

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 22-23, 2010

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 22, 2010 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on June 23, 2010. The meeting was held at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. 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 Charles Ahearn
Robert Austin
Timothy Bull Bennett
Allen Carroll
Dick Clark
Jack Dangermond
David DiSera
Dennis Goreham
Kass Green
Randy Johnson
Randall Johnson
Jerry Johnston
Barney Krucoff
Kimberly Nelson
Matthew O'Connell
Jack Pellicci
Jay Parrish
Cynthia Salas
Christopher Tucker

NGAC Members not present:

Sophia Beym
David Cowen
Xavier Lopez
David Schell
Eugene Schiller

Ivan DeLoatch, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, and Karen Siderelis, Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) of the Department of the Interior, were also in attendance.

Other Attendees: Cliff Allison (NAVTEQ), Doug Binnie (USGS), Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA), Nancy Brelos (Pictometry), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), John Byrd (MAPPS), Michael Byrne (FCC), Dan Cotter (DHS), Will Craig (NSGIC), Ralph Crawford (Forest Service), Pat Cummins (ESRI), Hank Garie (Grant Thornton), Tricia

Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Roy Kolstad (NAVTEQ), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Stephen Lowe (USDA), Arista Maher (FGDC), John Mahoney (FGDC), Charles Mondello (Pictometry), Bill Mullen (NGA), Catherine Nolan (Grant Thornton), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Lea Shanley (University of Wisconsin - Madison), Jon Sperling (HUD), Dave Smith (EPA), Jeanne Stacey (NGA), Larry Sugarbaker (USGS)

Via Teleconference: Autumn Foard (GSA).

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

Call to Order and 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 June 23. The NGAC members introduced themselves and public observers were introduced to the Committee. The ground rules for the meeting were explained by the Chair.

Review and Adoption of March 2010 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Miglarese reviewed the draft minutes from the March 2010 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the March 24-25, 2010 meeting.

Geospatial Platform Briefing & Status of Initiative

Introduction

Karen Siderelis (DOI) provided a brief overview of the Geospatial Platform initiative. At the March 2010 meeting, the FGDC introduced the concept of the Geospatial Platform to the NGAC. Ms. Siderelis provided an overview of the FGDC's activities to develop the Platform initiative since the March meeting. Her presentation focused on several areas:

- Development of the Modernization Roadmap for the Geospatial Platform. The Roadmap serves as a high-level implementation plan.
- Designation of Tony LaVoi of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as interim project manager for the Platform.
- Creation of interagency workgroups to develop the "Pillars" of the Platform Roadmap.
- Discussion of the business model and potential funding approaches for the Platform.
- Development of a new Platform website at www.geoplatform.gov.
- Review and comment by the NGAC on the Platform Roadmap document.
- Next steps in the development of the Platform.

Ms. Siderelis also introduced a video clip from CNN that highlighted the Emergency Resources Management Application (ERMA) tool that is featured on the GeoPlatform.gov website.

Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC) provided brief introductory remarks. Mr. DeLoatch thanked the members of the NGAC for their review and comment on the draft Roadmap document. He noted that it would be helpful for the NGAC to identify what is missing from the document. Mr. DeLoatch indicated that Interior and the FGDC look forward to continuing engagement with the NGAC as the Platform initiative is developed.

Overview of Platform Roadmap

Tony LaVoi (NOAA) provided a presentation on the development of the Geospatial Platform Modernization Roadmap document. The FY 2011 Budget Guidance was the driver for the Geospatial Platform. Some of the key terms arising from this guidance include: “portfolio management approach,” “place-based initiatives,” and “improving the governance framework.” The Geospatial Platform team has worked to adapt the guidance and turn it into an implementation plan – the Roadmap – which expresses the specific vision and purpose of the Platform. The Roadmap document also discusses the technology architecture, outlines processes and organization elements, describes steps necessary to implement the vision, and finally, identifies actionable activities.

Mr. LaVoi noted that the development of the Roadmap document has been an iterative process. The Platform team plans to complete the next version of the document (version 3) and submit it to the Department of the Interior and OMB by June 30, 2010. Input and comments from the NGAC will be incorporated into this version. Mr. LaVoi also asked for feedback from the Committee on the next steps for the Platform once version 3 is finished, including ideas for communications and outreach.

Mr. LaVoi provided an overview of each of the sections, or “pillars” of the document. The implementation approach was discussed as well. OMB would like an implementation plan that is effective immediately. The project management approach using time boxes was outlined as well. To date, the Platform team has received over 100 comments from the NGAC. Following the NGAC meeting, the Platform team will be meeting to incorporate NGAC comments and other feedback received from Federal agencies into the Roadmap document.

FGDC Executive Committee Panel Discussion

The Committee hosted a panel discussion and dialogue with members of the FGDC Executive Committee (Karen Siderelis, Ivan DeLoatch, Jerry Johnston, Steve Wallach, Dan Cotter, and Stephen Lowe). The Executive Committee members initiated the discussion with introductory comments on the status of the Geospatial Platform and their observations on key issues and next steps.

The Executive Committee members and the NGAC members engaged in a wide-ranging discussion that touched on a variety of issues, including the following:

- Designation of Managing Partner.
- Identifying appropriate resources to make it work.
- Institutionalizing geospatial activities.
- Avoiding duplication of effort and utilizing the data resources we already have.
- Developing and implementing the Segment Architecture – fitting it within the Federal Enterprise Architecture.
- Communicating the value of the Platform’s capabilities to consumers in an understandable manner.
- Ensuring the Platform is service-oriented, solutions-driven, and relevant.
- Conveying the value proposition, which will drive the business model.
- Developing an effective business model and sustainable funding.

Geospatial Platform: NGAC Feedback

Jerry Johnston led a discussion which summarized the comments and feedback from several NGAC subcommittees on different aspects of the Geospatial Roadmap document. Highlights of the subcommittee presentations are as follows:

Geospatial Platform Subcommittee

Mr. Johnston provided an overall summary of the NGAC's comments on the Roadmap document. Over 100 comments were received from NGAC members. Key themes were summarized as follows:

- Who is the audience for this document? State it and stick to it. What do we want this document to result in?
- Be aggressive, be forward looking. What will be different 5 years from now if we take this on? Ten years from now?
- Considerable comment on the roles of state/locals – how are they to be incentivized? How do they get a meaningful seat at the governance table? Licensing issues? Multiple roles (customer in one case, provider in another)?
- Likewise, what is the role of the private sector? Why should they get involved?
- Who's in charge? Questions about the role of and eventual home of the Platform Managing Partner – suggestions included FGDC, GSA, OMB, etc. as location. More focus on the authority and role of the MP is required. Who is in charge? What authority do they have (and what authority do they need?) Intergovernmental Working Group?
- Funding and business model sections seem to be agreed upon as a good start, but many pointed out the complexities and difficulties that lie ahead.
- Questions about existing initiatives and how they fit in or are replaced by the Platform.
- Management tools – change management, content management, customer relations management... Need to ensure we are leveraging best approaches.
- Generally... could stand to be a little more positive in tone (not stressing redundancy and wastefulness in intro, stressing incentives over enforcing compliance throughout document).

Emerging Technologies Subcommittee

Kim Nelson provided a summary on the Emerging Technologies Subcommittee's comments on the Roadmap document. Key points:

- Focus on Three Areas:
 - Shared Data, Services and Apps
 - Infrastructure
 - Segment Architecture
- Shared Data, Services and Apps
 - Registration and Discovery of DSA is under-represented
 - Numerous comments about timeline – be more aggressive, be more specific
 - Need more mention of interoperable standards and an agile process for updating
 - Do not mention specific technologies, e.g. KML
- Shared Infrastructure
 - Better articulate the value and use of a shared infrastructure
 - Mention examples of National Infrastructure that already exist
- Segment Architecture
 - Mention made of the importance of social media, but no examples of use – describe how it can be used to support transparency and data correction
 - Provide example of segment architecture

Governance Subcommittee

Dennis Goreham provided a summary of the Governance Subcommittee's comments on the Roadmap document. Key points:

- Governance approach has to be two-pronged. One activity needs to continue development of a holistic approach to governance of the NSDI including all stakeholders. The other is an operational activity to include Feds and an inter-governmental mechanism to identify requirements for the Geospatial Platform and to manage the Geospatial Platform.
- Geospatial Platform document was well done. A lot of good information. However, also raises many more questions. Need more specifics and detail.
- Clear that FGDC listened to what we said.
- The budget language for improved governance to "address requirements of State, local, and Tribal agencies" was intended to be more than a suggestion and requires strong enforcement.
- The Subcommittee welcomed the news and supported the idea of an FGDC Intergovernmental Committee. Consider starting as an interim body and letting it evolve. However, we also need a national conversation to develop the "how."
- A little concerned that many important details, in particular the Governance discussion, is in the appendix and not the main document.

Partnerships Subcommittee

Barney Krucoff provided a summary of the Partnerships Subcommittee's comments on the Roadmap document. Key points:

- It is a great "What" document, but the "How" will be the challenge.
- Need to better define the payback or ROI. Demonstrate why this is an investment and not an expenditure. Look at the cost/benefit from the business and public sector. Recognize the "soft" benefits and long-term impacts.
- Consider adding case studies or scenarios to demonstrate different business models that could be applied.
- Increase focus on the private sector as a source of data or data provider.
- Key questions:
 - Who owns the platform?
 - What is the funding strategy?
 - What are the economic incentives for all parties?
 - What's the value proposition?
 - What services will be available when?

Geospatial Platform – Critical Issues Discussion

The NGAC members divided into discussion groups focusing on five key components of the Platform Roadmap document (Business Model, Customers, Technical Standards, Managing Partner, and Intergovernmental Board) Highlights of the discussions include the following:

Business Model:

- Feds provide the infrastructure for serving in exchange for data. States and localities would update or maintain data by using the cloud environment. Feds would provide a data model template, naming conventions, etc. The private sector may also aggregate data. This is a Fed model which utilizes a centralized, shared facility, and involves paying for serving data.

- Pay-for- service model OR free model.
- A business model should be developed that “meets government needs for data, services, and applications via a web-based Geospatial Platform for decision-making and problem-solving.” The key elements of the business model include: a value proposition, and a model financed by a redirection of federal funding. The model would have a “tiered” approach to pricing, which would involve free access at a basic level, and higher levels by subscription (Tier 1 would be basic and free; Tier 2 would be for a fee to certain users; and Tier 3 would be a premium experience for fee).
- The Business Model would involve other agencies producing a formula (similar to a line of business). Then, the operational agency adds value and provides open access. One important part of this is that putting services onto Platform needs to be clear and simple. Barriers to entry should be low. The model would involve serving back data in a cloud. There would be incentives for sharing; the agency would host data back; there would be horizontal/vertical matching; hosted data would need to be attributed for credit; the host agency would write detailed data; there would be good marketing, transparency of government, and geo-enabled social media.
- Important to separate what consumers are buying into: 1.) Technology services – we want to promote a few large cloud providers so that we can move in between. There would be standards for services, and it would be interchangeable service from the private sector. 2.) Data – this would be case-by-case on what data consumers are buying. Sometimes it would be citizen-driven data, sometimes local content through grants (i.e., parcels), and sometimes it would be private sector data. How consumers buy things is the weapon – GSA has a main role in this.

Customers:

- Federal agencies may be the largest customers. Other customers include: the “other” public sector (state, local, regional, tribal), and the general public. What do we provide? Apps (some will have to stay inside certain groups); collaboration and data.
- Federal, state and local sectors of government will comprise some customers. Who is the data creator? This is data-dependent. Certain classes of users would likely use some layers of data vs. the general public’s use. The primary user is the GIS professional. Building professional applications and doing mission support work is where we need to focus the bulk of our energies; the general user/public will follow from this.
- The professional GIS community is likely to be the primary customer.
- The general public and government are the main customers. Should consider the dimension of public vs. non-public. Access would be recommended by an advisory board, access would be decided by a governing board, and would be implemented by the governing operation.

Technical Standards:

- Appropriate technical standards have already been completed by OGC.
- The geospatial community has been trying to establish technical standards for 15 years. The Platform needs to accommodate different types of data file standards (KML and GRSS). We should avoid blocking progress with respect to technical standards.

- View technical standards from a “process-oriented” standpoint, meaning that standards need to be agile and they need to be flexible enough to accommodate new standards. Additionally, they need to include mainstream IT standards, and they ought to be interoperable.
- Adopt open standards, and endorse and communicate standards.
- Need to define what “open” means with respect to standards.

Managing Partner:

- The Managing Partner should have clear authority and budget. The Managing Partner should be supported by a staff with the appropriate skills. There are multiple options for the location of the Managing Partner. The pros and cons of each should be evaluated.
- The Managing Partner needs to get the project done, and should be chartered by the White House. GSA might be a good home for the Managing Partner, because of intergovernmental coordination, IT infrastructure capability, able to move quickly. Other possibilities include NOAA and DOI.
- The Managing Partner should be operational and have a track record for running operations; should have geospatial knowledge; should be collaborative; should have authority; should have the ability to manage a large budget and procurement; should be able to maintain registry of assets; and, should manage lifecycle of the content and architecture of the content. GSA is a strong candidate.
- The Managing Partner could be called the Geographic Information Officer of the U.S. – they could be a Presidential Appointee within OMB. That person would be the public “face” of the Platform. The Board would take over the coordinating role from FGDC (similar to the National Nanotechnology Initiative). Board Members would be full-time committed to this initiative.

Intergovernmental Board:

- An Intergovernmental Board would include Federal, state and local representatives. It would consist of a policy advisory committee (PAC) and customer advisory committee (CAC).
- The Board should direct the Managing Partner and be multi-governmental, including Federal, state, local, and tribal partners. It should have the authority to set and administer priorities.
- It should be a Federal government multi-agency governing board. It would set policies, drive the funding model, manage requirements, and have negotiating powers. There would be an outside advisory board for other stakeholders.
- One potential model would be a Federal management board coupled with an intergovernmental advisory committee.
- The Intergovernmental Board should be national, not just federal, and include other stakeholders in government (i.e., it would be governmental, but it includes all levels of government—e.g., state, local, tribal governments as well).

Lightning Sessions

NGAC members provided brief updates on issues of interest to the geospatial community:

Geospatial Enabling Community Collaboration (GECCo) Overview – Dave DiSera

Dave DiSera gave a presentation on the Geospatial Information Technology Association’s (GITA) Geospatial Enabling Community Collaboration (GECCo) Program. GECCo was created in 2002 in response to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7, “...reduce and/or eliminate the vulnerability of

the infrastructures of society's complex technology systems that increase the difficulty for attacks on US systems." Through this effort, GITA is seeking to create a framework by which public and private organizations can better collaborate and share information to protect critical infrastructure. GECCo sites are currently located in 6 areas around the country, and 12 additional sites are planned.

Open 311 – Barney Krucoff

Barney Krucoff provided a presentation on the Open 311 system that is being adopted by the District of Columbia. Like many cities, Washington, DC has a 311 system that allows for problem tracking through customer reporting (for instance, road problems caused by major snowstorms). A website called "Open 311" will allow local governments or third-party application developers to produce 311 applications that query existing local 311 systems for instantaneous reporting of incidents or to quickly receive important local information. Third-party developers may therefore produce applications that write directly to 311 systems. There are currently a number of third-party apps for mobile platforms that allow reporting of incidents via 311. Members are encouraged to visit the Open 311 website, located at: <http://open311.org>.

Geographic Information Science and Technology Body of Knowledge (BoK) – Sean Ahearn

Sean Ahearn gave a presentation on the development of BOK1 and plans for BoK2. BoK1 was produced as part of the UCGIS GIS&T Model Curricula initiative. This process involved over 70 researchers, educators and practitioners and encompassed 10 knowledge areas, 73 units, and 220 topics. The BoK1 is arguably the first comprehensive approach to the ontology of the field of GIS&T. BoK 2 aims at creating a transformational, dynamic environment for pedagogy, knowledge building, discourse, collaboration, and research in GIS&T by leveraging persistent immersive synthetic environments, ontological analysis, knowledge mining and visualization approaches.

Crowd-Sourced Content – Jack Dangermond

Jack Dangermond described an example of crowd-sourced video content video from a website called *The Johnny Cash Project*. The website was built with the intent of utilizing crowd-sourcing to create a truly collaborative project, and can be used as a model for use within the geospatial community. This film was created using many images for each frame created by many different users. The creator of this website will be at the ESRI Users' Conference this summer, and members are encouraged to attend his session at the conference. The web address for the project is: www.thejohnnycashproject.com

Day 1 Wrap-Up/Planning for Day 2

The Chair summarized the first day of the meeting and made announcements regarding logistics and activities for the next day's meeting.

Adjournment for Day 1

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

Anne Miglarese, NGAC Chair, convened the second day of the meeting at 8:30 a.m., reviewed the previous day's activities, and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

FGDC Report

Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC) provided an update on recent FGDC activities:

A-16 Supplemental Guidance – The OMB Circular A-16 Draft Supplemental Guidance is undergoing agency review and comment. The goal is to obtain FGDC Steering Committee concurrence on the document and have it submitted to OMB by early July.

Geospatial Line of Business (GeoLoB) – Many of the GeoLoB activities have been reoriented to support the development of the Geospatial Platform. There is a strong correlation between GeoLoB and Geospatial Platform requirements. FGDC and OMB are discussing approaches to further integrate the Platform and the GeoLoB.

FGDC Governance Activities – The National Digital Orthophoto Programs (NDOP) has developed a new draft charter in review which establishes the NDOP as a subcommittee of the FGDC. The FGDC Coordination Group will review the draft charter in July.

Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) – The Phase 1 Plan of Imagery for the Nation is currently in its final editing phase. FGDC agencies are also collaborating on a business case for IFTN. A Request for Information (RFI) to industry regarding IFTN is under development and should be released in the near future.

NGAC Appointments Process – The Call for Nominations for the 2011 NGAC appointments will be issued in early July of this year. Approximately one-half of the current appointments on the NGAC will expire in January 2011 and will be filled through this round of appointments. The nominations will be evaluated by an interagency panel using common criteria. The panel will provide recommendations to the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary will make the appointments to the committee. The new appointments will take effect in January 2011.

ACTION: The Department of the Interior will issue a Call for Nominations for the next round of NGAC appointments in early July 2010.

Subcommittee Project Plans and Updates

Broadband Subcommittee – Bob Austin

The Broadband subcommittee held its first meeting in March and has subsequently met via conference call. The purpose of the subcommittee is to “provide feedback on implementation of the broadband inventory mapping initiative authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).” The primary activity areas for the subcommittee are as follows:

- Provide support for NTIA's decision to fund years 3 – 5 and implement new grant guidance.
- Provide supporting input to the publication of the National Broadband Map.
- Provide input and direction on future direction of broadband data collection proposals as they come forward, like proposed in the national broadband plan.
- Encourage correlation with Smart Grid.

ACTION: NGAC Broadband Subcommittee will provide ongoing feedback to FCC/NTIA on the development of the National Broadband Map.

Geospatial Workforce Subcommittee – Dave DiSera

The purpose of the Geospatial Workforce subcommittee is to “provide recommendations on approaches to develop intergovernmental and public-private strategies to facilitate the development, training and retention of a highly skilled workforce to meet the expanding geospatial needs of public and private-sector organizations.” The primary activity areas for the subcommittee are as follows:

- Research and assess geospatial workforce-related studies and activities currently planned or underway.
- Develop initial recommendations on how FGDC can engage in and support geospatial workforce development activities.

The subcommittee has begun to conduct research on workforce-related issues. For example, the Department of Labor has completed reports on defining and communicating geospatial workforce demand. There is a website that was put together in tandem with this research effort, which is available at: www.giwis.org/job-seekers/students.asp. There is also information on the geospatial technology competency model on the website.

ACTION: NGAC members are asked to provide geospatial workforce development-related research or studies to Dave DiSera or Sean Ahearn and the Geospatial Workforce Subcommittee.

ACTION: Allen Carroll will provide information to NGAC members on National Geographic’s “Geo-Mentoring” program.

The National Map Subcommittee– Allen Carroll

The purpose of The National Map subcommittee is to “provide input on scoping and approach for development of a National Basemap/National GIS, and the role that The National Map could play in such an effort, and to provide feedback and comments on the development and implementation of the new strategic plan for The National Map.” The primary activity areas for the subcommittee are as follows:

- Develop options and recommendations on approaches for the development of a National Basemap.
- Define key terms, including “base map,” “foundational data layers,” etc.
- Provide feedback and develop recommendations on the strategic plan for The National map for consideration by the NGAC.

The subcommittee’s recent activities have focused on developing options and recommendations on approaches for the development of a National Basemap. A set of potential recommendations to the NGAC were presented, which dealt with the services should be provided through a National Base map, as well as recommendations on issues and options for licensing private data, and recommendations on defining the relationship between a National Base Map and the Geospatial Platform. Definitions of what constitutes a “basemap” were discussed with the Committee.

ACTION: NGAC members are asked to provide feedback and comment on draft base map definitions to Allan Carroll and the National Map Subcommittee.

Partnerships Subcommittee – Barney Krucoff

The purpose of the Partnerships subcommittee is to: “Identify opportunities and best-practice models to enhance the effectiveness of public-public and public-private geospatial partnerships, and to identify and evaluate possible partnership models that may be applicable among the federal geospatial community and between the federal government and states, local governments, tribal governments, and/or the private sector.” The primary activity areas for the subcommittee are as follows:

- Provide advice and recommendations regarding partnership framework activities to support the development and implementation of the Geospatial Platform (short-term).
- Update case studies database; find a home to provide access to and maintenance of the collection of information.
- Provide a summary of key policy and legal issues to be considered in the development of geospatial partnerships (longer-term).

ACTION: NGAC Partnerships Subcommittee will provide additional feedback to FGDC on the business model for the Geospatial Platform.

Emerging Technologies Subcommittee– Kim Nelson

The purpose of the Subcommittee is to “provide analysis, advice, and recommendations on the impacts that new and emerging technologies are likely to have on the management and use of federal geospatial data and programs. Provide a forecast of likely technology changes and their impact on Federal programs.” The primary activity areas for the subcommittee are as follows:

- Provide assessment and feedback on how emerging technologies, including cloud computing and mobile computing, may impact the design and development of the Geospatial Platform concept.
- Provide assessment of specific technologies and its application to advance geospatial programs, products, and services. Potential topics for consideration include cloud computing, mobile computing, reuse of architectural standards, and opportunities for increased collaboration with Data.gov.
- Develop a Technology Forecast describing potential impacts of new and emerging technologies on FGDC agencies/programs.

The subcommittee will have an initial focus on cloud computing technologies. One suggestion was to gather SLAs with existing service providers for cloud activities as baseline information. Another suggestion was to explore data tiers for cloud services.

Governance Subcommittee – Dennis Goreham

The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide feedback to “improve the governance framework to address the requirements of state, local and Tribal agencies, Administration policy, and agency mission objectives,” as described in the FY 2011 President’s budget guidance on the development of the geospatial platform. The primary activity areas for the subcommittee are as follows:

- Provide feedback on the governance, portfolio management, and metrics aspects of the Geospatial Platform proposal.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders (FGDC, NSGIC, COGO, URISA, etc.) on development of NSDI metrics.

The Governance subcommittee has most recently been focused on the review of the Geospatial Platform. During the last month, the subcommittee spent significant time reviewing and commenting

on the Platform Roadmap document. One priority the subcommittee has suggested is the need to get additional input from state, local, and tribal entities with respect to the Platform.

The subcommittee is also continuing to work on the area of geospatial metrics. The subcommittee is working to organize a presentation at the September NGAC meeting on several different metrics development activities within the geospatial community.

Lightning Session 2

Alaska Elevation Data Project – Steve Wallach

Steve Wallach presented on the Alaska elevation data project. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), the State of Alaska, USGS, BLM, NRCS, and NPS are all partners on this project. The coverage is 157,540 square km, or 28 full cells. The data will be unlicensed and available to the general public. The state of Alaska contributed over \$2 million; the total effort ranged between \$5.5 and \$6 million. The desire is to do the whole state of Alaska, but it will depend on funding availability in the future.

Eye on Earth and Codename “Dallas” Projects – Kim Nelson

Kim Nelson presented on the European Union’s implementation of environmental programs through the use of web-based mapping technologies. Ms. Nelson walked through a demonstration of “Eye on Earth,” a website developed by the European Union that tracks air and water quality, among other environmental factors. The web address for this site is: www.eyearth.eu. The website has also been developed into apps for various mobile devices. Much of the data presented is real-time. The European Union calls this the “environmental reference platform.” The European Environmental Agency (EEA) is the managing partner for this effort. The regulatory body has said that this will be the portal for environmental data for the European Union. Various Asian countries are also adopting similar models.

Microsoft recently announced the launch of a developer portal called “Codename Dallas” for data as a service. Various Federal, state and local agencies, as well as other organizations, have their data hosted there, including NASA, NAVTEQ, National Geographic, First American, the City of Miami, and others. Provisioning data in this way makes it easy for developers to easily access data. There are developer tools that are “wrapped around” these datasets. Datasets come with APIs built in for developers, which facilitates application development.

Public Comment Period

Will Craig, National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Mr. Craig commented on the Geospatial Platform. He noted that his comments are from a personal standpoint, not necessarily representing NSGIC’s views. He focused on the importance of data access and availability for the success of the Platform. He also stressed the importance of involving State, local and tribal governments in the Platform governance process. Marketing and communication will be key to building understanding and buy-in.

Bill Burgess, National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Mr. Burgess also provided personal comments on the Platform. His comments focused on the importance of OMB’s support for this initiative, as evidenced by the strong budget language regarding the Platform. Mr. Burgess believes that effective intergovernmental coordination is vital to the success of the Platform, and that collaborative partnerships must show value on both sides of the partnership. Mr. Burgess mentioned NOAA’s Digital Coast initiative as a good model to emulate.

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Geospatial Platform: Recommendations

The NGAC concluded its discussion of the Geospatial Platform and adopted the following resolution in support of the Platform concept:

RECOMMENDATION: The NGAC adopted the following resolution:

“The NGAC endorses the Geospatial Platform concept as described in the Platform Roadmap and encourages the Administration, along with federal agency leadership, to adopt, support, and implement this initiative in partnership with State, local, regional and Tribal governments.”

Geospatial Platform Outreach and Communications Strategy

Kass Green provided remarks on the communication strategies needed to support the Geospatial Platform. Ms. Green noted that the Platform proposal has two significant advantages, one, that this was requested by OMB through the budget, and two, that the technology is ripe for successful implementation. Ms. Green summarized that the primary roles of the NGAC in supporting Platform communications are to:

- Engage and ignite interest
- Educate and build awareness and support
- Solicit input from the community

The NGAC members divided into discussion groups to on Key audiences and messages related to the Platform. Key audiences for the developmental phase of the Platform were identified as:

- OMB
- Senior Administration Officials
- GIS Professionals

Key points from the breakout discussion are as follows:

- Cost-effective, makes your job easier
- Supports openness and transparency
- Allows discovery, visualization, modeling, and sharing of data
- Tipping point – chance to make impact
- Collaboration is key – commitment of Feds to work with locals; leverage geospatial for strategic decision making
- Applaud the administration for leadership in establishing a modern and collaborative Geospatial Platform that is cost-effective and that enables a transparent and location-aware government

NGAC members identified a series of upcoming meetings and conferences that should be targeted for presentations on the Platform initiative, including the following: ESRI, MAPPs, NACo, ASPRS, Intergraph, and NSGIC. Several NGAC members also offered to reach out within their professional organizations and communities to communicate the value and opportunities offered through the Platform initiative.

Stephen Lowe (USDA) provided a presentation on communications and outreach approaches for the Platform. Mr. Lowe discussed the scope of stakeholder participation, and discussed potential channels, tools, and the effective use of the GeoPlatform.gov website.

ACTION: FGDC will collaborate with the NGAC Communications Subcommittee to develop a short-term communications plan for the Geospatial Platform.

Meeting Summary/Wrap-Up

The Chair and staff summarized action items and decisions from the meeting and provided information about the next scheduled NGAC meeting.

Next Meeting

The next NGAC meeting is scheduled for September 22-23 in Washington, DC. Potential agenda topics include the following:

- Geospatial Platform follow-up
- Place-based Policies initiative
- NSDI metrics
- NGAC Subcommittee reports
- Demonstration of National Broadband Map

Meeting Adjournment

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.

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 September 22, 2010

June 2010 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/june-2010/index_html

Geospatial Platform

- Geospatial Platform Overview
- Platform Subcommittee Comment Summary
- Emerging Technologies Subcommittee Comment Summary
- Governance Subcommittee Comment Summary
- Partnerships Subcommittee Comment Summary
- Platform Outreach and Communications Presentation

Subcommittee Updates

- Broadband Subcommittee – Draft Project Plan
- Geospatial Workforce Subcommittee Presentation
- Geospatial Workforce Subcommittee – Draft Project Plan
- National Map Subcommittee Presentation
- National Map Subcommittee – Draft Project Plan
- Partnerships Subcommittee – Draft Project Plan
- Emerging Technologies Subcommittee – Draft Project Plan
- Governance Subcommittee – Draft Project Plan

FGDC Report

- FGDC Report [PDF]

"Lightning Session" Presentations

- GECCo Overview – DiSera
- Open311 – Krucoff
- Geographic Information Science Body of Knowledge – Ahearn
- Alaska Elevation Data Update – Wallach