

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 23-24, 2014
Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 23, 2014 and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 25, 2014. The meeting was held at the National Conservation Training Center, in Shepherdstown, WV. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

NGAC Members present:

Robert Austin, Chair
Daniel Cotter, Vice Chair
Talbot Brooks
Keith Clarke
Patricia Cummens
David DiSera
Steve Emanuel
Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz
Mathew Gentile
Bert Granberg
Frank Harjo
Jack Hild
Michael Jones
Jeff Lovin
Jack Maguire
Keith Masback
Roger Mitchell
Gen. William N. Reddel III
Kevin Pomfret
Douglas Richardson
Anthony Spicci
Julie Sweetkind-Singer
Gary Thompson
Harvey Thorleifson
Molly Vogt
Jason Warzinik
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, were also in attendance.

Other Attendees:

Peter Barren (Airbus Defense & Space), Kaile Bower (Census), Nancy Brelos (Intergraph Government Solutions), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), John Byrd (MAPPs), Wayne Byrd (Intergraph Government Solutions), Michael Byrne (CFPB), Ray Byrnes (USGS), Diane Eldridge (USGS), Bruce Epler (Intergraph Government Solutions), Lucia Foulkes (FGDC), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Jerry Johnston (DOI), Roxane Lamb

(FGDC), Steve Lewis (U.S. DOT), David Manthos (Skytruth), Justin Stekervetz (National Information Exchange Model), James Kwolek (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, ret.), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), John Steffenson, (ESRI), Camille Touton (DOI), Tim Trainor (Census Bureau)

TUESDAY, September 23

Call to Order and Welcome

Dr. Robert Austin, NGAC Chair, called the public meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed the NGAC members and audience to the meeting. Dr. Austin provided an overview of the purpose, objectives, and logistics of the meeting.

Review and Adoption of June 2014 NGAC Minutes

Dr. Austin reviewed the draft minutes of the June 2014 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the June 24-25, 2014 NGAC meeting.

Leadership Dialogue- Ann Castle- Chair, Federal Geographic Data Committee

Anne Castle, FGDC Chair, provided an update on the recent activities of the FGDC, along with perspectives on Department of Interior (DOI) and Administration priorities. Highlights included the following:

- Completion and implementation of the NSDI Strategic Plan and the NGDA Management Plan
- Continuing progress in the development of the Geospatial Platform
- Status and objectives of the Open Water Data Initiative
- Successful collaboration activities – including interaction with the NGAC and activities such as the NSDI Leaders Forum
- Status of the ongoing GAO review of geospatial activities

Ms. Castle also provided insights on the activities of the NGAC subcommittees, and indicated her interest in seeing the final versions of the subcommittee papers and products.

Ms. Castle noted that she would soon be leaving her position at the Department of the Interior. She indicated that the DOI would be designating a new Chair for the FGDC, but the replacement had not yet been named. The NGAC members thanked Ms. Castle for her service and her leadership of the FGDC and the NGAC.

FGDC Update – Ivan DeLoatch

Mr. Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC Executive Director, gave an update on recent FGDC activities. Highlights included the following:

- The status of the current GAO engagement on Geospatial data (#311299), as well as GAO's follow-up activities on their previous report (#GAO-13-94)
- The activities of the National Boundaries Group, which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in July 2014 as a working group of the FGDC
- The implementation status of the National Geospatial Data Asset Management Plan, which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in March 2014.

Open Water Data Initiative/3D Elevation Program – Al Rea/Diane Eldridge

Al Rea and Diane Eldridge of USGS provide brief updates on the status of two initiatives – the Open Water Data Initiative and the 3D Elevation Program. The updates outlined the objectives, current status, and next steps for these initiatives.

Program Update – Dan Cotter

Dan Cotter provided brief status reports on several programs and initiatives, including:

- 2014-16 NSDI Strategic Plan
- Geospatial Interoperability Reference Architecture (GIRA)
- DHS Science & Technology Strategic Plan.

Mr. Cotter outlined the objectives, current status, and next steps for these initiatives. He noted that the FY 2014 status report on the implementation of the NSDI strategic plan was in final review, and would be provided to the NGAC when completed.

ACTION: The FGDC will provide FY 2014 NSDI Status Report to NGAC when completed.

Geospatial Platform - Ken Shaffer

Ken Shaffer, FGDC Deputy Executive Director, provided an update on the Geospatial Platform initiative. Mr. Shaffer also provided a summary of recent and planned enhancements to the Geoplatform.gov website. He noted that the support contract for the Geospatial Platform, which had been under protest, was expected to be finalized in the near future.

Address Subcommittee Report

Tony Spicci provided an update on the activities of the Address Subcommittee and introduced presentations on the status of the Address use case paper, the current status of the development of a National Address Database, and recent Home Mortgage Disclosure Act activities. Mr. Spicci provided an overview of the draft Address use case paper, and described the next steps to complete the paper. He noted that the paper will be provided to the full NGAC for comment following the meeting, and that the paper will be ready for final NGAC action and approval at the December NGAC webinar meeting.

Tim Trainor of the Census Bureau provided an update on National Address Database development. He outlined the engagements that Census has had with multiple partners to define the scope of a potential national database, and he described the Census Bureau's coordination with the Department of Transportation on potential development of a business requirements plan. He also described a recent Census Bureau Request for Information (RFI) on address and spatial data.

Michael Byrne of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) provided an update on CFPB's recent activities related to the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA). Mr. Byrne described the roles and responsibilities of CFPB, including their need for accurate and reliable address information. He provided an overview of CFPB's proposed rule-making to modify Regulation C, which implements the HMDA. The proposed rule includes multiple references to address data and possible approaches to gathering and utilizing the data. Mr. Byrne encouraged the NGAC members and the organizations they represent to provide comments on the proposed HMDA rule, and noted that the deadline for submitting comments is October 29, 2014.

At the conclusion of the Address Subcommittee session, the NGAC agreed on the following actions:

ACTION: The Address Subcommittee agreed on the following schedule for review and approval of the NGAC address use case paper:

- NGAC feedback on draft Address paper due by October 3.
- Subcommittee will edit & revise paper by mid-October
- Review/approval at December NGAC webinar meeting

ACTION: The NGAC encourages the FGDC to more effectively incorporate address data into the A-16/National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) framework.

ACTION: NGAC members, and the organizations they represent, are encouraged to submit comments to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on the proposed rule (notice of proposed rule-making) to modify Regulation C, which implements the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. Comments must be received on or before October 29, 2014. Additional information is available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/08/29/2014-18353/home-mortgage-disclosure-regulation-c>

The NGAC also approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION:

“The NGAC reiterates its strong support for the development of a National Address Database (NAD) and encourages the Census Bureau, the Department of Transportation, and other FGDC agencies to coordinate and collaborate with partners in the development of a business requirements plan for a NAD during FY 2015.”

Lightning Sessions

An opportunity for brief announcements was provided to NGAC members.

North Carolina Boundaries – Gary Thompson

Gary Thompson discussed the history of North Carolina boundary surveys, and current efforts to reset markers along the North Carolina-South Carolina boundary.

Convention on Geoinformation – Kevin Pomfret

Kevin Pomfret provided an overview of the International Bar Association’s proposed Convention on Geoinformation, and outlined concerns about the potential impacts on the geospatial community. The NGAC discussed expressing support for the intervention of the U.S. at the 4th Session of the UN-GGIM opposing the proposed Convention on Geoinformation.

Geospatial Stewardship – Bert Granberg

Mr. Bert Granberg discussed geospatial data stewardship approaches. He noted that stewardship models for data should align with existing business processes. A summary of stewardship models was shown and briefly discussed.

NGAC Subcommittee Meetings

The NGAC members broke out into subcommittees to discuss current and planned activities to develop products and papers addressing the FGDC guidance to the committee, and to discuss potential 2015 activities.

Day 1 Wrap-Up/Planning for Day 2

The Chair made announcements regarding logistics and plans for the next day's meeting.

Adjournment for Day 1

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, September 24

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

Dr. Austin called the meeting to order, provided a summary of the previous day's events, and gave an overview of the agenda.

Subcommittee Reports

The subcommittee chairs provided brief summaries of the results of the breakout sessions from the previous day.

Landsat Advisory Group Report – Roger Mitchell, Ray Byrnes (USGS)

Roger Mitchell and Ray Byrnes (USGS) provided an update on the activities of the Landsat Advisory Group (LAG). Mr. Byrnes provided a program update on recent Landsat activities, including performance of current Landsat missions and the status of planning for future missions. Mr. Mitchell discussed the LAG's current activities. The LAG's primary 2014 study topic was to review and update the 2012 LAG paper, "The Value Proposition for Ten Landsat Applications," refining the list of user applications and enhancing the Landsat value summary. The LAG's activities have included:

- Coordinating with USGS Landsat staff on recent and upcoming program activities.
- Developing the draft paper describing the value proposition of multiple Landsat applications. The paper will be provided to NGAC for final review in October.
- NGAC will consider adoption of final paper at December 2014 NGAC meeting.

The NGAC and LAG agreed on the following action:

ACTION: The Landsat Advisory Group agreed on the following schedule for review and approval of the Landsat applications paper:

- Sept 24 – Version 1 released to NGAC (No NGAC comments expected - informational only)
- Oct 1 – Version 2 to be voted on by LAG (teleconference)
- Oct 2 – Version 2 released for full NGAC review and comment
- Oct 14 – NGAC comments due to LAG
- Oct 21 – Version 3 (vote version) sent to full NGAC
- Dec 2014 (date TBD) – NGAC webinar meeting: final NGAC vote

Geospatial Education and Workforce Subcommittee – Keith Masback

Keith Masback provided an update on the activities of the Education and Workforce Subcommittee. The subcommittee's 2014 study topics have included identifying opportunities to leverage recent GIS

certification initiatives, providing input on revisions to the Standard Occupational Classifications (SOCs), and providing input as needed on STEM activities. The subcommittee's activities have included:

- Sponsoring an NGAC discussion on professional certification activities (April 2014)
- Developing input for the Department of Labor on next round of revisions to the SOCs (completed in July 2014).

The subcommittee will continue to monitor professional certification activities, and NGAC members and organizations are invited to participate in ongoing coordination of certification activities. The NGAC will also continue to monitor the process to revise the SOCs. The NGAC agreed on the following action:

ACTION: The Education and Workforce Subcommittee will continue to work with the Department of Labor on the revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes to more accurately reflect geospatial occupations.

The subcommittee also identified potential future study topics, including the following:

- Continue examination of geospatial credentialing to meet workforce needs.
- Review the Geospatial Technology Competency Model framework (GTCM) for currency and provide comments and recommendations for improvement
- Prepare briefing materials to articulate geography's rightful place in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) Update- Justin Stekervetz

Justin Stekervetz, Managing Director of the Program Office for the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), provided an update on the roles and current activities of the NIEM. He provided a brief overview of NIEM's mission and touched on current engagements and geospatial activities. NIEM provides a foundation for information exchange between federal, state, local, and tribal agencies. NIEM offers an active user community as well as a technical and support framework. He also shared diagrams describing the NIEM's architecture and functionality.

Lightning Session-2

An opportunity for brief announcements was provided to NGAC members.

Four Eras of Commercial Satellite Imagery -- Jack Hild

Jack Hild provided a presentation on the progression of commercial satellite imaging technology and its connection to geospatial information. Mr. Hild showed a series of graphics and images demonstrating the enhancements of satellite imagery in the areas of resolution, accuracy, speed, and content.

River Centerline Project – Jack Maguire

Jack Maguire provided a presentation on a recent river centerline project in Lexington County, SC. The project, which involved multiple partners, will have benefits in multiple areas – including search and rescue, river management, and transportation.

Geospatial Education and Training – Talbot Brooks

Talbot Brooks provided a brief talk on geospatial education and training. He discussed the need for better metrics on the size and scope of the geospatial industry and the needs of the education and training community.

Why is the U.S. not metric? The Legal Argument – Keith Clarke

Keith Clarke provided a presentation examining the legal issues as to why the U.S. has not fully adopted the metric system. He discussed the timeline and the increasing use of the metric system within the U.S. He also noted that the United States Metrification Board no longer exists, having been dissolved in 1982. He noted that the metric system has permeated mapping (especially military and navigation) and that international trade, most science, and standard commerce mostly use the metric system. He noted that only the U.S., Liberia and Myanmar still do not use the metric system. Finally, Mr. Clarke discussed possible NGAC approaches to this issue.

Climate Resilience App Challenge – Pat Cummins

Pat Cummins gave a presentation on the Climate Resilience App Challenge, which was developed to support the White House Climate Data Initiative. The App Challenge leverages open data to help communities see, understand, and prepare for climate change. She described some of the top app submissions and discussed next steps in the process.

Public Comment Period

An opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the committee was provided.

David Manthos, SkyTruth, Communications Director

Mr. Manthos provided an overview of Skytruth, which is a nonprofit organization that uses remote sensing and digital mapping to create images that expose the landscape disruption and habitat degradation caused by mining, oil and gas drilling, deforestation, fishing and other human activities. Mr. Manthos highlighted that Skytruth wants to engage the public about data imagery and its value on the impact of environmental issues.

Geospatial Privacy Subcommittee Report – Doug Richardson/Kevin Pomfret

Doug Richardson and Kevin Pomfret provided an update on the activities of the Geospatial Privacy Subcommittee. The subcommittee's primary 2014 study topic was to identify emerging approaches and potential best practices to help address geolocation privacy concerns. The subcommittee's activities have included:

- Reviewing and compiling NGAC observations on recent Administration reports on "Big Data and Privacy"
- The subcommittee and FGDC staff met with OMB privacy officials in August to share the NGAC observations on Big Data reports.
- The subcommittee will work with FGDC staff to develop briefing materials on geospatial privacy issues for the Federal CIO Council's Privacy Community of Practice (agency Chief Privacy Officers).

The NGAC agreed on the following action:

ACTION: The Geospatial Privacy Subcommittee will collaborate with FGDC staff to develop briefing materials for the Federal CIO Council's Privacy Community of Practice.

The NGAC members also brainstormed on potential 2015 discussion topics related to geospatial privacy, including the following:

- Distinctions between geospatial privacy and overall privacy issues
- Benefits of geospatial data and technologies to society and the U.S.

- What restrictions on geospatial data could mean
- Develop principles for geospatial privacy?
- Technical and policy approaches to address geospatial privacy

NGAC Actions

The NGAC discussed and agreed on the following actions:

ACTION: FGDC staff will work with the National Geodetic Survey to schedule a webinar briefing for NGAC members on the proposed revisions to the New Geometric Datum.

ACTION: The NGAC expressed its support for the intervention of the U.S. at the 4th Session of the UN-GGIM opposing the International Bar Association's proposed Convention on Geoinformation.

The NGAC also approved a resolution recognizing Anne Castle's contributions to the FGDC and the geospatial community:

RESOLUTION:

"The National Geospatial Advisory Committee does hereby acknowledge and recognize the significant contributions of Anne Castle, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, to the advancement of the national geospatial community.

In her role as the Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, Ms. Castle has promoted partnerships and transparency through extensive outreach and collaboration with the National Geospatial Advisory Committee and many other stakeholders. The NGAC's accomplishments over the past several years have been supported and informed by her collaborative spirit and strong leadership of the FGDC.

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to Ms. Castle and its best wishes for her future endeavors."

Meeting Summary/Wrap-up

The results and actions from the meeting were briefly summarized. The next NGAC meeting will be a webinar on December 3, 2014.

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. Robert Austin, 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, 2014

September 2014 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: https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/september-2014/index_html

FGDC Update

- FGDC Report

Open Water Data Initiative/3D Elevation Program

- OWDI-3DEP Update

NSDI Strategic Plan Implementation

- NSDI Strategic Plan Update

Geospatial Interoperability Reference Architecture/DHS Science & Technology Strategic Plan

- GIRA-DHS S&T Update

Geospatial Platform

- Geospatial Platform Update

Address Subcommittee

- Address Subcommittee Report
- National Address Database Update
- CFPB Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Update

Landsat Advisory Group

- Landsat Program Update
- Landsat Advisory Group Report

Geospatial Education and Workforce Subcommittee

- Education and Workforce Subcommittee Report

National Information Exchange Model

- NIEM Update

Geospatial Privacy Subcommittee

- Geospatial Privacy Subcommittee Report

NGAC Member Lightning Sessions

- North Carolina Boundaries – Thompson
- Convention on Geoinformation – Pomfret
- Geospatial Stewardship – Granberg
- Four Eras of Commercial Satellite Imagery – Hild
- River Centerline Project – Maguire
- Why is the U.S. not metric? The Legal Argument – Clarke
- Climate Resilience App Challenge – Cummins