

**NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 12, 2012**  
**Minutes**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on January 12, 2012. 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:**

David Cowen (Chair)

Jerry Johnston (Vice-Chair)

Robert Austin

Richard Clark

Jack Dangermond

David DiSera

Joanne Gabrynowicz

Bert Granberg

Kass Green

Laurie Kurilla

James Kwolek

Xavier Lopez

E. Donald McKay

Anne Hale Miglarese

Timothy Nyerges

Matthew O'Connell

Patrick Olson

Jack Pellicci

Mark Reichardt

Cynthia Salas

Eugene Schiller

Anthony Spicci

Gary Thompson

Gene Trobia

Molly Vogt

David Wyatt

**NGAC Members not present:**

Randy Johnson

Kimberly Nelson

Anne Castle, Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, and Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, were also in attendance.

**Other Attendees:**

Cliff Allison (NAVTEQ Corporation), Melony Barrett (Illinois State Geological Survey), Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA), Don Buhler (BLM), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), Marisa Capriotti (USDA), Lori Caramanian (DOI),

Dom Conte (Orbital Sciences Corporation), John Copple (Sanborn Map Company), Dan Cotter (DHS), Gladys Cotter, Jeff Cullen (Grant Thornton), Pat Cummins (ESRI), Randy Fusaro (Census Bureau), Kevin Gallagher (USGS), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Glenn Guempel (USGS), Charles Hickman (USGS), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions, Inc.), Kaelin Kuhn (U.S. Government Accountability Office), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress), Arista Maher (FGDC), John Mahoney (FGDC), Jamelyn Payan (U.S. Government Accountability Office), Lea Shanley (Woodrow Wilson Center), Vaishal Sheth (FGDC), Jon Sperling (HUD), Heather Sumpter (Grant Thornton), Gita Urban-Mathieux (FGDC).

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

Dr. David Cowen (NGAC Chair) called the public meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the NGAC members and audience to the meeting. Dr. Cowen provided an overview of the purpose and objectives of the meeting. He also provided an overview of the logistics and protocols for the webinar and teleconference.

### Review and Adoption of October 2011 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Cowen reviewed the draft minutes of the October 4-5, 2011 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the minutes of the October 4-5, 2011 meeting.

### **Leadership Dialogue**

FGDC Chair Anne Castle (DOI) provided remarks on FGDC and Administration activities and priorities, and provided updates on several topics, including the following:

#### Recent FGDC Activities

In November 2011, the FGDC completed the Geospatial Platform Value Proposition document. The FGDC received input on this document from the NGAC at the October 2011 meeting. Ms. Castle noted that the NGAC comments were very helpful. She indicated that the FGDC is now in the process of developing a Business Plan for the Platform. The Business Plan will include sections on a shared funding strategy and a governance approach, including a recommendation for a Managing Partner for the Geospatial Platform. The FGDC Executive Committee and Steering Committee will be discussing the Business Plan in further detail in the coming weeks, and the FGDC will seek NGAC's input on the Business Plan in the near future.

#### GAO Review of Federal Geospatial Activities

Ms. Castle provided an update on the review of Federal geospatial activities that is being conducted by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). The review was requested by the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The GAO team has requested information from FGDC agencies and is planning to conduct a series of interviews. Ms. Castle noted that she has sent information about the review to the NGAC members and will continue to keep the committee apprised of the status of the review as it proceeds. Ms. Castle also noted that DOI and FGDC welcome this review and look forward to GAO's recommendations on how greater efficiencies can be achieved.

#### Landsat

Ms. Castle provided an update on Landsat activities, and thanked the NGAC for their resolution in support of a National Land Imaging Program. She noted that FGDC and NGAC are in the process of establishing a new NGAC Landsat Subcommittee, and that she looks forward to working with the new group once it is established.

### Geospatial Workforce White Paper

Ms. Castle expressed her thanks for the efforts of the NGAC in developing the Geospatial Workforce Development white paper and commented on the thoughtful nature of the report. She said that it includes helpful and practical recommendations to enhance the geospatial workforce. She also noted that she has shared the section from the report on STEM education with members of the Administration's STEM Committee, and that the NGAC input on this topic was very timely.

### Innovative Strategies White Paper

Ms. Castle thanked the team that developed the draft Innovative Strategies paper for their work, and she indicated that the paper had the potential to serve as a roadmap for future NGAC activities. She also noted that while she believed the paper had shown improvement from earlier drafts, she shared the concerns that had been expressed by the FGDC staff and believed there were opportunities for further improvements and clarifications.

Ms. Castle shared a number of observations and suggestions on the paper, including the following:

- The paper should focus on a few high-priority, achievable goals. She noted that this is particularly important in the current budget environment.
- Organizational recommendations. Ms. Castle said she did not believe the paper made a persuasive case for moving FGDC responsibilities out of the Department of the Interior. She noted that the paper recognized that there is renewed senior level support for FGDC from multiple agencies, that the Steering Committee has been reconstituted, and that there is a high level of engagement at both OMB and Interior. Ms. Castle indicated that Interior's leadership believes that Interior is the right home for the FGDC. This is due to the close affinity of Interior's geospatial mission responsibilities and the depth of staff with geospatial expertise. She noted that these conditions do not necessarily apply at other potential homes for the FGDC.
- The paper would also benefit from more explicit statements about the outcomes NGAC would like to see from the implementation of the recommendations.

Ms. Castle expressed her hope that the NGAC would take her comments into account as they considered the draft papers. Ms. Castle concluded her talk by noting that DOI and the FGDC welcome the constructive input that NGAC has provided to date, and that she looks forward to continued positive engagement.

### **FGDC Update**

Ivan DeLoatch provided a report on the recent activities of the FGDC. Highlights included the following:

#### Geospatial Platform Business Plan

The Platform business plan is currently being drafted by an interagency team. FGDC plans to seek NGAC comment on the plan.

#### A-16 Supplemental Guidance

FGDC is developing training and a template for Agency Implementation Plans for the A-16 Supplemental Guidance. FGDC is refining and updating inventory of the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets for each NGDA Theme. FGDC is also planning an initial pilot implementation on one Theme.

### GAO Review

GAO held an entrance interview with DOI in January 2012 – interviews and information gathering is now underway.

### FGDC Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP)

FY 2012 CAP Announcement on Grants.gov closes on January 24, 2012.

### Phase II, Geospatial and Semantic Cloud Computing

FGDC is seeking nominations of projects for the second year of the geospatial cloud computing testbed.

### Standards

The Federal Trails Data Standards, FGDC-STD-017-2011, has been posted to the FGDC web site:

[http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/trail-data-standard/Federal\\_Trail\\_Data\\_Standards\\_FGDC-STD-017-2011.pdf](http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/trail-data-standard/Federal_Trail_Data_Standards_FGDC-STD-017-2011.pdf)

### NGAC Charter Renewal

The NGAC Charter will be renewed by 1/28/12 – with minor revisions to current version.

### 2012 NGAC Call for Nominations

10 of the 28 current NGAC appointments will expire on 12/31/12. FGDC will issue a Call for Nominations for the next round of appointments in Spring 2012.

### Establishment of NGAC Landsat Subcommittee

Draft terms of reference/membership for the new subcommittee are currently under review.

Mr. DeLoatch noted that the next meetings of the FGDC Steering Committee will be held on April 19 and September 20, 2012.

### **Geospatial Platform Update**

NGAC Vice-Chair Jerry Johnston gave an update on the recent Geospatial Platform activities. At the last NGAC meeting, FGDC provided a demonstration of technical capabilities. Currently, the focus is on the Business Plan and operationalizing the Platform.

The status of the Business Plan was briefly reviewed. The Business Plan outline includes the following sections: Executive Summary, Value Proposition, Background, and Concept of Operations, Governance and Organizational Approach, Costs and Funding Model, Risk Management, Measuring Performance, and Appendices and Reference Documents. Dr. Johnston noted that the Platform team is trying to keep the Business Plan document as succinct as possible.

The governance and organizational approach, and in particular, the designation of the Managing Partner, is an issue the FGDC and Geospatial Platform team is continuing to develop. The Cost and Funding model is another ongoing topic of discussion. The team is refining cost information (including staffing costs) and developing alternatives for interim and longer-term funding models.

Issues that the team will be looking to NGAC for help on include: the concept of operations, specifically developing criteria for establishing a network of trusted partners who can contribute data, services and applications to the Geospatial Platform; and governance, specifically how to include Federal

stakeholders in the Platform governance process. Dr. Johnson noted that the FGDC will seek NGAC input on the Platform business plan in the near future.

Anne Miglarese stated that the NGAC Geospatial Platform Subcommittee is looking forward to responding to requests. She stated that the outline looks comprehensive, and that focusing on the “ConOps” and governance approach will be beneficial.

**ACTION:** The FGDC Secretariat will arrange a meeting with the NGAC Geospatial Platform Subcommittee to gather input on the Platform business plan outline.

### **Data Acquisition as a Service**

Kevin Gallagher (USGS) presented on a proposal for enhancing the Geospatial Platform through offering data acquisition as a service. Data Acquisition as a Service could be a very useful addition to the Platform offering. Not all geospatial community members have either the ability or the resources to contract for data acquisition services, and others who do might also be able to gain efficiencies by utilizing the Platform’s acquisition offerings. USGS proposes beginning with a single data theme such as elevation, and then gauge interest and assess additional opportunities.

The USGS Geospatial Products and Services Contract provides an existing vehicle for data acquisition as a service. The potential services provided by USGS through this contract were outlined. Some of the potential benefits of this approach include: enabling rapid data acquisition to respond to natural disasters and other urgent issues; achieving economies of scale; bringing USGS expertise with contracting and quality assurance to the community; assuring that standards and quality are built into acquisitions; and bringing additional value to the Geospatial Platform offering.

### **Innovative Strategies White Paper**

Dr. Tim Nyerges gave a presentation on the draft NGAC Innovative Strategies paper. Dr. Nyerges provided background on the paper, gave a summary of revisions since the October NGAC meeting, and provided an overview of the key findings and recommendations. Since the December 8, 2011 meeting of the subcommittee, the paper has been updated and reformatted to reflect comments and suggestions from NGAC members. The subcommittee has also added an executive summary, added a table of contents, and simplified and clarified the recommendations and justifications.

The paper includes recommendations addressing the three key areas in the FGDC guidance:

- Strategically leveraging and influencing technologies, policies, & trends.
- Fostering a data integration environment that facilitates better decision-making and supports place-based policies.
- Utilizing public-private partnerships and other innovative solutions to develop geospatial data, fill critical data gaps, and leverage scarce resources.

Following Dr. Nyerges’ presentation, the NGAC engaged in a discussion about the paper, the recommendations, and next steps. The discussion included points raised in Anne Castle’s presentation earlier in the meeting. The NGAC generally agreed that the paper was improved from the earlier draft, but should undergo additional revisions to address the feedback from NGAC members. The group also agreed that NGAC members should have an additional opportunity to provide input to the subcommittee. The NGAC agreed to defer final action until the April NGAC meeting to allow the subcommittee to make the appropriate changes to the paper.

**ACTION:** The NGAC will defer final action on the Innovative Strategies paper until the April NGAC meeting. The Subcommittee will consider recent developments and feedback from Anne Castle, FGDC, and other NGAC members in developing the next version of the paper. The Subcommittee will work with FGDC staff to develop an interactive process to refine the recommendations.

### **Geospatial Workforce Development White Paper**

Mr. Dave DiSera presented the Geospatial Workforce subcommittee's recent revisions and recommendations to the white paper on Geospatial Workforce Development. Mr. DiSera provided an update on the subcommittee's activities since the October 2011 NGAC meeting. The subcommittee met on December 8 and reviewed changes to the paper and recommendations, discussed the idea of using forums to engage organizations on recommendations, and prepared for the NGAC January meeting. The subcommittee updated the final draft paper, including minor reformatting of the document and the addition of a table of contents. The subcommittee also created a standalone version of the STEM section of the white paper for Anne Castle.

The paper includes sections and recommendations addressing three topic areas:

- The Administration's STEM Education Initiatives from a Geospatial Workforce Development Perspective.
- Opportunities to Utilize the DOL Geospatial Competency Model to Meet Federal/State/Local/Tribal Government Needs.
- Updating "Externally" Focused [GIS Themed] SOC Standard Occupational Classification Codes and "Internally" Focused Federal Occupational Series Classifications.

Mr. DiSera noted that the subcommittee's next steps include the following:

- Finalize white paper and post on the NGAC website.
- Identify briefing opportunities at upcoming FGDC meetings.
- Assess the need for forums to discuss, refine, and focus the white paper recommendations, including opportunities to work with geospatial industry associations and educational institutions.
- Continue ongoing discussion and support of the white paper recommendations.

The NGAC members discussed the draft white paper and were very complimentary of the paper and the efforts of the subcommittee members. A motion to adopt the paper was made and approved.

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the Geospatial Workforce Development paper.

### **Public Comment Period**

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

#### Butch Lazorchak, Library of Congress

Mr. Lazorchak provided an update on the recent activities of the Library of Congress(LOC) related to stewardship of digital geospatial information of long-term value. Mr. Lazorchak announced that LOC has updated the guidance on the Sustainability of Digital Formats site to include an extensive selection of digital geospatial formats of potential importance to LOC collecting activities. The Digital Formats Web site provides technical analysis about digital content formats; identifies and describes the formats that

are promising for long-term sustainability; and helps to develop strategies for sustaining these formats over the long-term.

Secondly, the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) has been supporting a 4-year activity by a consortium of state governments to explore the preservation of state government digital geospatial data. This effort, known as the Geospatial Multistate Archive and Preservation Partnership (GeoMAPP) is coming to a close. One of their final project deliverables is a Geoarchiving Business Planning Toolkit. The Toolkit includes guidance documents and tools to assist in the planning and development of a geoarchiving business plan for establishing, sustaining, or extending an archival program that advances the long-term preservation of a state's valuable geospatial assets. NDIIPP is investigating partnership opportunities to support implementations of the toolkit.

The work the Library has accomplished through GeoMAPP has extensively shaped their views on geoarchiving, but NDIIPP's interest in digital geospatial data will not end with the completion of GeoMAPP. These conversations will continue in the FGDC's Users/Historical Data Working Group. This group welcomes membership from all levels of government, academia, and the private sector. Mr. Lazorchak encouraged NGAC members and other interested parties to participate.

#### Dennis Klein, Boundary Solutions

Mr. Klein discussed the status of Boundary Solutions' partnership with the University of California, Berkeley on open records. Mr. Klein indicated that industry conditions have changed since the inception of this partnership and the effort is being refocused. He indicated that he will keep the NGAC apprised of the status of this initiative. Mr. Klein also referenced the recent NSGIC data sharing guidelines.

#### **NGAC Discussion – Issues Facing the Geospatial Community**

Dave Cowen and Ivan DeLoatch led a brainstorming discussion on current and emerging issues facing the geospatial community. The purpose of the session was to seek NGAC input to identify potential issues to be incorporated into the 2012 FGDC guidance to the NGAC. Key questions include: what are the most critical issues or challenges facing the geospatial community in the next 3 years? What might be some of the key roles of the federal government in helping address those challenges or issues? Potential study topics identified by NGAC members included the following:

- Data content
- Landsat
- National Address Database
- Impacts of mobile computing on geospatial technology/programs
- Geolocation privacy
- Public-private partnerships/Funding strategies to assist local governments in creating data
- Geospatial Workforce Development - partnerships with associations and universities

**ACTION:** NGAC members provide ideas and suggestions regarding geospatial issues to John Mahoney and Tricia Gibbons by noon on Tuesday, January 17 so initial thoughts can be shared with FGDC Executive Committee (e-mail request will follow).

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

The results and actions from the meeting were briefly summarized. The next NGAC meeting is scheduled for April 17-18, 2012 at the American Institute of Architects Building in Washington, DC. The primary agenda topic will be the FGDC guidance to the NGAC for 2012.

The FGDC staff also asked NGAC members to provide feedback on the webinar format for the meeting and suggestions for improvement.

**ACTION:** NGAC members send comments and suggestions for improvement to John Mahoney and Tricia Gibbons by Friday, January 20.

### **Adjourn**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

### **Certification**

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

David Cowen, 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, 17, 2012***

## **January 2012 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/january-2012/index\\_html](http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/january-2012/index_html)

### **FGDC Update**

- FGDC Report

### **Geospatial Platform Update**

- Geospatial Platform Report

### **Data Acquisition as a Service**

- Data Acquisition as a Service Presentation

### **Innovative Strategies**

- Innovative Strategies Presentation

### **Geospatial Workforce Development**

- Geospatial Workforce Development Presentation
- NGAC Workforce Development Paper

### **NGAC Guidance Development**

- NGAC Guidance Development Presentation