestions. Based upon the feedback and ongoing research and discussion, the group will refine its draft and report back to the NGAC at the October meeting.

Tentative Organizational Design Subgroup Schedule

What	Who	When
Send out email inquiry to NGAC members	Randall Johnson	By Friday, June 6
NGAC members provide feedback on design concepts	Subcommittee	By Friday, June 20
Report at October meeting	Subcommittee	October 15 – 16, 2008

ACTION: NGAC members provide feedback to the Organizational Design Subgroup. Agenda item for October NGAC meeting.

Meeting Summary/Next Steps/Adjournment

Ms. Miglarese led a general discussion of next steps for the NGAC to conclude the meeting. Several issues were discussed:

- Jim Cason has asked that the NGAC review the NRC National Land Parcel Data study. Copies of the report were provided to NGAC members. The issue will also be discussed at the June 5 FGDC Steering Committee meeting, where Dave Cowen will provide a presentation on the report. This issue will be addressed at the October NGAC meeting, so members were asked to read the report and come prepared for a substantive discussion.
- John Mahoney indicated that a collaborative workspace has been established by USGS for use by the NGAC. The “MyUSGS” workspace includes collaboration and wiki tools, as well as resources for team work space and document storage. A tutorial on the wiki tool will be held in June.
- The next meeting of the NGAC will be on October 16-17. Additional details about the meeting will be distributed to the NGAC and posted on the NGAC website prior to the meeting. Potential agenda items for the October meeting include the following:
 - Transition Paper
 - Changing Landscape White Paper
 - National Land Parcel Study
 - Imagery for the Nation – next steps
 - Briefings/Progress Reports from:
 - National Geospatial Strategy Subcommittee
 - Vision Subcommittee
 - Organizational design Subcommittee

Other potential agenda items:

- *The National Map Strategy*
- Briefing on National Land Imagery Program
- Geospatial LoB (if there are specific issues for NGAC review)

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

June 2008 NGAC Meeting Summary of Actions, Decisions, and Recommendations

1. NGAC Business and Operations

Decisions:

- April NGAC Meeting Minutes were approved
- NGAC Bylaws, as revised, were approved
- NGAC Mission Statement, with revisions, was approved

Action:

Distribute list of key FGDC priorities as identified by FGDC Executive Committee – FGDC

2. Geospatial Line of Business

Action:

FGDC will distribute draft procurement guidelines developed by ASPRS, MAPPS, and ACSM to NGAC and to the Geospatial LoB Team. The draft procurement guidelines are posted at: http://intranet.asprs.org/DRAFT_Guidelines_ExecutiveSummary.pdf

Recommendation:

The NGAC approved the following recommendation:

“NGAC recommends that the FGDC Staff Director establish a target date to resume the data call process to be included in the annual reporting process.”

3. NGAC Working Group Reports and Actions

NGAC Transition Plan Report – Matt O’Connell

Action:

Incorporate feedback from NGAC. Agenda item for October meeting

“Changing Landscape” White Paper Status – David Cowen

Action:

Incorporate feedback from NGAC. Agenda item for October meeting

4. Imagery for the Nation

The NGAC approved the following resolution regarding IFTN:

Whereas seamless coverage orthoimagery has been demonstrated to have crosscutting utility;

Whereas all levels of government are currently investing in orthoimagery, often without coordination or leveraging of the investment;

Whereas the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative:

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- ***saves taxpayer money by achieving national economies of scale***
- ***sets minimal technical standards ensuring that cohesive national data is created, while allowing buy ups so that varying state, local and regional requirements can be met***
- ***establishes a regular schedule for delivery so customers and partners can plan effectively***
- ***is the model for the development of other critical national geospatial data layers;***

NGAC fully endorses the concept of Imagery for the Nation. However, before it is authorized and implemented, the following issues need to be resolved:

Procurement strategy

- ***Including small business participation***
- ***Use of best practices models (e.g., IDIQ & QBS for procurement)***
- ***Licensing vs. ownership – public domain***
- ***Analysis of capacity and production capabilities***

Integrated strategy for funding and implementation of NSDI data initiatives

- ***Relationship between and among other geospatial data initiatives***

Rationalization with National Land Imagery Program

Management of IFTN within the federal government

- ***Continuous strategy or plan for customer-driven input***
- ***Analysis of cost avoidance or savings***
- ***ROI validation – data, methodology, frequency***
- ***Analysis of cost/benefit***

Competition with private sector

- ***Address acquisition and production issues (no IFTN funding to Federal, State or local initiatives to use “their” assets to produce IFTN products)***

The NGAC would like to stay engaged with FGDC as the community works through these issues.

5. National Geospatial Strategy

“Vision” Subgroup Report & Feedback – Jerry Johnston, Zsolt Nagy, Chris Tucker

What	Who	When
Distribute revised version of vision based on feedback	Jerry	Friday June 20
NGAC members provide feedback	All	Wednesday, July 2
Revised version distributed to team	Subcommittee	Friday, July 18
Report at October meeting	Subcommittee	October 15 – 16, 2008

Organizational Design Subgroup Report – David Schell, Randall Johnson, John Palatiello, Dennis Goreham

What	Who	When
Send out email inquiry to NGAC members	Randall Johnson	By Friday, June 6
NGAC members provide feedback on design concepts	Subcommittee	By Friday, June 20
Report at October meeting	Subcommittee	October 15 – 16, 2008

6. Potential Agenda Items for October NGAC Meeting

- Transition Paper
- Changing Landscape White Paper
- National Land Parcel Study
- Imagery for the Nation – next steps
- Briefings/Progress Reports from:
 - National Geospatial Strategy Subcommittee
 - Vision Subcommittee
 - Organizational design Subcommittee

Other potential agenda items:

- *The National Map Strategy*
- Briefing on National Land Imagery Program
- Geospatial LoB (if there are specific issues for NGAC review)

Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Anne Hale Miglarese, Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Ivan DeLoatch, Designated Federal Officer, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

NOTE: These minutes were approved by the NGAC on October 15, 2008