

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 4-5, 2009

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held its fourth public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on February 4, 2009 and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on February 5, 2009. The meeting was held at the Hotel Monaco, Alexandria Virginia.

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
Donald Dittmar
Dennis Goreham
Kass Green
Randy Johnson
Randall Johnson
Jerry Johnston
Barney Krucoff
Timothy Loewenstein
David Maune
Charles Mondello
Zsolt Nagy
Kim Nelson
Matthew O'Connell
John Palatiello
Jay Parrish
Eugene Schiller
Chris Tucker
David Schell
Michael Ritchie

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

NGAC Members not present:

Richard Clark
Jack Dangermond

Other attendees:

Sergei Andronikov (GMU), Wendy Blake Coleman (EPA), Jeff Booth (DHS), Don Buhler (BLM), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), Ash Chatterjee (DHS), Dan Cotter (DHS), Kari Craun (USGS), Pat Cummins (ESRI), Louis Demargne (Fugro EarthData), Mark DeMulder (USGS), Michael Domaratz (Michael Baker), Claudette Fetterman (FEMA), Randy Fusaro (Census), Hank Garie (Grant Thornton), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Rich Grady (AppGeo), Jeff Harrison (The Carbon Project), Eric Hunn (Grant Thornton),

Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions, Inc.), Butch Lazorchak (LOC), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Michael Lee (USGS), Vicki Lukas (USGS), Arista Maher (FGDC), John Mahoney (USGS), Craig Molander (Surdex Corporation), Kevin Mullane (USACE), Jack Pellicci (Intergraph), Mary Kay Rau (Johnston McLamb), Milo Robinson (FGDC), Paul Sartorius (Lockheed Martin), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Karen Siderelis (DOI), Jeff Simley (USGS), David Smith (Synergist Technology Group), Jon Sperling (HUD), Larry Sugarbaker (USGS), Scott Vandermark (Fugro EarthData), Jennifer Zoerkler (Intergraph)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Call to Order & Welcome

NGAC Chair Anne Hale Miglarese called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., welcomed the committee members and audience to the meeting, and summarized the meeting agenda. Ms. Miglarese noted that an opportunity for public comment would be provided during the afternoon of February 5. Ms. Miglarese reviewed the minutes from the October 15-16, 2008 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

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

Remarks from FGDC Staff Director/DFO

Ivan DeLoatch, Staff Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, gave a summary of recent FGDC activities and initiatives, including the following:

- The FY 2008 FGDC Annual Report was completed in December 2008. The report was distributed to NGAC members.
- Upcoming FGDC meetings:
 - FGDC Coordination Group – March 3, April 14, May 5, 2009
 - FGDC Executive Committee – March 10, April 15-16, 2009
 - FGDC Steering Committee – June 11 (tentative)
- Upcoming 2009 NGAC meeting dates:
 - May 12-13, 2009, George Washington University, Washington D.C. (confirmed)
 - August 26-27, 2009, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV (confirmed)
 - December 2009, Washington DC (tentatively – week of December 1)

Transition/Economic Stimulus Discussion

Karen Siderelis, the Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) for the Department of the Interior, provided a report on the Administration transition process and economic stimulus activities. Ms. Siderelis noted that she is serving as the acting Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and that Mike Howell, the OMB Deputy Administrator for E-Government and Information Technology, is serving as acting Vice-Chair. During the transition period, FGDC has asked member agencies with political appointees serving as Senior Agency Officials for Geospatial Information (SAOGIs) to designate acting officials until new appointees are in place. Ms. Siderelis provided a brief update on recent FGDC meetings, including the October and December 2008 FGDC Steering Committee meetings and the ongoing monthly meetings of the FGDC Executive Committee.

Ms. Siderelis also provided an overview of FGDC activities in response to the economic stimulus bill, including a proposal on behalf of the FGDC that was developed by the Interior Department for funding of the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative, and a description of the planned Recovery.gov website. Ms. Siderelis also provided an update on the IFTN initiative. The IFTN team developed a draft project plan that was presented to the FGDC Executive Committee in December. The team is in the process of completing contracting and hosting/archiving strategies for Executive Committee review and guidance.

Anne Hale Miglarese provided an overview of non-federal transition activities and several proposals that were developed as possible components of the economic stimulus bill. Ms. Miglarese noted that the NGAC transition recommendations that were adopted at the October NGAC meeting were provided to several transition teams, including the Science and Technology Transition Teams. Ms. Miglarese also encouraged NGAC members provide the transition recommendations and other products, including the Changing Landscape White Paper, to appropriate officials as opportunities arise.

Ms. Miglarese and the committee discussed the background and development of several economic stimulus proposals that were developed during consideration of the Recovery Act. The group discussed possible reasons why the proposals were not adopted and strategies to more effectively communicate the value and benefits of geospatial technology. The committee also discussed opportunities to utilize geospatial technology to more effectively implement the various components of the Recovery Act. The NGAC also discussed the creation of a new subcommittee to document lessons learned from the economic stimulus bill and to help plan for any subsequent, similar opportunities.

The National Map

Allen Carroll and Mark DeMulder (USGS) led a discussion of The National Map (TNM) and the recent activities of the NGAC TNM Subcommittee.

Mark DeMulder provided an overview of The National Map program, including the history of the program, its evolution over time, and the current goals and objectives of the program.

Jeff Simley of USGS provided an overview of the National Hydrography Database, one of the base layers of TNM.

Kari Craun of USGS provided an overview of the TNM topographic mapping strategy, including a description of plans for the “next generation” of topographic maps and a discussion of the technical issues and trade-offs involved in developing the updated product.

Allen Carroll described the recent meetings of the TNM Subcommittee and interactions with the USGS TNM leadership group. Mr. Carroll presented draft subcommittee conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the full committee. The committee discussed multiple aspects of the TNM program and the subcommittee’s recommendations. Varied opinions were offered regarding the scope and objectives of the program, the roles and responsibilities of federal and non-federal participants, and the customers and audience for the products of the TNM program. The NGAC did not reach consensus on recommendations related to The National Map. However, the committee agreed upon the following actions:

ACTION: The TNM Subcommittee will send a request to NGAC members asking for additional concerns, issues, and questions to be addressed regarding the TNM.

ACTION: The TNM Subcommittee will work with USGS to develop draft advice on commercial licensing of data.

Governance/Circular A-16 Discussion

Dennis Goreham, Ivan DeLoatch, and Lew Sanford (FGDC) discussed the recent activities of the NGAC Governance/A-16 Subcommittee, the recently-developed OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance, and FGDC/NDSI governance issues. Mr. DeLoatch and Mr. Sanford provided an overview of the purpose and content of the Supplemental Guidance, which was developed as a component of the Geospatial Line of Business (LoB) initiative. The purpose of the Supplemental Guidance is to:

- Clarify the intent of OMB Circular A-16
- Promote portfolio management of A-16 themes and associated datasets
- Enhance coordination and collaboration of agencies and partners toward completion of A-16 data themes and datasets
- Develop a process to modify A-16 themes and datasets to reflect the current business needs of Federal agencies and their partners.

The Supplemental Guidance includes the following major components:

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Lexicon of Geospatial Terminology
- Stages of the Geospatial Data Lifecycle
- Geospatial Data Theme Principles

During the development of the Supplemental Guidance, the Governance/A-16 Subcommittee reviewed draft versions and offered comments. Mr. Sanford and Mr. Goreham reviewed the subcommittee's comments and the process the LoB team followed to address the comments.

Dennis Goreham summarized the feedback and reactions of the subcommittee and described remaining issues identified by the subcommittee. The NGAC met in small discussion groups to discuss A-16 and governance issues and identified a set of priority issues. The committee agreed to conclude the discussion on Day 2 of the meeting.

NGAC Vision

Zsolt Nagy provided an update on the NGAC Vision Subcommittee's activities to date, including the development of a draft Strategic Vision, the results of the review and comment process, and a description of the final draft for consideration by the committee as a whole. The committee discussed the final draft and agreed upon several minor changes.

DECISION: The NGAC approved the NGAC Strategic Vision as revised.

Land Parcel Data

Dave Cowen and Don Buhler (BLM) provided an update on parcel data activities. Following the NGAC's session on parcel data at the October 2008 NGAC meeting, the FGDC Steering Committee considered the NGAC's recommendations and directed the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee to convene a stakeholder meeting to explore the potential uses of land parcel data for more effective management of mortgage and financial oversight programs and activities. The meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2009 in Washington, DC. Additional information about the parcel data activities is available on the Cadastral Subcommittee's website at www.nationalcad.org. The NGAC agreed on the following action:

ACTION: FGDC/Cadastral Subcommittee will provide information on Mortgage Crisis/Parcel Data Stakeholder outreach meetings to NGAC and report back at May NGAC meeting.

Adjournment for Day 1

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

The Chair convened the second day of the meeting at 8:00 a.m., reviewed the previous day's activities, and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

Partnerships

Jerry Johnston and Gene Schiller provided an update on the activities of the NGAC Partnerships Subcommittee, which was established at the October 2008 NGAC Meeting. The purpose of the subcommittee is to develop recommendations to facilitate productive partnerships to enable the efficient and effective advancement of the NSDI. The subcommittee's first task was to issue a Call for References for an "environmental scan" of existing geospatial partnerships and collaborative models. The environmental scan will provide a baseline of information about successful existing models and best practices. Based upon the results of the Call for References, the subcommittee will develop an action plan for consideration by the NGAC. The NGAC agreed on the following actions:

ACTION: NGAC members provide feedback to Partnership Subcommittee's Call for References by February 27.

ACTION: Partnerships Subcommittee will summarize results of Call for References, prepare draft project plan, and report back to NGAC.

The National Map

The NGAC concluded its discussion of The National Map. See NGAC actions listed on page 3 of these minutes.

Governance/OMB Circular A-16

The NGAC reviewed the feedback and conclusions from the Day 1 discussion groups. The NGAC reviewed and discussed a draft recommendation developed by the subcommittee. The NGAC agreed on the following recommendation as revised:

RECOMMENDATION: The NGAC approved the following recommendation to the FGDC regarding governance:

- Whereas Executive Order 12906 and OMB Circular A-16 designate geospatial data themes and assign federal agency stewards for those themes;
- Whereas most agencies have not been provided designated resources to meet stewardship responsibilities;
- Whereas some agencies have not produced plans to accomplish stewardship responsibilities;
- Whereas OMB has not been able to assemble consistent and accurate budgetary crosscuts for geospatial activities to implement stewardship responsibilities;
- Whereas agencies have not been held accountable for meeting stewardship responsibilities; and
- Whereas the coordination, duplication avoidance, and partnering requirements of Executive Order 12906 and OMB Circular A16 remain unsatisfied not only among Federal agencies, but also with non-Federal stakeholders:

Now Therefore; Be It Resolved:

- That the NGAC recommends that the FGDC encourages and supports the Administration in the use of geospatial data and technologies to transform government operations and provide accountability and savings across geospatial activities, by:
- Reaffirming Executive Order 12906 and revising it to increase accountability;

- Strengthening direct OMB enforcement of the reporting requirements in Circular A-16;
- Implementing performance measures
- Coordinating and working in partnership with Federal, State, Tribal, and local government agencies and the private sector, and building upon non-Federal data wherever practical; and
- Strongly considering the role of geospatial data and technology in transforming government operations while implementing the President's management agenda and formulating and executing the President's Budget.

Public Comment Period

The following input was provided during the public comment period:

Dennis Klein, Boundary Solutions, Inc. Mr. Klein offered comments on the relationship between open records, digital parcel maps, and property tax revenue growth. Mr. Klein provided handouts that were distributed to committee members.

News and Notes Forum

John Palatiello provided a presentation on geospatial metrics, "You Can't Manage What You Can't Measure." The presentation described the need for better baseline information and metrics; the need for a more complete assessment of the scope of the geospatial market and Federal investments, contracts and grants; and the need for more effective metrics related to education, training, research and development. NGAC members discussed the presentation and the relationship of metrics to the development of a national geospatial strategy. The issue of metrics was identified as a possible topic to be discussed at a future NGAC meeting.

Kass Green provided an update on the planned ASPRS Industry Forecast project, which is being conducted in partnership with NGA and USGS. Charlie Mondello and George Hepner are leading this project for ASPRS.

ACTION: NGAC members provide suggestions and feedback on ASPRS Industry Forecast project to Charlie Mondello by end of February.

Communications

Kass Green described the role and activities of the Communications Subcommittee, including internal and external communications and outreach strategies. Ms. Green indicated that Mike Byrne is developing a draft op-ed article on NGAC activities and the development of a national geospatial strategy. Vaishal Sheth of FGDC provided a brief demonstration of the myUSGS Wiki site that has been established for use by the NGAC. Several members requested a more detailed follow-up briefing. The NGAC agreed on the following actions:

ACTION: FGDC staff will schedule demonstration of MyUSGS wiki site for NGAC members. FGDC staff will reset NGAC member passwords.

ACTION: NGAC Chair and DFO will review draft op-ed article and determine next steps.

NGAC Action Plan

Anne Miglarese led a discussion of the NGAC Action Plan, focusing on accomplishments to date, current subcommittee activities, and potential topics for upcoming meetings. The NGAC agreed on the following actions:

ACTION: NGAC retired Vision Subcommittee and Changing Landscape Subcommittee.

ACTION: NGAC established new subcommittee to review development of economic stimulus proposals, identify lessons learned, and develop longer-term strategy for more effective cross-sector coordination.

Next Meeting

The next NGAC meeting is scheduled for May 12-13, 2009 in Washington, DC. Potential agenda topics include the following:

Progress Reports

- Partnerships
- ASPRS Market Study
- Economic Stimulus – Lessons Learned

Updates

- Communications
- Parcel Data – Mortgage Stakeholder Outreach
- Governance
- Imagery for the Nation
- The National Map

Major Discussion Topics

- NGAC / Federal Priorities
- NGAC Strategic Visioning/Planning

Additional Topics

- Discussion of “Markets and Metrics”
- Presentations from key Federal agencies/programs (e.g., NSF, NASA, EPA, NOAA)
- Possible dialogue with new OMB E-Government Administrator

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

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 May 12, 2009

February 2009 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: www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/February2009meeting/index_html

Transition Update

- NGAC Transition Presentation

The National Map (TNM)

- TNM Overview
- TNM Presentation – DeMulder
- TNM Presentation – Simley
- TNM Presentation – Craun

Governance/OMB Circular A-16

- Governance/A-16 Overview
- Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance Presentation

NGAC Strategic Vision

- NGAC Strategic Vision Overview
- Final NGAC Strategic Vision, as adopted

Land Parcel Data

- Land Parcel Data Update – Buhler
- Land Parcel Data Update – Cowen

Partnerships

- Partnerships Overview

Communications

- NGAC Communications Update

NGAC Action Plan

- NGAC Action Plan Update

News and Notes: Updates from NGAC Members

- Measure to Manage – Palatiello
- ASPRS Industry Forecast - Green