

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 18-19, 2012
Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on September 18, 2012 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 19, 2012. The meeting was held at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Building in Washington, DC. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

NGAC Members present:

David Cowen (Chair)
Jerry Johnston (Vice-Chair)
Robert Austin
Richard Clark
David DiSera
Joanne Gabrynowicz
Bert Granberg
Randy Johnson
Laurie Kurilla
Jim Kwolek
Xavier Lopez
Anne Hale Miglarese
Kimberly Nelson
Timothy Nyerges
Matthew O'Connell
Patrick Olson
Jack Pellicci
Mark Reichardt
Eugene Schiller
Anthony Spicci
Gary Thompson
Gene Trobia
Molly Vogt

Kass Green participated via teleconference

NGAC Members not present:

Jack Dangermond
E. Donald McKay
Cynthia Salas
David Wyatt

Anne Castle, Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, and John Mahoney, alternate DFO for the NGAC, were also in attendance.

Other Attendees:

Clifford Allison (Nokia), Adrienne Bartlewitz (USGS), David Beddoe (Intergraph Government Solutions), Jim Bjostad (NGA), Nancy Brelos (Intergraph Government Solutions), Michael Buckley (Nokia), Michael Byrne (FCC),

Bill Burgess (NSGIC), Lori Caramanian (DOI), Ivan Cheung (NTSB), Dom Conte (Orbital Sciences Corporation), Carmen Constantine (Vistrionix, Inc.), Pat Cummins (Esri), Erin Engle (Library of Congress), Mary Engola (Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation), Brady Foust (Core Logic), Kevin Gallagher (USGS), Hank Garie (Grant Thornton), Robert Gellman (Privacy Consultant), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Rich Grady (Applied Geographics), Greg Hanks (Census Bureau), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions), Jim Knudson (Michael Baker, Jr.), Roy Kolstad (Nokia), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress), Steve Lewis (USDOT), Lynda Liptrap (Census Bureau), Arista Maher (FGDC), Charles Mondello (Pictometry), Anne O'Connor (Census Bureau), Kevin Pomfret (Centre For Spatial Law and Policy), Tom Roff (FHWA), Lea Shanley (Woodrow Wilson Center), Howard Schuster (CoreLogic), Cory Springer (Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation), Sheila Steffenson (ESRI), Steve Wallach (GeoEye), Paul Weiss (Lockheed Martin), Mike Wooster (Spinnaker Consulting), Gita Urban-Mathieux (FGDC), Dick Vraga (USGS).

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18:

Call to Order and Welcome

Dr. David Cowen, the NGAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., welcomed the committee members and audience to the meeting, summarized the meeting agenda, and asked members and attendees to introduce themselves.

Review and Adoption of April 2012 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Cowen reviewed the draft minutes of the April 17-18, 2012 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the April 2012 meeting.

Leadership Dialogue

Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science and the Chair of the FGDC, provided an update on the recent activities of the FGDC, along with perspectives on Department of Interior and Administration priorities. Ms. Castle thanked NGAC Chair David Cowen for his service on the committee and noted that Dr. Cowen's term on the NGAC would conclude at the end of the year.

Ms. Castle discussed the status of the Geospatial Platform, noting Interior has been designated as the managing partner agency for the Platform. She thanked the NGAC for the thoughtful and constructive comments that were provided on the Platform Business Plan. She indicated that the Business Plan had been revised to address these comments, and that she expected the plan to be adopted at the FGDC Steering Committee meeting on September 20. Ms. Castle also noted that the FGDC was working to closely align the development of the Geospatial Platform with the implementation of the OMB Circular A-16 *Supplemental Guidance*. She indicated that Jerry Johnston would provide a more detailed presentation on the Platform later in the meeting.

Ms. Castle provided information on the ongoing GAO review of Federal geospatial programs. She noted that GAO had expanded the scope of the review and was examining the management of three specific data themes: Hydrography (USGS), Transportation (DOT), and Geodetic Control (NOAA). The GAO team has also conducted extensive research and interviews with OMB, Interior, the FGDC Secretariat, and FGDC agencies. She indicated that GAO was expected to complete its report by the end of the year. Ms. Castle also noted that the FGDC community welcomed the external review and recommendations that would come from this process.

Ms. Castle spoke about the two draft papers that had been developed by the NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG). She thanked the LAG members for their work in developing the papers and noted they have been very helpful in communicating the value of Landsat data and in addressing the issue of cost recovery.

Ms. Castle provided a brief update on the Alaska Mapping Initiative, which is an integral component of the National Enhanced Elevation effort that had been discussed at previous NGAC meetings. On June 28 the Department of the Interior and the State of Alaska co-hosted an Alaska Mapping Roundtable meeting of senior Federal and State executives to explore alternatives for a joint funding strategy. Ms. Castle said that an Executive Committee had been formed to lead this effort, and that she would serve as the Chair. The next steps for the Executive Committee include finalizing data acquisition goals and developing a funding strategy to complete the project within a target timeframe of 3 years.

In closing, Ms. Castle recognized the NGAC members whose terms will expire at the end of the year. She noted that several of these members are Charter Members of the NGAC, having served since the inception of the committee in 2008. She offered her appreciation for the dedication and commitment of the members of the committee. Ms. Castle, along with Ivan DeLoatch and Jerry Johnston, presented certificates of appreciation.

Landsat Advisory Group Report

Kass Green, Chair of the NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG), provided an update on the group's recent activities via teleconference. The LAG developed draft papers addressing 1) the economic value of Landsat data, and 2) the issue of cost recovery for Landsat data. Ms. Green noted that the LAG worked closely with the leadership and staff of the Landsat program in developing these papers. The NGAC discussed the draft papers and approved them unanimously. Ms. Green also noted that the LAG met on September 17 and discussed potential next steps for the group. Potential study questions include exploring the next generation of applications and products that might be developed from Landsat data

DECISION: The NGAC unanimously adopted two papers developed by the NGAC Landsat Advisory Group: *The Value Proposition for Ten Landsat Applications*, and *Statement on Landsat Data Use and Charges*.

ACTION: The NGAC Landsat Advisory Group will develop a paper identifying potential new applications that may emerge based upon the next generation of Landsat data.

Remarks from the Chair

Dr. David Cowen, Chair of the NGAC, provided brief opening remarks on "Things I Learned in Montana."

Geospatial Platform

Jerry Johnston provided an overview of the Geospatial Platform Business Plan and other recent Geospatial Platform activities. The Business Plan was reviewed and was discussed at the April FGDC Steering Committee meeting. Several changes were made to address comments from the Steering Committee (e.g., governance model, Managing Partner agency, preferred funding option) and from the NGAC (e.g., linkage to IT reform and digital government strategies, revisions to the governance model, and the role of the Platform Oversight Body).

The Geospatial Platform Hurricane Response Community is one example of a practical application of the Geospatial Platform. The group worked together with the State of Texas, as well as several Federal agencies (NOAA, USGS, and FEMA) to register nearly 50 items on the Platform and create webmaps and templates. The group has also raised the need for contextual information beyond maps, and they have discussed how agencies interact with the Platform. These discussions have helped to provide information about where the gaps are in hurricane support on the Geospatial Platform so that it can be useful during the next hurricane season. The group's activities have also helped to provide a framework for the Geospatial Platform to operate in domains outside of emergency response.

The goals for "GeoPlatform 2.0" (the next iteration of the Geospatial Platform) are to facilitate the use of geospatial data and tools, to focus on National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) and A-16 data, and to focus on

non-experts/decision makers. With regard to content publication and registration, there has been a strong partnership with Data.gov since its inception. The Data.gov team has been working on a number of city open data initiatives, and they have received the go-ahead from OMB to include other governmental (not just Federal) data.

The next steps are to begin execution on the technical milestones, to clearly define the service catalog, to develop guidance on hosting options for NGDAs, to work with USDA on IT security documentation, to develop guidance on the use of a new Marketplace, to establish reporting dashboard content for NGDAs, and to focus on training and outreach.

Geolocation Privacy Spotlight Session

Prof. Joanne Gabrynowicz moderated a panel discussion on geolocation privacy issues. The objective of the session was to explore and discuss the emerging issue of geolocation privacy and its potential impacts on the geospatial community and government agencies. The panel presentations were as follows:

Prof. Gabrynowicz provided opening remarks which set an overall context for the discussion. She discussed Fourth Amendment protections and various privacy statutes which guide the government-to-person privacy relationship. She discussed recent case law, including *United States v. Jones*, which addressed the question of whether using a GPS device to track a suspect is constitutional. She also noted that cell phone towers are becoming a new way to track geolocation for law enforcement purposes; the American Civil Liberties Union is involved in a case working its way through the legal system on this topic.

Kevin Pomfret, of the Center for Spatial Law and Policy, provided remarks on the legal and policy aspects of geolocation privacy issues and their potential impacts on the geolocation industry. Various legislative bills on tracking, drones, and other location services were reviewed.

Robert Gellman, a privacy policy consultant, provided remarks on the elements of a fair privacy policy. He provided an overview of the differences between privacy, confidentiality, security, and data protection. "Fair information practices" is a term used by Mr. Gellman to refer to the fair use of various elements of privacy. He described the components of fair information practices.

Following the presentation, the panelists engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of geolocation privacy issues with the NGAC members. Topics addressed during the discussion included the following:

- Laurie Kurilla noted that the focus of privacy usually pertains to persons rather than objects. Address data is an "object," so what are the privacy implications? Mr. Gellman noted that there is a difference between personally identifiable information and information not associated with a person. He gave the example of supermarkets asking for a person's zip code to geolocate them, since without that piece of information, they aren't able to find out where a person resides just from their credit card. Obtaining this additional information makes it personally identifiable.
- Prof. Gabrynowicz pointed out that context is necessary in determining what type of information is subject to privacy considerations. For instance, an epidemiologist using map layers to track the spread of disease might inadvertently identify patients through use of address data layers, potentially violating HIPAA.
- Bob Austin asked about the right to privacy for employees. Mr. Gellman spoke of the distinctions between personal privacy and an employer's right to monitor its employees' activities. Mr. Pomfret added that there are nuances to this, in that each instance should be compared to the employer's privacy policy, which varies from employer to employer. Ms. Gabrynowicz stressed the importance of employers having privacy policies to protect themselves, as well as their employees.

- Tony Spicci asked about the level of privacy entitled to an individual given the high resolution aerial imagery being used in the current geospatial technology environment (e.g., an aerial photo of someone in their own backyard). Pat Olson noted that the FTC has called for prior consent for collection of precise geolocation information, but has not provided a definition of the term. Mr. Olson stated that this gives private industry no guidance on how to define geolocation privacy. Mr. Pomfret responded that there is indeed no specific law governing geolocation privacy.
- Mr. Gellman discussed the European Union’s privacy and data protection regime, and that anonymity is the way in which they get around misuse of data issues.
- Matt O’Connell talked about potential misuse of data by those with bad intentions. Where do you draw the line on acceptable uses of imagery?
- Mr. Gellman also noted that many privacy policies are “subject to change without notice,” which renders them somewhat unstable and unreliable.

ACTION: The FGDC staff will provide a summary of the panel discussion on geolocation privacy to the NGAC members.

COGO Report Card

Dave Cowen provided a brief presentation on the geospatial report card initiative being developed by the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO). The first iteration of the report card was initially planned to be completed by October 2012, but it is likely to be completed later than this date. Dr. Cowen indicated that he and other NGAC members who are involved in COGO will continue to keep the committee informed of the status of this project.

A-16 Subcommittee Report

Kim Nelson provided an update on the activities of the A-16 Subcommittee. The subcommittee’s primary focus has been reviewing and providing feedback on the revised OMB Circular A-16 data themes and datasets. The FGDC provided the subcommittee with extensive background information on the background, process, and rationale behind the revisions. Ms. Nelson summarized the subcommittee’s feedback on the revisions, including the following points:

- There was general support for the 17 revised data themes.
- Subcommittee members had suggestions on several datasets, including aviation datasets, domestic digital aeronautical data, vertical obstruction data, real property, location, parcel data, and imagery.

Ms. Nelson asked the NGAC members to provide any additional comments on the proposed revisions, and indicated that a final summary of the comments would be provided to the committee.

ACTION: NGAC members should send any additional comments on the revised OMB Circular A-16 Data Themes and Data Sets to Kim Nelson (with a copy to John Mahoney) by Friday, September 28.

Lightning Session

This session provided the opportunity for NGAC members to give brief talks on topics of interest to the Committee:

Bob Austin spoke about the preparations for the Republican National Convention that was recently held in Tampa, FL. The various concerns of the city in preparing for large crowds were discussed. Tropical Storm Isaac was an imminent concern, as were potential attacks and protesters. In the end, the Tampa Police Department reported only 2 arrests during the convention. In preparing for and managing the event, Tampa utilized intelligent policing techniques using geospatial analysis. The Tampa Information and Geographical Event Resources (TIGER) tool is a situational awareness dashboard (or “common operating picture”) that was developed by the City of Tampa for use in this and other events. Dr. Austin noted that the successful management of the RNC event was a success story in data sharing and application of geospatial technology.

Day 1 Wrap-Up/Planning for Day 2

The Chair summarized the day's activities, made announcements regarding logistics, and provided an overview of the agenda for Day 2 of the meeting.

Adjournment for Day 1

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19:

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

NGAC Chair David Cowen provided a summary of the previous day's events and an overview of the agenda for day 2.

FGDC Report

Ivan DeLoatch provided an overview of recent FGDC activities. Highlights included the following:

Geospatial Platform Business Plan

The Business Plan has undergone multiple rounds of review and comment (NGAC comments have been very helpful). Final consideration and adoption of Business Plan will take place at the September 20 FGDC Steering Committee meeting.

Geospatial Cloud Computing Initiative

FGDC selected over 10 projects in 2012 deploying either ArcGIS Server or OpenGeo Suite using secure Amazon Web Services in partnership with HHS and eGlobalTech. The focus is on deployment of common software platforms with Web Services for geospatial data to be registered with the Geospatial Platform.

A-16/Portfolio Management

The FGDC Coordination Group has recommended revision of the A-16 data themes (to 16 themes). All themes have proposed lead agencies (15 of 16 have proposed theme leads)

GAO Review

The GAO evaluation of FGDC and OMB federal geospatial initiatives is almost completed. In September, GAO presented statements of facts to agencies. Responses are being developed. GAO is now preparing report and recommendations

FGDC Standards Activities

FGDC is continuing its review of member agency participation in standards activities. FGDC has updated Chapter 10, Standards Suites for Spatial Data Infrastructure, of the SDI Cookbook. FGDC Standards Work Group meeting scheduled for September 25

NGAC Nominations Update

An interagency review panel is evaluating NGAC nominations and developing recommendations to DOI Office of the Secretary. New appointments are expected to take effect by December 31, 2012

FGDC Steering Committee Meeting

Mr. DeLoatch provided an overview of the agenda for the September 20 FGDC Steering Committee meeting.

Elevation Subcommittee Report

Gary Thompson led a discussion on the recent activities of the Elevation Subcommittee. He provided an overview of the draft summary paper the subcommittee had developed in response to the 2012 FGDC guidance. The questions included how the program can move to large area collections using current funding levels, how program objectives can be more effectively achieved, and how the program can most effectively engage relevant industry sectors. Mr. Thompson asked the NGAC members to provide any additional comments on the paper following the meeting.

Kevin Gallagher (USGS) provided an update on the proposed 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). Mr. Gallagher discussed several aspects of the elevation program, including the proposed 3DEP governance structure, the recent MAP-21 legislation (PL 112-141), communications and outreach efforts, and resources that are available and being developed about the 3DEP initiative. Mr. Gallagher also thanked the NGAC for their feedback and their resolution in support of 3DEP. In addition, Mr. Gallagher provided a brief report on the recent Alaska Mapping Roundtable and the follow-up activities that are being undertaken as a result.

ACTION: NGAC members should provide comments on the draft NGAC responses to the 2012 FGDC guidance questions on elevation to Gary Thompson (with a copy to John Mahoney) by Friday, September 28.

National Hydrography Database Subcommittee Report

Mark Reichardt reported on the National Hydrography Database (NHD) Subcommittee's recent activities and actions. The subcommittee's primary activity has been to provide feedback on a draft USGS survey on stewardship of the NHD. The subcommittee met with subject matter experts from USGS and EPA to better understand the goals of the survey and provide informed feedback. The subcommittee provided comments and feedback on the scope of the survey and on the draft survey instrument. The survey instrument has been refined based on the feedback and is being submitted to OMB for clearance. It is likely to be issued in late 2012 or early 2013.

ACTION: Mark Reichardt will provide a summary of the feedback the NHD subcommittee provided to USGS on the draft NHD Stewardship Survey.

Lightning Session 2

This session provided the opportunity for NGAC members to give brief talks on topics of interest to the Committee:

Dick Clark provided an update on the multi-state cloud GIS contract. Eighteen months ago, Mr. Clark first talked about an effort by the states of Oregon, Utah, and Montana regarding potential for GIS services in the cloud. Since then, they have moved forward with an RFP process and awarded a contract to several vendors, including Dewberry, Unisys, and Dell. Each state will follow its participating agreement.

Bob Austin provided an update on broadband mapping activities. First Net (First Responder Network Authority) is targeted at public safety and relies on a wireless broadband network.

Bert Granberg spoke about developing an address point collection strategy for Utah. The challenges of building the state-wide data set from a master address file were discussed.

Tony Spicci provided an update on the National States Geographic Information Council's (NSGIC) recent activities and upcoming events.

Molly Vogt discussed the new Oregon Metro context tool.

Tim Nyerges announced that the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) is holding its Annual Symposium on May 21-23, 2013 in the Washington, DC area. Workshops will take place on May 20 as well.

Public Comment Period

An opportunity for comment was afforded to members of the public who signed up in advance to do so.

Ivan Cheung (National Transportation Safety Board)

Mr. Cheung provided a brief overview of the geospatial activities of the NTSB. NTSB is a small agency that focuses on aviation accident investigations and safety studies. Bringing emergency responders to accident sites is important, and GIS technology and data is critical to NTSB's operations. NTSB would like to begin a conversation within the agency as well as with the overall GIS community about how to more effectively utilize geospatial technology. Toward this end, NTSB is holding a conference on GIS in Transportation Safety on December 4-5, 2012 in the NTSB headquarters at L'Enfant Plaza in Washington, DC. They will have panelists ranging from academia, various levels of government, and private industry. There will also be a poster exhibition of work relevant to transportation safety. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Mr. Cheung, or visit the NTSB website (www.nts.gov) for more information.

Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress)

Mr. Lazorchak provided an update on the activities of the National Digital Infrastructure Preservation Program (NDIPP). He mentioned that the geopreservation.org website provides useful information on geochiving and geopreservation activities. The National Digital Stewardship Alliance, which includes a geospatial subgroup that is open to all participants, explores strategies to preserve digital information of all types. The Users/Historical Data Working Group of FGDC is also very involved in stewardship activities.

Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions)

Mr. Klein provided comments on the subject of communicating the benefits of sustainable communities, with a focus on the activities of the Mill Valley (CA) Affordable Housing Committee.

Transportation for the Nation (TFTN) Update

Tom Roff and Steve Lewis from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) provided an update on recent developments related to the Transportation for the Nation (TFTN) initiative. The USDOT Office of Safety recently authorized use of Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) funds for building the TFTN network. USDOT sent a memorandum to State DOTs in August describing plans to develop the TFTN network. USDOT continues to coordinate with the State DOTs to emphasize the need for cohesive transportation data.

National Address Database Subcommittee

Gene Trobia and Bob Austin provided an update on the recent activities of the National Address Database Subcommittee in response to the 2012 FGDC guidance. Mr. Trobia described the status of the draft white paper that the subcommittee has developed addressing the development of a National Address Database. The paper describes the need for a national database, potential concerns (including privacy and confidentiality issues), and describes several potential options for development. The NGAC members provided initial feedback on the draft paper, and agreed to provide additional written comments following the meeting.

ACTION: NGAC members should provide comments on the draft NGAC paper on a National Address Database to Bob Austin and Gene Trobia (with a copy to John Mahoney) by Friday, October 5.

Geospatial Priorities

Following a discussion of next steps for the NGAC, the committee agreed on the following action:

ACTION: NGAC will develop a paper describing geospatial priorities for the next Presidential term. NGAC members should send inputs to Bob Austin and Dave Cowen (with copy to John Mahoney) by Friday, October 5.

Meeting Summary/Wrap-Up

The results and actions from the meeting were briefly summarized. The next NGAC meeting, which will be a web-based meeting, will be held on December 3, 2012.

Meeting Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Certification

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

Dr. David Cowen, Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Mr. 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 December 3, 2012

September 2012 NGAC Meeting Summary of Presentations and Handouts

The following is a list of the presentations and handouts from the meeting. These meeting materials are posted along with the minutes at: http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/september-2012/index_html

Landsat

- Landsat Advisory Group Presentation
- NGAC Paper: Statement on Landsat Data Use and Charges
- NGAC Paper: The Value Proposition for Ten Landsat Applications

Geospatial Platform

- Geospatial Platform Update

NGAC Chair Remarks

- Cowen Presentation

Geolocation Privacy Spotlight Session

- Session Overview
- Geolocation Privacy – Gabrynowicz
- Geolocation Privacy –Pomfret
- Geolocation Privacy – Gellman
- Background Information

COGO Report Card

- COGO Report Card Presentation

A-16 Subcommittee

- A-16 Subcommittee Presentation

FGDC Update

- FGDC Report

Elevation Subcommittee

- Elevation Subcommittee Report
- 3DEP Update

NHD Subcommittee

- NHD Subcommittee Presentation

Address Subcommittee

- Address Subcommittee Presentation

Transportation for the Nation (TFTN) Update

- TFTN Presentation

Lightning Sessions

- Role of GIS at RNC 2012 – Austin
- Utah Address Point Activities - Granberg
- Broadband Mapping Program Update – Austin