November 14-15, 2018 FGDC Geospatial Data Act Workshop
Summary Meeting Notes

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1. GDA Workshop Overview

BACKGROUND:

Following the enactment of the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA), the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) established an interagency GDA Tiger Team to take initial steps toward implementation of the GDA. The Tiger Team's tasks are to 1) conduct an initial assessment of the GDA, and 2) develop a draft GDA implementation strategy. The Tiger Team met on November 14-15 in Washington, DC to initiate the assessment and begin the development of the implementation strategy. These meeting notes summarize the meeting outcomes, including follow-up actions and key questions or issues to be resolved.

WORKSHOP PURPOSE:

1. Establish the Tiger Team – structure, roles, responsibilities, expectations, timeline
2. Initiate analysis of GDA and identify impacts and implications
3. Determine approach, project timeline, and meeting schedule to complete GDA analysis and implementation strategy
4. Assign leads and subteams
5. Discuss communications strategy and documentation

MEETING MATERIALS:

- Meeting Agenda (link to PDF)
- GDA Guide Presentation (link to PPT)
- Tiger Team Overview Presentation (link to PPT)

2. Summary of Workshop Follow-up Actions (Organized by meeting agenda topics)

Leadership Perspectives
- Tim Petty request: Who should be contacted within agencies to build support?

- Seek input from NGAC and partners; consider holding Industry Day to gather input on GDA implementation.

Terms of Engagement Actions
- Need to identify people within agencies with expertise in developing communication strategies.
- Need to identify what has worked and what has not worked in the past.
- Tiger Team members need to attend meetings, webinars, and conference calls as necessary.
- Tiger Team members need to continue back and forth communications with their agencies .
- Need to communicate with appropriate congressional staff and get their feedback early to ensure that we are moving forward successfully. FGDC leadership work with congressional affairs staff to coordinate outreach.
- Use a project management approach to implement the GDA.

Outreach Actions
- Develop approach to gather NGAC and stakeholder input into development of GDA implementation strategy
- NGAC meeting scheduled for December 6.
- Steering Committee meeting planned for February 14.
- Schedule another Steering Committee meeting in April 2019 near the NGAC meeting.
- FGDC Secretariat needs to plan for the ESRI Federal GIS session on the GDA that has been scheduled (1/31/19), as well as other industry/conference outreach opportunities.

Sec. 752 Actions (Definitions)
- Determine availability of the disposition of comments submitted by agencies before the bill was finalized.
- Tiger Team will seek input from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on the "Covered Agency" definition (i.e., clarifications on covered vs not covered); Consider:
    - GDA definition of "Covered Agency" excludes some smaller independent agencies that are currently FGDC members
    - "Hybrid" agencies that collect classified data/intel (e.g., DHS, DOE)
    - Specific data collection activities that may disqualify agencies from "Covered Agency" status
- Need clarification on the definition of "geospatial data," and what kinds of data are *in scope* (therefore accessible to the public), and/or *out of scope* (i.e., exempt from full access and disclosure). Consider:
    - "Unstructured" data (i.e., geospatial references within a spreadsheet, address lists, crime reports, presentations, etc.)
    - Crowdsourced data
    - Law enforcement data
- Create briefings/prep documents/templates for Inspector General (IG) community on geospatial data and reporting metrics/parameters for GDA-required audits that can be applied across agencies.
- Consider request to agencies for potential issues on definitions and scope that are not included here.

Sec. 753 Actions (Federal Geographic Data Committee)
- Need clarification from OMB on the level of representation on the Committee.
- Seek National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) input on GDA implementation and partnership approaches.
- Clarify the question of delegation of leadership.
- Potential subteams to focus on 1) strategy for reporting requirements and 2) alignment of the FGDC organizational structure.

Sec. 754 Actions (National Geospatial Advisory Committee)
- Need legal guidance on issues where GDA authorities for NGAC depart from standard Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) practices.
- Need to update NGAC charter and operating procedures to reflect GDA requirements.
- Need to develop a process for NGAC to request information from covered agencies. Needs to be a thoughtful process, not an ad hoc approach.
- Potential NGAC study topic (or question for an Industry Day): How can we automate the reporting processes detailed in the GDA?

Sec. 755 Actions (National Spatial Data Infrastructure)
- Tiger Team and FGDC Secretariat should continue to align GDA implementation with the Federal Data Strategy.
- Need clear definition of what constitutes an authoritative dataset.
- GDA is unclear on protections for sensitive law enforcement data; this needs to be clarified.
- The subteam needs to examine how the OMB Circular A-130 Open Data Policy impacts NSDI requirements.
- Need to clarify the requirements for agencies that have National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs) but are not officially designated as "covered agencies" (for example: EPA, USACE).

Sec. 756 Actions (National Geospatial Data Asset Data Themes)
- Explore how to align the FGDC Themes with other standards (UN-GGIM, ISO, etc.).
- Make sure we don't limit the release of geospatial data due to GDA requirements.
- Need to define a process for establishment of FGDC Themes and datasets, and to update them in the future.
- Make sure GDA reporting processes are streamlined, so we still have time to work on data. Want to expose as much of the valuable data as possible, while minimizing the effort that goes into the planning and reporting process.
- Consider reducing reporting at the FGDC Theme level, so focus is on the datasets.
- Clarify the scope of the GDA: does it apply to all federal geospatial data, or primarily on NGDAs?
- How can we help agencies that need work to meet the new requirements, reporting, and accountability?

Sec. 757. Action (Geospatial Data Standards)
- Formal or information standards for datasets need to be communicated with the broader community and some consensus on any additional need for the formality of the standard is

decided. This will help agencies in their reporting on use of standards, especially in relation to the "no funding" clause (Sec. 759A).

- Reporting the requirements and investments needed for developing and implementing a standard need to be part of the theme reports to articulate the investments required to vet, approve and implement a standard.
- Agencies need to make the guidelines, best practices, etc. for the use of a standard available.
- Coordination across the Civil and DoD/IC communities helps minimize duplicative development and increase interoperability.
- FGDC agencies need to develop a new approach and plan for covering and addressing standards across the multiple standards bodies.

Sec. 758 Actions (GeoPlatform)

- Clarify (with OMB) the scope and services that the GeoPlatform needs to provide to customers.
- Clarify (with OMB) the governance, role, and function of the Managing Partner and determine funding requirements (i.e., agency contributions, personnel, resources).
- Specify metadata requirements that will apply to ALL geospatial data on the GeoPlatform (provide this guidance to IGs).
- Provide further guidance on formats for data downloads and services (open data vs. commercial proprietary formats).
- Clarify the relationship of Data.gov to GeoPlatform.
- Clarify licensing requirements and management responsibilities for licensed data.
- Provide new guidance on hosting law enforcement data on the GeoPlatform.
- Discuss new roles of the GeoPlatform from the IT shared services perspective (i.e., in addition to data discovery and access to NGDAs).

Sec. 759. Action (Covered Agency Responsibilities)

- Agencies will need to add resources to support the GDA. Agencies should do this in a coordinated manner to ask for additional funding from OMB for the 2021 budget. Target is March/April (next budget cycle).
- Need a central place where metadata for state data resources are cataloged (possible topic for NGAC).
- Address the acquisition requirements on the front-end of the budget/contract process with OMB/budget offices.
- Need guidance from National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on geospatial records and data products, where/how/how long should they be preserved?
- First deliverable of the Tiger Team is to summarize questions and issues for OMB in advance of a meeting with them -- list of issues and questions to be resolved, by the end of January.
- Need clarification from OMB about the addition of a geospatial tag to grants and contracts.
- Establish reporting consistencies between agencies (i.e. strategic plans) that will inform the IG audits.
- Need to establish timeline for when the GDA will take effect.
- Identify GDA implementation issues by section by the end of January 2019. Identify which responsible party will provide clarification (i.e., NARA, OMB, IG, etc.). Focus particularly those elements that pose challenges for covered agencies from moving forward.
  - o Will OMB want the guidance/input from the FGDC on the OMB implementation guidance?

- o   Will OMB re-write Circular A-16 or will it be more narrow guidance?
- o   Who is taking the lead on guidance? Where will resources come from? Need to develop options.

3. GDA Tiger Team Strategy Moving Forward

1. **Preliminary Schedule / Timeline**
   a. December 2018 (1st week) - Work Group Team Leads meeting
   b. December 6 - NGAC webinar meeting (including GDA session)
   c. January 2018 (2nd week) - Meeting with whole Tiger Team
   d. End of January 2019: GDA Assessment due. Tiger Team will elevate a set of issues for the Steering Committee meeting in February 2019.
   e. January 29 - Esri Federal GIS User Conference GDA Session
      i.   Title: *Federal Geographic Data Committee - The Geospatial Data Act and Impacts on Shared Services*
      ii. Description: Special Session to provide an overview of the new Geospatial Data Act and the impacts on how the Federal Government develops and utilizes shared services capabilities.
   f. March 2019: Implementation strategy
   g. Tiger Team will probably be in place through FY19 (Thru Sept 2019).
      i.   Can provide valuable input to make sure the implementation plan is practical for agencies.
2. **Tiger Team Work Group Assignments**
   The Tiger Team agreed to establish four work groups to continue the analysis of the GDA components and the members were asked to identify the teams they would like to join. The work groups are as follows:
   a. **Governance/Organization (Secs 753, 754)**
      i.   LEAD: Nancy Blyler (DOD/USACE)
      ii. Initial Participants: Lou Ann Lora-Platt (ONRR)
      iii. Review FGDC/NGAC governance and organization
   b. **Data, Standards, and Delivery (Secs 755,756, 757, 758)**
      i.   LEAD: Bill Mullen (NGA)
      ii. Initial Participants: Terry Forline (GSA), Robert Wolfe (NASA), Lisa McBride (USDA), Amos Desjardins (DHS), Bill Wilen (FWS)
      iii. Review NSDI, NGDA, Standards, and GeoPlatform requirements
   c. **Covered Agencies/Reporting (Secs 759, 759A)**
      i.   LEAD: Tony LaVoi (NOAA)
      ii. Initial Participants: Stephanie Crews-Jones (DOJ), Anna Greene (EPA), Anthony Carigo (DOE), Chad Hancher (DOL), Mike Tischler (USGS)
      iii. Review covered agency requirements and GDA planning/reporting responsibilities
   d. **Communication/Outreach**
      i.   LEAD: Pam Isom (DOE)
      ii. Initial Participants:
      iii. Develop communications & outreach strategy

3. **FGDC Office of the Secretariat Lead Activities**:
    a. Guidance: Secretariat will work with work group leads to refine approach for the Tiger Team and work groups.
    b. NSDI Core Team will stand down for now, might free up some agency time to work on the topic teams (e.g. Census)
    c. Get others involved in these teams, invite others who were not here in the room
        i. Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) involvement? (Invite them to participate).
        ii. Another call for participation on the work groups will be sent with the meeting summary.
    d. Coordinate with NGAC leadership to seek NGAC input on development of GDA implementation strategy and revisions to NGAC processes/procedures.
    e. **Action**: FGDC leadership - follow-up dialogue with OMB. Need to define questions/recommendations for OMB. Need OMB representation on Tiger Team.
4. **Work Group Deliverables** (needs to be refined)
    a. Review notes, key issues, and unresolved questions identified at this workshop. Validate notes from this GDA Tiger Team Workshop, complete initial assessment of GDA.
    b. Teams would be expected to develop a series of questions or issues and identify respondents for them (i.e., OMB, solicitors office, etc.)
        i. What are the challenges within your agencies that guidance or clarification would help resolve?
            1. Remember to look at the macro level - what it means to the agency or what are the current issues at your agency (e.g. an interaction with a partner agency, that the GDA could help solve?
    c. Looking to define questions and key issues - not looking for solutions

4. GDA Tiger Team Membership & Workshop Attendance

	Organization	FGDC Role	Name	Position/Title
x	Dept. of Agriculture	CG	Lisa McBride	National GIS Program Manager, Forest Service
x	Dept. of Commerce	SAOGI	Tony LaVoi	DOC SAOGI, NOAA, GIO
x	Dept. of Commerce		Tyler Christensen	Metadata Coordinator, NOS Office of the ACIO
x	Dept. of Commerce	Alt SAOGI	Deirdre Bishop	Chief Geography Division, Census Bureau
x	Dept. of Commerce	Core Team	Dierdre Bevington Attardi	Census - Strat Plan Core Team
x	Dept. of Defense - NGA		William Mullen	Senior GEOINT Officer - Data Management, Office of Geography, NGA Source
x	Dept. of Defense - NGA		Thomas Bryan	Assistant General Counsel
x	Dept. of Defense - USACE	Alt SAOGI	Nancy Blyler	USACE Geospatial Community of Practice Lead
x	Dept. of Education	Alt SAOGI	Doug Geverdt	National Center for Education Statistics
x	Dept. of Energy	SAOGI	Pamela Isom	Chief Data Officer, Deputy CIO for Architecture, Engineering, Technology and Innovation
x	Dept. of Energy		Tony Carigo	OCIO/IM-50
x	Dept. of Homeland Security		Amos Desjardins	DHS Homeland Security Investigations
x	Dept. of Homeland Security	SAOGI	Michael Donnelly	Director (Acting), Geospatial Management Office
x	Dept. of Housing and Urban Development		Ted Payne	
	Dept. of Housing and Urban Development		Robert Renner	Social Science Analyst, Enterprise GIS Team Lead
x	Dept. of Interior	SAOGI	Tod Dabolt	DOI GIO
x	Dept. of Interior	FGDC Chair	Tim Petty	Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
	Dept. of Interior	GeoPlatform team	Joel Schlagel	GeoPlatform Ambassador for DOI (on detail from USACE)
x	Dept. of Interior	NGP	Mike Tischler	Director, National Geospatial Program, USGS
x	Dept. of Interior	NGP	Laura Palmer	USGS - NGP
x	Dept. of Interior	Core Team	Brigitta Urban-Mathieux	USGS - Strat Plan Core Team
x	Dept. of Justice	Alt SAOGI	Ron Bewtra	Chief Technology Officer
x	Dept. of Justice		Stephanie Crews-Jones	Federal Bureau of Investigation
x	Dept. of Labor	Alt SAOGI	Chad Hancher	OASAM PMC
x	Dept. of Transportation		Derald Dudley	Geography, Computer Scientist, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
x	Dept. of Transportation	Core Team	Amy Nelson	Strat Plan Core Team
x	Environmental Protection Agency		Ana Greene	EPA Deputy Geospatial Information Officer

x	FGDC OS		Ivan DeLoatch	Executive Director FGDC
x	FGDC OS	Core Team	Ken Shaffer	Deputy Executive Director FGDC
x	FGDC OS	Core Team	John Mahoney	Senior Policy Advisor
x	FGDC OS		Lucia Foulkes	Interagency Liaison
x	FGDC OS		Rich Frazier	Senior Advisor for Geospatial Technology
x	FGDC OS	Core Team	Lorna Schmid	NGDA Portfolio Management
	General Services Administration	SAOGI	Carolyn Austin-Diggs	Principal Deputy to the Deputy Associate Administrator
x	General Services Administration		Terry Forline	Lead IT Specialist, Building Information, Planning and Strategy, Office of the CIO
x	National Aeronautics and Space Administration		Robert Wolfe	Computer Scientist, NASA GSFC
	OMB		Aaron Ray	OMB
	OMB		Rebecca Williams	Digital Services Expert, Office of the Federal CIO, OMB, EOP
x	U.S. Agency for International Development		Michael Crino	
	U.S. Agency for International Development	SAOGI	Carrie Stokes	Chief Geographer & Director of the GeoCenter