

**NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**December 11, 2013**  
**Minutes**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public webinar meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on December 11, 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  
Richard Clark  
Keith Clarke  
Steve Coast  
Jack Dangermond  
David DiSera  
Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz  
Matthew Gentile  
Bert Granberg  
Michael Jones  
Jack Maguire  
E. Donald McKay  
Carolyn Merry  
Anne Hale Miglarese  
Roger Mitchell  
Matthew O'Connell  
Mark Reichardt  
Douglas Richardson  
Anthony Spicci  
Gary Thompson  
Gene Trobia  
Molly Vogt

**NGAC Members not present:**

Frank Harjo  
Michele Motsko  
Timothy Nyerges  
Patrick Olson  
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:**

Jim Bjostad (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency), Dan Cotter (U.S. Department of Homeland Security), J. Michael Brown (World of Change, Inc.), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Jennifer Gimbel (U.S. Department of the Interior), Charley Hickman (U.S. Geological Survey), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions), Butch Lazorchak (Library

of Congress), Lynda Liptrap (U.S. Census Bureau), Arista Maher (FGDC OS), Anne O'Connor (Census Bureau), Tim Newman (U.S. Geological Survey), John Palatiello (MAPPS), Jamelyn Payan (U.S. Government Accountability Office), Ken Shaffer (FGDC OS), Jon Sperling (Department of Housing and Urban Development), George Southard (Trimble Navigation), Tim Trainor (U.S. Census Bureau), Jessica Waselkow (U.S. Government Accountability Office).

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013**

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

Dr. Robert Austin (Chair) called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcomed the National Geospatial Advisory Committee members and audience to the meeting, and introduced Anne Castle, FGDC Chair and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior.

### **Leadership Dialogue**

Ms. Castle provided an update on the recent activities of the FGDC. She noted that despite the challenges posed by sequestration and the recent government shutdown, it has been a very productive year for the FGDC community. She expressed the FGDC community's appreciation for the NGAC's role in supporting these activities. Ms. Castle announced that Bob Austin has agreed to serve another year as the Chair of the NGAC and expressed her appreciation for his leadership. She also indicated that Interior hopes to announce the next set of NGAC appointments by the end of December.

Ms. Castle discussed the NSDI strategic plan and noted that the NGAC will be reviewing the Final Draft NSDI Strategic Plan and considering an endorsement during the meeting. She also indicated that the plan had been sent to the FGDC Steering Committee for an electronic vote on adoption. She reiterated that she believed it is an excellent plan that will provide a clear roadmap for FGDC's activities over the next several years. She noted that the NGAC has played a critical role in the development of the plan, and that the FGDC looks forward to further collaboration on the implementation of the plan.

Ms. Castle noted that the draft OMB Circular A-16 Implementation Plan would also be discussed during the meeting. She noted that the FGDC would provide a draft for NGAC members' comments in January 2014. Ms. Castle thanked Adrian Gardner, Dan Cotter, and Ivan DeLoatch and the FGDC team for their work on both the NSDI Strategic Plan and the A-16 Implementation Plan. She also thanked NGAC subcommittees for their work on identifying study questions for next year and completing preliminary work on National Address Database, Geolocation Privacy, Landsat, and other items. She noted that the NGAC's advice on these, and other topics, will be of continuing importance for the Federal geospatial, community.

**ACTION:** The next set of appointments to the NGAC is currently under final review in the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. FGDC expects that the announcement of the new appointments will be made by the end of December 2013.

### **Introductions and Adoption of December 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Austin asked NGAC members to introduce themselves and provided the ground rules for the webinar meeting. Dr. Austin reviewed the draft minutes of the September 2013 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the minutes of the September 4-5, 2013 meeting.

### **NSDI Strategic Plan**

Dan Cotter, Geospatial Information Officer for the Department of Homeland Security, provided an overview of the status of the NSDI Strategic Plan. Mr. Cotter reviewed the high-level timeline for the NSDI Strategic Plan and

discussed key points in the development of the plan, including NGAC input, stakeholder forums, and the public comment period. Mr. Cotter noted that the FGDC has been pleased with the level of feedback from stakeholders and members of the geospatial community. He indicated that the final draft version of the strategic plan is currently out for approval vote by the FGDC Steering Committee. Mr. Cotter briefly summarized the revisions included in the final draft version of the plan.

Ivan DeLoatch introduced a discussion of the NSDI Strategic Plan final draft version. Several members, including Anne Miglarese and Jack Maguire, voiced their support of the plan and appreciation for the FGDC's work in moving it forward. Bob Austin introduced a motion for the NGAC to endorse the NSDI Strategic Plan. Following discussion by the committee, the NGAC approved the following decision:

**DECISION:** The NGAC approved a resolution endorsing the NSDI Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan has also been forwarded to the FGDC Steering Committee for final adoption.

Mr. DeLoatch noted that the FGDC will turn its focus in 2014 to the implementation of the strategic plan. This will include the designation of Executive Champions for the goals and objectives in the plan, and the development of action plans outlining the implementation approach. He reiterated that the FGDC looks forward to continuing collaboration with the NGAC on these efforts.

#### **A-16 Implementation Plan**

Ivan DeLoatch provided an update on the OMB Circular A-16/Portfolio Management Implementation Plan, which is being developed to implement the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance. The plan also addresses one of the recommendations to the FGDC in the recent GAO report on geospatial programs.

Mr. DeLoatch reviewed the key elements in the Supplemental Guidance and the GAO recommendation. He also discussed the main points of the FGDC response, including direction memorandums sent to the FGDC Steering Committee and to agencies through the President's Management Council. He also discussed the implementation approach, including the designation of a project team and Executive Champions (Adrian Gardner of NASA and Mr. DeLoatch).

Mr. DeLoatch described the actions the FGDC has taken to lay the groundwork for the plan, including:

- Comparing the theme datasets with Data.gov/Geospatial Platform records.
- Developing high level guidance data theme leads.
- Establishment of theme lead communities on the Geospatial Platform.
- Developing data lifecycle maturity guidance.
- Validation of dataset inventory.

Mr. DeLoatch reviewed the schedule for the development of the plan. He indicated that the plan will be aligned with the NSDI Strategic Plan, and will be phased in over the next three years.

The Implementation Plan is organized into two main parts: establishing the portfolio foundation, and launching the portfolio management process. The plan also has a set of objectives and actions associated with each section. The next step in the process is to send the draft document to the FGDC community for comment in early January 2014. The plan will also be sent to NGAC members for comment. The goal is to finalize the plan and have it approved by the FGDC Steering Committee by March 31, 2014.

**ACTION:** FGDC will distribute the draft A-16/Portfolio Management Implementation Plan to NGAC members for review and comment in mid-January 2014. Additional details and instructions will be provided prior to distribution.

## **NGAC Member Announcements**

Doug Richardson – Announced that the AAG is planning a symposium on GIS and public policy, including a panel drawn from the NGAC, to discuss GIS policy issues. The symposium will be held during the AAG Conference in Tampa on April 8-12, 2014. NGAC members interested in participating should contact Doug. Bob Austin and Dave Cowen (former NGAC Chair) will participate on the panel.

Mr. Mark Reichardt – Announced that OGC will hold its quarterly technical meeting in Crystal City, VA during the week of Week of March 24, 2014. NGAC members who are interested in participating should contact Mark.

## **Geospatial Workforce and Education Subcommittee**

Dave DiSera provided an update on the Geospatial Workforce and Education Subcommittee's recent activities. The subcommittee was asked to review the National Science and Technology Council's 5-Year Strategic Plan for Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education and to provide an assessment of how geospatial education is addressed in the plan and its implementation activities. The subcommittee was also asked to identify opportunities to more effectively incorporate geospatial education and training into the implementation of the STEM strategic plan.

The subcommittee held a series of conference calls and reviewed several documents, including the Federal STEM Strategic Plan, the NRC Report on the Future U.S. Workforce for Geospatial Intelligence, and the DOI STEM Education and Employment Pathways Strategic Plan. Key findings included the following:

- The Federal STEM Plan is at a strategic level, does not reference specific programs or disciplines.
- DOL related material show that federal agencies are recognizing GIS as a STEM component – this acknowledgement is a breakthrough.
- The DOI STEM Plan references GIS and programs for employment in GIS related fields.

The subcommittee also identified a set of key challenges and completed an initial analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats regarding the geospatial workforce. For instance, there is no clear or broadly-accepted definition for what constitutes the “geospatial industry” or “geospatial workforce,” and there is not a clear educational path to credentialing and classified employment as well. The subcommittee also discussed the impact that these challenges have on the Federal government. Potential actions to address these challenges include:

- Reviewing and revising NAICS Codes to better fit jobs with substantial activities rooted in geospatial technology.
- Assessing geospatial Generalist to Specialist education and certification/credentialing.
- Assessing the CIP/degree code for geospatial included in the definition of STEM education.

## **National Address Database Subcommittee**

Gene Trobia gave a status report on the National Address Database Subcommittee. The NGAC developed a paper on the need for the development of the National Address Database (NAD) in 2012. Subsequently, the NGAC passed a resolution in September 2013 reiterating its support for the establishment of a NAD. Current activities of the Subcommittee include working with NSGIC, NENA, and NaCo to identify use cases for the NAD, and examining opportunities to more effectively incorporate Addresses into the A-16 framework.

Mr. Trobia reviewed the subcommittee's key findings, including:

- There is currently no clear A-16 reference to addresses.
- There is a need to have addresses be part of the NSDI.
- There is not a clear delineation of responsibility for creating a NAD.
- Addresses are needed to facilitate and enable a variety of cross agency projects.

Mr. Trobia also summarized the potential next steps for the subcommittee, including the following:

- Continue to develop compelling uses cases describing the need for a National Address Database.
- Encourage agencies to propose adjustments to the A-16 schema and develop a NAD.
- Explore ways to facilitate and enable agencies to conduct cross-agency projects

Tim Trainor, the Chief of the Geography Division at the U.S. Census Bureau, addressed the NGAC and shared recent activities related to addressing, including possible approaches to adjusting the A-16 themes to better incorporate address data.

### **Geolocation Privacy Subcommittee**

Joanne Gabrynowicz gave an update on the activities of the Geolocation Privacy Subcommittee. The FGDC Guidance on geolocation privacy was briefly reviewed, in addition to the subcommittee's membership. Recent activities included a number of brainstorming sessions via webinar.

The subcommittee found that there is no clear Federal policy lead and no commonly accepted definition for geolocation privacy. They found that the subject is very broad and needs to be narrowed, as the discussion is happening in many places simultaneously. NGAC membership should be leveraged so that they can interact with their contacts in various communities to bring them into the discussion.

Ms. Gabrynowicz identified several potential next steps for the subcommittee, including the following:

- Review the proceedings of the September 2012 NGAC spotlight session on privacy.
- Consider inventorying specific communities with an interest in geolocation privacy issues (e.g., State and local government organizations) to examine approaches and best practices.
- Consider exploring technical approaches to address geolocation privacy concerns.

The NGAC had a general discussion of privacy issues. Keith Clarke mentioned that technology is outpacing policy—he noted that he believes this question will continue to become more important. Doug Richardson mentioned that technical approaches to protecting privacy should be examined as well as policy/legal approaches. The members agreed that location privacy issues will be continuing challenges for the geospatial community.

### **Landsat Advisory Group**

Tim Newman (USGS) and Roger Mitchell provided an update on the Landsat Advisory Group's (LAG) recent activities, including presentation of three papers for consideration by the NGAC. Mr. Newman began by discussing the operational status of Landsat 8. It is performing well and has been operating for over 6 months. Over 500 images per day are being collected, and there are no issues with the satellite. Landsat 7, which is collecting over 400 images per day, has approximately three years of service remaining based on its current fuel level. Mr. Newman discussed the wide diversity of Landsat data users.

Mr. Newman indicated that NASA and USGS are engaged in a study to define a land imaging system for the next 20 years. The Administration has a strong commitment to the program. Continuity with 41 years of past measurements is a top concern, especially with the impending end of the Landsat 7 mission. The NASA/USGS Sustainable Architecture Study Team is examining new technologies that will be available in the coming years.

Roger Mitchell provided an update on the recent activities of the LAG. Mr. Mitchell reviewed the 2013 guidance to the LAG and summarized the group's activities to address the guidance. Several teams were established to develop papers to address the study questions in the guidance. Mr. Mitchell provided an overview of the papers addressing Landsat Product Improvement, Landsat Cloud Computing, and NGAC Comments on recent NRC Landsat Report, "*Landsat and Beyond: Sustaining and Enhancing the Nation's Land Imaging Program.*"

The NGAC members discussed the three papers, and a motion to adopt the papers was introduced. The NGAC made the following decision:

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted three papers developed by the Landsat Advisory Group:

- NGAC Landsat Product Improvement Paper
- NGAC Landsat Cloud Computing Paper
- NGAC Comments on NRC Landsat Report

Ivan DeLoatch thanked the subcommittees for their work and indicated that the subcommittee reports and recommendations will be very helpful in developing the 2014 FGDC guidance to the NGAC.

**ACTION:** The FGDC will incorporate the feedback and suggestions from the NGAC subcommittee reports into the development of the 2014 FGDC guidance to the NGAC. The new guidance will be developed in early 2014.

### **Public Comment Period**

An opportunity was provided for members of the public who had signed up in advance to provide comments.

Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions). Mr. Klein provided an update on open records activities, summarizing the significant impacts of the recent California state court decision related to open records in Orange County, CA. He also discussed the societal and economic benefits of open public records and discussed a value proposition related to sustainability. He also expressed his strong support for the NGAC's efforts related to a National Address Database.

### **Other NGAC Member Comments**

Jack Dangermond. Mr. Dangermond discussed the National Address Database. He indicated that he had recently met with U.S. Postal Service officials and that the Postmaster General's office is interested in the creation of a National Address Database. Mr. Dangermond indicated that the Postal Service is interested in partnering with other agencies, including the Census Bureau, to pursue this initiative.

Gene Trobia. Mr. Trobia said he was pleased to hear of the Postal Service's interest in a National Address Database. However, he also noted that the Postal Service has certain restrictions on data sharing that would need to be considered.

Molly Vogt. Ms. Vogt asked about the FGDC and NGAC's overall messaging/communications approach for their various products and initiatives. She suggested looking at the communications process holistically, and tailoring messages to the intended audiences.

Gary Thompson. Mr. Thompson provided a brief update on North Carolina's elevation and imagery initiatives.

### **Meeting Wrap-Up**

Bob Austin and John Mahoney summarized the actions and decisions from the meeting and noted the NGAC meeting dates for 2014:

- April 1-2 (Washington, DC)
- June 24-25 (Washington, DC)
- September 23-24 (Shepherdstown, WV)

**Adjournment**

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 April 2, 2014***

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

### **NSDI Strategic Plan**

- NSDI Strategic Plan Presentation

### **A-16/Portfolio Management Implementation Plan**

- A-16 Implementation Plan Presentation

### **Geospatial Workforce and Education**

- Geospatial Workforce and Education Subcommittee Report

### **National Address Database**

- National Address Database Subcommittee Report

### **Geolocation Privacy**

- Geolocation Privacy Subcommittee Report

### **Landsat**

- USGS Landsat Program Update
- Landsat Advisory Group Presentation
- NGAC Landsat Product Improvement Paper
- NGAC Landsat Cloud Computing Paper
- NGAC Comments on NRC Landsat Report

### **NGAC Member Updates**

- North Carolina Geospatial Update (Thompson)