

National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting
December 6, 2018
Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting on December 6, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST. The meeting was held 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:

Julie Sweetkind-Singer, NGAC Chair
Keith Masback, NGAC Vice Chair
Frank Avila
Sarah Battersby
Gar Clarke
Garet Couch
Pat Cummens
Frank Harjo
Roberta Lenczowski
Kevin Pomfret
Laxmi Ramasubramanian
Carl Reed
Cy Smith
Rebecca Somers
Jennie Stapp
Harvey Thorleifson
Jason Warzinik
May Yuan

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.

NGAC members not in attendance:

David Alexander
Talbot Brooks
Stuart Davis
Matthew Gentile
Xavier Irias
Roger Mitchell
Rebecca Moore
Amber Reynolds
Doug Richardson

Other Attendees:

Dierdre Bevington-Attardi (DOC), John Byrd (NSPS), Lucia Foulkes (FGDC), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Susan Harris (USGS), Tony LaVoi (DOC), Tom Lee (Mapbox), Lynda Liptrap (DOC), Adam Martin (Esri), Ryan

Nichols (DOI), Tim Petty (DOI), Gita Urban-Mathieux (USGS), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Kenton Yearick (Maser Consulting)

Welcome & Meeting Overview

Julie Sweetkind-Singer (NGAC Chair), called the public meeting at 1:00 p.m. EST and welcomed members and attendees. Member and attendee introductions were made. An overview of the agenda was provided. Ms. Sweetkind-Singer noted that this would be her last meeting serving as the NGAC Chair. She thanked all members for their service and contributions.

Review and adoption of Minutes from September NGAC meeting

The draft minutes of the September 2018 NGAC meeting were reviewed, and the Chair called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the September 5-6, 2018 NGAC meeting.

FGDC/Federal Programs Update

Ivan DeLoatch provided an update on FGDC business activities. Highlights included the following:

GeoPathways: FGDC launched the GeoPathways internship program to attract and prepare future workforce for geospatial careers. During 2018, students were selected from 18 universities. The students participated in various projects that included USGS programmatic areas and GeoPlatform activities. For 2019, some of the students are returning as team leads. The goal is to strengthen partnerships, understanding of the importance of outreach, and promote opportunities to help students.

Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Disasters Management Project: OGC initiated a Disaster Concept Development Study in early 2018. This has been a very successful initiative. There were several workshops held in 2018 that focused on developing use cases. The initial results were released, and OGC is compiling an engineering report based on these results. The goal for 2019 is to strengthen partnerships in disaster response programs. An RFP will be released in January 2019 to launch the pilot in February.

National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Management: The work that has been done on the NGDA portfolio management process, including the NGDA 2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA), the NGDA Theme Strategic & Implementation Plans, and the NGDA Theme Report, will be utilized to address the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act (GDA). The NGDA LMA has been approved by the FGDC Steering Committee and is now available on GeoPlatform.

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) Report Card Update: COGO has been working to complete the second Report Card on the NSDI. FGDC has provided ongoing Federal perspectives of the assessment and has ensured that COGO had access to Federal point of contacts and information. All 8 assessments have been completed and are in final review. The completion of this process is expected in January/February of 2019.

2018 NGAC Nominations Update: The call for nomination closed in August 2018. Approximately one-half of the appointments will expire in December. FGDC received many well-qualified nominations. An interagency panel has reviewed the nominations and made recommendations to DOI, which is scheduled to make the final selections by the end of December 2018.

ACTION: FGDC leadership and staff are working with the Office of the Secretary of the Interior to finalize the next set of appointments to the NGAC. The appointments are expected to be completed by the end of December 2018.

Geospatial Data Act of 2018

Ivan DeLoatch reported that the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) was signed into law on October 5, 2018. It was attached to the FAA Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 302). FGDC is analyzing the text to identify directions and requirements.

The Bill codifies the roles of the FGDC that are currently outlined on OMB Circular A-16. It also codifies the NGAC to provide recommendations and additional responsibilities in partnership with FGDC. In addition, it establishes requirements for the NSDI, and codifies NGDA Themes, geospatial data standards, and the Geospatial Platform. Agencies are directed to use the Geospatial Platform when appropriate. The GDA includes direction for Federal covered agencies. OMB and FGDC are discussing involvement of additional agencies that are expected to participate in the implementation of the law.

The GDA was discussed during the FGDC Steering Committee meeting in October. The Steering Committee established an interagency Tiger Team to analyze the impacts of the bill. The Tiger Team held a workshop on November 14-15 to begin initial analysis. A key objective is to develop a plan and timeline for the implementation of the GDA. The Tiger Team identified four work groups to continue analysis of the components of the GDA:

- Governance/Organization (Secs 753, 754)
 - LEAD: Nancy Blyler (DOD/USACE)
 - Review FGDC/NGAC governance and organization
- Data, Standards, and Delivery (Secs 755, 756, 757, 758)
 - LEAD: Bill Mullen (NGA)
 - Review NSDI, NGDA, Standards, and GeoPlatform requirements
- Covered Agencies/Reporting (Secs 759, 759A)
 - LEAD: Tony LaVoi (NOAA)
 - Review covered agency requirements and GDA planning/reporting responsibilities
- Communication/Outreach
 - LEAD: Pam Isom (DOE)
 - Develop communications & outreach strategy

John Mahoney discussed the NGAC section of the GDA (Sec. 754) and noted consistencies and changes with the current NGAC practices and reported on key takeaways from the GDA workshop. The NGAC engaged in a discussion of the GDA, including discussion of the establishment of an ad hoc team to provide comments on the initial analysis conducted by the FGDC.

The NGAC Chair asked for volunteers to be part of the ad hoc team. The following members volunteered: Cy Smith, Jenny Stapp, Bobbi Lenczowski, Julie Sweetkind-Singer, Pat Cummins, and Rebecca Somers.

ACTION: NGAC established short-term action team to initiate NGAC engagement in implementation of the Geospatial Data Act (GDA). The NGAC will establish longer term GDA subcommittee(s) following appointment of new NGAC members in 2019.

Data as a Service

Sarah Battersby provided an update on the subcommittee's activities. The subcommittee developed a paper, "Geospatial Data as Service Use Cases" that was presented to the NGAC for their consideration and adoption. The group revised the paper based on the feedback provided in September.

NGAC comments and suggestions on the paper:

- Add an introductory section to the paper
- Fix several links in the document that were not working

Following discussion of the paper, the NGAC made the following decision:

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the Geospatial Data as a Service Use Cases paper pending minor editorial changes.

Geospatial Technology & Infrastructure

Cy Smith provided an update on the subcommittee's activities. The group is working on a best practices paper. The subcommittee has developed a suite of documents related to infrastructure, including:

- Paper: Geospatial Information: The Key to Smart Infrastructure
- Use Cases Paper, including the following uses cases:
 - Permit and Streamlining
 - Road Maintenance
 - Underground Renewal
 - NY State Cultural Resources Information System (NYCRIS)
- Best practices: This document was distributed to the NGAC for review and comment.

NGAC feedback:

- Any research done on other kinds of best practices for infrastructure? Other organizations may have best practices that can be included in this paper.
- Embed geospatial in each of these elements as much as possible
- Emphasize utilizing GIS to manage infrastructure and prioritize investments
- Emphasize geospatial advantage to enhance these best practices

Next steps:

- Complete the best practice document by April 2019.
- NGAC to provide feedback by January 14, 2019.
- Finalize best practices document for review by NGAC in 2019.
- Request NGAC approval at the spring 2019 NGAC meeting.

ACTION: Subcommittee will provide draft best practices paper to NGAC prior to the March 2019 NGAC meeting.

Leadership Dialogue

Dr. Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and FGDC Chair, provided comments and engaged in a dialogue with NGAC members. He noted that the GDA Tiger Team is working to analyze the GDA, and he looks forward to getting input from the NGAC on the GDA.

Dr. Petty noted that the GDA provides an opportunity to interact with Congress and to convey that geospatial data and technology are critical to good governance. The NGAC will play a significant role not only with the Federal community but also as a means to collaborate with other partners.

Cultural Resources

Garet Couch provided an update on the subcommittee's activities. The subcommittee is working on a paper addressing the protection of geospatial assets related to cultural and historical resources. The group developed a standardized guide to interview Federal contacts. Mr. Couch reported on the highlights of the findings in these interviews. The group identified recommendations and next steps.

Next steps

- Finalize analysis of interview data
- Have a draft report prior to the March 2019 meeting for review by the NGAC
- Develop 2nd draft prior to June 2019 meeting

ACTION: Subcommittee will provide draft paper to NGAC prior to the March 2019 NGAC meeting.

Landsat Advisory Group

Frank Avila and Roberta Lenczowski reported on the activities of the Landsat Advisory Group. A status report on Task #3 from the LAG guidance, "Cost sharing models for Landsat data", was provided. DOI leadership has requested that USGS consider options for cost sharing of the Landsat data to support the Sustainable Land Imaging model.

The USGS (Ft. Collins) economic study preliminary results are expected to be available to the LAG by January 2019. The LAG plans to provide draft version of the paper to NGAC prior to the March 2019 NGAC meeting.

ACTION: Subcommittee will provide draft paper to NGAC prior to the March 2019 NGAC meeting.

Public Comment Period

An opportunity for public comment was provided to meeting attendees.

John Byrd – NSPS

Mr. Byrd provided comments on the NGAC use case paper on Underground Renewal. He suggested that additional information on subsurface utility engineering be included in the paper.

Planning for 2019 NGAC Activities/NGAC Feedback

Julie Sweetkind-Singer and Keith Masback discussed plans for the NGAC meetings in 2019. Mr. Masback reported on the results from an assessment completed in September.

Assessment summary

- Appreciation for the diverse perspectives on the NGAC.
- In-person meetings provide good ROI.

- Having panel discussions and having interactions with federal geospatial managers is helpful.
- Subcommittee work is focused and effective.
- Genuine interest and support from senior government leaders is meaningful.

Areas for improvement

- Consider extending the Shepherdstown meeting by one day.
- Desire for feedback from FGDC and others regarding impact of the NGAC recommendations, advice, and products.
- Better balance in presentations versus discussions.
- Add young professionals to the groups for additional perspectives.

Other considerations

- Consider surveying the FGDC to solicit feedback on NGAC's impact.
- Consider unique composition of LAG model for other subcommittee work.
- Frustration could grow if FGDC initiatives are not implemented and adequately funded.
- Renew our commitment to one another and the mission by both attending (in full) and by being present at meetings.

Dialogue with members

- What are the next steps?
 - Assessment is helpful and timely. Will revisit the operating procedures of the NGAC and this feedback will be a factor in the discussions on how to update and modernize to support the requirements of the GDA.
- Continue to bring voices from the outside of the geospatial community (e.g. NICB, medical community etc.), including consumers of data.

Announcements & Wrap-up

Ivan DeLoatch thanked the NGAC Chair and Vice Chair on behalf of the FGDC for their leadership and their service. The NGAC Chair reviewed and summarized actions and next steps.

ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Certification

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

Ms. Julie Sweetkind-Singer, 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 May 8, 2019

December 2018 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/december-2018/index.html>

FGDC Update

- FGDC Status Report

Geospatial Data Act

- GDA Overview

Data as a Service Subcommittee

- NGAC Geospatial Data as a Service Use Cases Paper

Geospatial Technology & Infrastructure Subcommittee

- Geospatial Technology & Infrastructure Subcommittee Status Report

Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee

- Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee Update

Landsat Advisory Group

- Landsat Advisory Group Status Report

NGAC Feedback

- 2018 NGAC Assessment