

**NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 3, 2013**  
**Minutes**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public webinar meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on April 3, 2013. The meeting was via webinar and teleconference. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

**NGAC Members present:**

Robert Austin (NGAC Chair)  
Jerry Johnston (NGAC Vice-Chair)  
Talbot Brooks  
Keith Clarke  
Steve Coast  
Jack Dangermond  
David DiSera  
Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz  
Matthew Gentile  
Bert Granberg  
Frank Harjo  
Michael Jones  
Jack Maguire  
E. Donald McKay  
Carolyn Merry  
Anne Hale Miglarese  
Roger Mitchell  
Michele Motsko  
Matthew O'Connell  
Patrick Olson  
Mark Reichardt  
Douglas Richardson  
Anthony Spicci  
Gary Thompson  
Gene Trobia  
Molly Vogt  
David Wyatt

**NGAC Members not present:**

Richard Clark  
Timothy Nyerges

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:**

Cliff Allison (Nokia), David Beddoe (Intergraph Government Solutions), Jim Bjostad (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency), Wendy Blake-Coleman (Environmental Protection Agency), Nancy Brelos (Intergraph Government Solutions), Michael Buckley (NOKIA), Lori Caramanian (Department of Interior), Kaitlin Chell (Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC), Michael Conschafter (Exelis, Inc.), Dan Cotter (Department of

Homeland Security), Pat Cummins (Esri), Erin Engle (Library of Congress), Adrian Gardner (NASA), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Jonathan Heinsius (Intermap Federal Technologies, Inc.), Charley Hickman (U.S. Geological Survey), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions), Kaelin Kuhn (U.S. Government Accountability Office), Tony LaVoi (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress), Arista Maher (Federal Geographic Data Committee), John Milburn (Hancock County, Indiana), Tim Newman (U.S. Geological Survey), John Palatiello (Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors), Jamelyn Payan (U.S. Government Accountability Office), Scott Perkins (Aero-Metric, Inc.), Howard Schuster (CoreLogic), Ken Shaffer (Federal Geographic Data Committee), Vaishal Sheth (Federal Geographic Data Committee), Randy Showstack (American Geophysical Union), Jon Sperling (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), Lew Summers (Department of Homeland Security), Brandon Tolle (Trimble), Matt Wellslager, South Carolina Geodetic Survey), David White (Fugro Earth Data, Inc.), Patrick Woodward (U.S. Census Bureau).

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

Dr. Robert Austin (NGAC Chair) called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.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 December 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Austin reviewed the draft minutes of the December 3, 2012 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

**DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the December 3, 2012 meeting.**

### **Leadership Dialogue**

FGDC Chair Anne Castle (DOI) provided remarks on FGDC and Administration activities and priorities, and provided updates on several topics. Ms. Castle thanked Dr. Austin for taking on the chairmanship of the NGAC. She welcomed the new members to the Committee, and noted the Committee's highly qualified and varied membership.

Ms. Castle updated the NGAC on recent developments at the Department of the Interior. She noted that DOI Secretary Ken Salazar will soon step down and that Sally Jewell, most recently the CEO of REI, Inc., is the nominee to replace him. Ms. Jewell has already had a Senate confirmation hearing and is expected to be confirmed when Congress reconvenes. Ms. Castle noted that the shift in leadership should not result in significant changes in DOI priorities or in the work of the NGAC.

Ms. Castle also spoke about the impacts of the Federal budget sequestration. The Department of Interior is trying to maintain services to its customers at reduced funding levels. Travel reductions are one solution, and this has already impacted the NGAC meetings, including the webinar being held today in lieu of a two-day, face-to-face meeting. FGDC leadership is hopeful that NGAC will hold planned face-to-face meetings in June and September 2013.

Ms. Castle also discussed the FGDC guidance to NGAC, which provides a roadmap for the committee's activities for the year. She noted that the guidance topics reflect the issues identified in the recent U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on Federal geospatial programs. She reiterated that DOI and FGDC welcomed the GAO review and were committed to addressing the recommendations in a thoughtful manner. She noted that several FGDC Executive Committee members have volunteered to lead efforts responding to the recommendations outlined in the GAO report. She noted that the meeting would feature presentations on each of these areas from the executive sponsors: Adrian Gardner (A-16 Supplemental Guidance/Portfolio Management), Jerry Johnston (Geospatial Platform), and Dan Cotter (NSDI Strategic Plan). The FGDC will be seeking advice and feedback from the NGAC on these topics.

Ms. Castle also discussed the activities of the NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG), which has been a valuable tool in providing advice to the FGDC. The LAG is unique in that it includes both NGAC members and non-NGAC subject matter experts. Ms. Castle felt that this approach has strengthened the overall output of the group. Ms. Castle also noted that Landsat 8 launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on February 11, 2013 and that USGS will take over operational control of on May 30. NASA and USGS have also begun the planning process for future Landsat missions. Ms. Castle noted that the LAG will meet soon to discuss the NGAC study questions in greater detail.

In closing, Ms. Castle thanked the members of the NGAC for their service and indicated that she looked forward to continued productive collaboration.

### **Introduction of the FGDC Guidance**

Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC Executive Director, provided an overview of the 2013 FGDC guidance to the NGAC. The guidance was developed based on input from the FGDC community and suggestions from NGAC members. As indicated by Ms. Castle, the 2013 guidance has a significant focus on the issues raised in the recent GAO report. Mr. DeLoatch indicated that NGAC input on these issues will be an important component in developing the FGDC's responses to the GAO recommendations. The key components of the 2013 guidance are as follows:

#### NSDI Strategic Plan

- Input to help develop a shared vision of the NSDI.
- Input to help define roles and responsibilities of the Federal government and other sectors.
- Input to help define key external factors and trends in the geospatial community.

#### Geospatial Platform Implementation / Data Partnership Models

- Data as a Service (DAAS) Public-Private Partnerships.
- Geospatial Platform Implementation.

#### OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance/Portfolio Management Implementation Plan

- Feedback and comment on the A-16/portfolio management plan as it is developed.

#### Landsat

- Potential new applications of Landsat imagery and data
- Current and future Landsat data and information product characteristics
- Potential new approaches to data management and distribution
- Dialogue on future development of new terrestrial Climate Data Records
- Review and comment on the National Research Council report on implementing a sustained Land Imaging Program.
- Partnership opportunities with existing foreign or commercial missions to maintain and augment DOI/USGS land imaging capability.

Mr. DeLoatch also indicated that the NGAC could potentially review additional topics later in the year, which might include Geolocation Privacy, National Address Database, National 3D Elevation Program, National Parcel Data, or Transportation for the Nation.

In response to a question, Mr. DeLoatch indicated that FGDC and USGS would provide updated information on the development of the National 3-D Elevation Program business plan.

**ACTION:** FGDC/USGS will provide an update on the status of the business plan for the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) initiative.

### **NSDI Strategic Plan**

Dan Cotter, Chief Technology Officer for the Department of Homeland Security, provided an update on the development of the updated NSDI Strategic Plan. Mr. Cotter is serving as co-leader of this effort. The objective is to develop a concise, updated strategic plan to guide the Federal government's activities toward the further development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). He noted that the NSDI concept is now 20 years old and that the NSDI strategic plan needs to be modernized to address changing requirements.

The drivers behind the NSDI Strategic Plan include OMB Circular A-16, the GAO report, the NGAC paper *Toward a National Geospatial Strategy* (December 2013), and the Administration's open government and open data policies.

Mr. Cotter provided an overview of the timeline for development of the strategic plan. An initial draft of the NSDI Strategic Plan will be completed by June 2013. NGAC input into this draft will be very helpful. A revised draft will be provided for public comment by July/August 2013. The completion of the plan is expected by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Cotter described the interagency core team that is developing the plan. The core team is meeting on a weekly basis. Mr. Cotter noted that two events related to the NSDI Strategic Plan were held in March 2013 – a Strategic Visioning Workshop for Federal leaders, and an NSDI Leaders Forum for non-Federal leaders. There was a high level of engagement and interest in both meetings.

The NGAC then held a facilitated discussion to identify key topics and concepts to be addressed in the strategic plan. Highlights of the discussion included the following points:

- Federal leadership and facilitation role is key.
- Need shift in thinking about what NSDI actually is...NSDI should be viewed as critical infrastructure –like highways, bridges, etc.
- Standards are important to other levels of government.
- Availability of data is now being driven by private sector – time for a conversation about building a federal open database; think more creatively about partnerships & licensed data.
- Federal role as an aggregator – 50 states plus private sector partners – doesn't make any difference who provides the data.
- Role of orchestration – implies all the parts are working together; coordination of acquisition, etc.
- NSDI is not really a thing but a concept. What is the federal gov't role in supporting the concept of the NSDI?
- Seeding, inspiring and collaborating with private sector.
- What about the state-to-state relationships – how to leverage those?
- Not doing a good job of messaging – need to communicate with the lay audience.
- Feds need to be more “consumers” of information.
- Facilitate organizational and funding partnerships in both public and private sector.
- Education role – need to be telling the next generation about NSDI –promote from their perspective.
- Need standards for next generation 911.

- Consider running competitions – e.g., advertise which counties are moving ahead on GIS...to encourage data sharing.
- Consider using scorecards – promote competition and peer pressure.
- Let people know what you have available (apps, data) and what you’ve done with it. Consider tools like message boards.
- Use business drivers and program needs to drive development, such as next gen 911.
- U.S. has reputation of being difficult country to work. Need to change mentality about access to geospatial data. Lots of people have to sign off to make it not “special.”
- Need to get better at sharing data – mentality has to change (from a “lawyer’s mindset”).
- Clearinghouse may be an appropriate model – promote access to Nation’s geospatial data.

**ACTION:** FGDC will provide a summary of the NGAC discussion of the NSDI Strategic Plan/Federal roles and responsibilities.

### **Geospatial Platform/Models for Data Sharing**

Jerry Johnston gave an update on the activities related to the Geospatial Platform, and discussed models for data sharing on the Platform. Dr. Johnston noted that the NGAC has provided very helpful feedback throughout the process of conceptualizing and developing the Platform. A year and a half ago, the Platform team launched a beta version to demonstrate capabilities, and the team is now finalizing the development of version 2 of the Platform, which will include greatly enhanced capabilities. Dr. Johnston provided a brief demonstration of the capabilities that will be featured in the updated version of the Platform. The goals of GeoPlatform 2.0 include facilitation of the use of geospatial data and tools rather than the data/tools themselves, and a focus on National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs) and A-16 data.

Major technological components of the Platform include use of content publication/registration features and hosting services. Geo.data.gov is migrating into Data.gov as a master metadata repository with a new catalog. They are also moving the geospatial hosting infrastructure change into ArcGIS online. With respect to the hosting services, the Platform team is building its own hosting infrastructure based on the GeoCloud infrastructure previously developed through FGDC Cloud Sandbox initiative. All FGDC agencies have contributed financially towards the cost of hosting services. The Platform is leveraging cloud computing capabilities as much as possible for efficiency and other advantages.

The Geospatial Platform website is based on open-source technologies, and code is being shared with the geospatial/developer community in order to promote re-use. The Platform team is using Data.gov as a backbone for the site and giving Data.gov back the updates for their own use. The Geospatial Platform will be hosting topical sub-sites such as A-16 data themes like transportation, and event-based sites (e.g., for hurricanes). The Geospatial Platform team is hoping to highlight Data as a Service (DaaS) opportunities. The Geospatial Platform team and Data.gov team are working together to create the final web interface. The next release will be available starting in May 2013. Content is organized by what the user wants to do: “collaborate,” “discover,” “share.” It is also organized by user communities: “explorer,” “developer,” and “publisher.” The Geospatial Platform team worked closely with OMB and the Data.gov team, among others, to respond to questions on clarifying where to find specific types of data. They are working on improving the user experience in order to put all data in one place. Another feature of the site will be the Geospatial Platform Marketplace – a mechanism for agencies to advertise a planned data acquisition and to look for partners, or confirm that the data already exists.

The Geospatial Platform 2.0 communities are actively being developed. Three of them in particular are the current focus: America’s Great Outdoors “National Blueways System/Rivers One Stop”; Energy, and NOAA/Agency Template Community. Agencies can choose to replace their planned portal development communities and re-brand them into the Geospatial Platform.

Dr. Johnston stated that they continue to need help from NGAC on the Geospatial Platform, especially in providing feedback on the updated Platform site as it is implemented. Another focus will be the data partnership models, including Data as a Service (DaaS) via public-private partnerships.

#### **A-16 Supplemental Guidance/Portfolio Management**

Adrian Gardner, Chief Information Officer of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, provided an update on FGDC activities related to the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance and geospatial portfolio management. Mr. Gardner noted that the GAO report included the following recommendation: “The Secretary of the Interior, as the FGDC Chair, should establish a time frame for completing a plan to facilitate the implementation of OMB's portfolio management guidance, and develop and implement the plan within the established time frame. The plan, at a minimum, should include goals and performance measures, and the FGDC should report annually to OMB on the progress made on efforts to improve coordination and reduce duplication among themes.”

In addressing this recommendation, the FGDC Steering Committee has initiated a process to develop an implementation plan with a phased approach that outlines the steps and associated timeframe for implementing OMB Circular A-16 and Supplemental Guidance requirements. Mr. Gardner noted that the FGDC has taken a number of actions to address the Supplemental Guidance, including revision of the A-16 data themes, and the delineation of roles and responsibilities related to the management of National Geospatial Data Assets.

The FGDC Steering Committee team working on the issue will formally announce the beginning of the OMB Circular A-16 Portfolio Management effort using memorandums and directives. The team will create a memorandum, to be signed by the FGDC Chair, describing agency responsibilities under the portfolio management approach. The proposed timeline for the A-16/portfolio management efforts was reviewed. In the April/May 2013 time frame, the team hopes to identify early adopters of A-16 portfolio management and to choose one or two themes to validate approach. In May/June, the high level guidance will be developed, and progress will be shared at the June NGAC and FGDC meetings.

#### **Landsat**

Tim Newman, Program Coordinator for the USGS Land Remote Sensing Program, provided an update on Landsat activities and an overview of the NGAC guidance related to Landsat. Mr. Newman discussed the LDCM launch on February 11, noting that launch precision was outstanding and was delivered to the precise orbit, which spared 2-3 years of orbit-keeping fuel. The spacecraft is still in the process of elevating to its ultimate 705 km orbit. Landsat is on schedule for transfer to USGS by late May. Mr. Newman noted that Landsat 5 has been orbiting for 25 years, but there have recently been problems with one of the imagers, so the satellite will be decommissioned once all of the fuel is exhausted; ultimately the satellite will burn up on re-entry into atmosphere (in approximately 30 years). Landsat 7 is still obtaining excellent image data, and is expected to be in orbit until 2016.

Mr. Newman noted that the Landsat Advisory Group provided very helpful feedback in 2012, and he provided an overview of the proposed 2013 Landsat study questions. The LAG is requested to provide advice and recommendations on Landsat-related issues for consideration by the NGAC, including: potential new applications of Landsat imagery, potential means of modifying the current products to make them more useful to commercial value-added providers; potential new approaches to data management and distribution; a dialogue with industry on future development of new terrestrial Climate Data Records (CDRs); review and comment on the National Research Council report on implementing a sustained land imaging program; and recommendations on partnership opportunities with existing foreign or commercial missions to maintain and augment DOI/USGS land imaging

capability. Mr. Newman indicated that the list of study questions would be refined and prioritized after meeting with the LAG.

### **Organizing to Address Guidance**

Bob Austin led a discussion on organizing to address the tasks in the FGDC Guidance. He provided a proposed set of subcommittees and membership for discussion by the group. The group discussed the proposed membership assignments as well as the guidance, study questions, and expected work products for each of the subcommittees. Dr. Austin noted that a meeting to kick off the activities of the NSDI strategic plan subcommittee was scheduled for April 12. He noted that FGDC staff would provide additional information about scheduling additional subcommittee meetings. A list of subcommittee assignments is posted on the FGDC website with the meeting materials. The NGAC agreed on the following actions:

**ACTION:** NGAC members contact Bob Austin with any requests for changes to subcommittee assignments.

**ACTION:** FGDC will work with subcommittee chairs/co-chairs to schedule kick-off meetings to initiate subcommittee activities.

### **Public Comment Period**

Public attendees of the meeting were provided an opportunity to present comments to the NGAC. The following comments were provided:

#### Mr. Butch Lazorchak, Library of Congress

Mr. Lazorchak provided a brief update on the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP), an archival program led by the Library of Congress to archive and provide access to digital resources. Mr. Lazorchak encouraged the NGAC to promote and participate in geospatial stewardship activities. He noted that there is a geospatial content working group, the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NSDA), which is exploring challenges to digital mapping. Membership in the NSDA is open to all interested participants, and potential members can contact Mr. Lazorchak if they are interested.

#### Mr. Dennis Klein, Boundary Solutions

Mr. Klein discussed open records requirements in the geospatial data industry. He stated that open records are a mandatory requirement for sustainable communities. He spoke about the advantages of a parcel-level GIS protocol for a sustainable GIS community, as well as the potential for addressing the recession through GIS. He noted that transit, walkability, and solar energy are all fields with potential for improvement through open records.

### **NGAC Member Announcements**

NGAC members were provided an opportunity to make brief announcements about activities of interest to the Committee.

#### Bert Granberg

Mr. Granberg gave an update on the Utah Address Database project funded through the Department of Commerce's NTIA broadband initiative. The project will provide an opportunity for testing local-to-state-to-Federal approaches that might seed a National Address Database with locally-sourced data content. Most, if not all, States are concluding the most efficient way to build and maintain address data is by coordinating and empowering the emergency response community. Emergency response has the strongest business case for collecting every address

(rural and urban) as early as possible, keeping this data current on a day-to-day basis, and ensuring data quality. Next Generation 911 (NG911) will in turn use geospatial data as a foundation for all elements of emergency response, and this community is quickly developing standards and best practices to prepare for NG911 requirements. In many cases, the emergency response community is tightening its coordination with local government GIS mapping and address authority staff. Mr. Granberg noted that coordination with local government is becoming easier as elected officials become more informed. This includes the local officials' exposure to NG911 and their strong desire, partly driven by constituent concerns, to ensure that their communities are on the world's commercial/consumer maps. Active and open sharing of local address data with the broader public and private sector does not seem as formidable a goal as it may have appeared even 5 years ago.

#### Gene Trobia

Mr. Trobia gave an update on Transportation for the Nation (TFTN) effort, which, along with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Map 21 initiative, is moving forward. USDOT has developed a strategic plan to guide the development of the TFTN effort. The plan identifies stakeholder needs relating to transportation data. The Map 21 effort incorporates concepts identified in the TFTN strategic plan and requires all public roads to be mapped and provided to USDOT. The Federal Highway Administration is moving forward with the development of the TFTN business plan, and they are seeking best practices and potential data models.

#### Roger Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell indicated that the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) has issued a draft RFP for a \$1.5+ billion procurement called GDS, which employs an entirely new method of maintaining NGA geospatial data holdings. The core enabling technology is a global new construction change indicator called Refined Persistent-change Model (RPM), which is based entirely on Landsat imagery from the last 15 years. This application was featured in the LAG Value Proposition paper.

#### **Meeting Summary/Wrap-Up**

The results and actions from the meeting were briefly summarized. The next NGAC meeting is planned for June 2013 in Washington, DC.

#### **Adjourn**

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

#### **Certification**

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

Robert Austin, 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 June 11, 2013***

## **April 2013 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/april-2013/index\\_html](http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/april-2013/index_html)

### **FGDC Guidance Overview**

- 2013 FGDC Guidance to NGAC
- Guidance Overview Presentation

### **NSDI Strategic Plan**

- NSDI Strategic Plan Overview Presentation

### **Geospatial Platform/Models for Data Sharing**

- Geospatial Platform Overview Presentation

### **A-16 Supplemental Guidance/Portfolio Management**

- A-16 Overview Presentation

### **Landsat**

- Landsat Overview Presentation

### **Organizing to Address Guidance**

- Draft NGAC Action Plan Presentation