

**National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**June 11-12, 2019**  
**Minutes**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 11 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on June 12, 2019. The meeting was held at the Department of the Interior, in Washington, DC. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

**NGAC Members present:**

Keith Masback, NGAC Chair  
Mark Reichardt, NGAC Vice Chair  
Frank Avila  
Byron Bluehorse  
Gar Clarke  
Garet Couch  
Pat Cummins  
Mike Hussey  
Sanjay Kumar  
Tony LaVoi  
Roberta Lenczowski  
Kevin Pomfret  
Amber Reynolds  
Cy Smith  
Rebecca Somers  
Christine Stinchcomb  
Julie Sweetkind-Singer  
Gary Thompson  
Jason Warzinik

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:**

Sarah Battersby  
Xavier Irias  
Jennie Stapp  
Harvey Thorleifson  
May Yuan

**Other attendees:**

Deirdre Bishop (Census Bureau), John Byrd (NSPS), Dave Cackowski (Census), Tyler Christiansen (NOAA), Tod Dabolt (DOI), Pete Doucette (USGS), Lucia Foulkes (FGDC), Joe Francica (Pitney Bowes), Rich Frazier (FGDC), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Steve Lewis (DOT), Adam Martin (ESRI), Anne Miglarese (Radiant Earth), Tim Newman (USGS), Tim Petty (DOI), Eliana Perlmutter (Lewis-Burke Associates LLC), Gabriel

Popkin (Science & Environmental Writer), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Steven Ramage (GEO), Blythe Semmer (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation), Paul Voosen (American Association for the Advancement of Science)

## **Tuesday, June 11, 2019 NGAC Public Meeting**

### **Welcome & Brief Introductions**

Keith Masback, NGAC Chair, called the public meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed members and public attendees. Member and attendee introductions were made. The Chair provided an overview of the agenda and objectives for the meeting.

### **Review and Adoption of May 2019 Minutes**

The draft minutes of the May 2019 NGAC meeting were reviewed, and the Chair called for approval.

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the minutes of the May 8, 2019 NGAC webinar meeting.

### **Geospatial Activity**

The NGAC had a brief introductory discussion on NGAC member backgrounds and interests.

### **Leadership Dialogue**

Dr. Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at DOI and FGDC Chair, welcomed NGAC members and public attendees. Dr. Petty noted that geospatial data and technology are critical to good governance. He touched on several topics, including the following:

#### **Geospatial Data Act**

Dr. Petty noted that the implementation of the GDA will be the primary focus of the FGDC and the NGAC in the coming year. He indicated that the GDA provides an outstanding opportunity to advance and provide leadership on national geospatial issues, and for the geospatial community to demonstrate that geospatial data and technology are critical digital infrastructure for the Nation. He emphasized that the NGAC has a key role to play – to engage in the implementation efforts and to be the spokespeople and ambassadors for the GDA within the organizations the NGAC members represent.

#### **FGDC Activities**

Dr. Petty noted that under the GDA, OMB is required to issue new guidance within one year of passage of the bill – by October 2019. OMB plans to update Circular A-16 to fulfill this requirement, and has asked FGDC for recommendations. He noted that FGDC looks forward to hearing the recommendations of the NGAC. Dr. Petty also noted that the FGDC has begun developing a budget strategy to support the implementation of the GDA

In closing, Dr. Petty noted that FGDC looks forward to continuing collaboration with the NGAC, and thanked the NGAC members for their service.

Ivan DeLoatch provided brief updates on several FGDC activities. He noted that the 2018 FGDC Annual Report is available in print and online. He also provided an update on the 2019 NGAC nominations process.

**ACTION:** FGDC will issue a call for nominations in July 2019 for the next round of appointments to the NGAC. Nominations will be due 30 days from the date of the announcement.

Nominations received through this call for nominations will be used to fill vacancies in 2019 and 2020. Final decisions on appointments will be made by the Secretary of the Interior.

### **Spotlight Session: Geospatial Data Act – Opportunities and Challenges**

The NGAC held a spotlight session to discuss opportunities and challenges of the Geospatial Data Act. The panelists were:

- Deirdre Bishop (Census Bureau)
- Tod Dabolt (Department of the Interior)
- Cy Smith (State of Oregon)
- Julie Sweetkind-Singer (Stanford University)

The panelists provided brief remarks, and the NGAC engaged in a discussion of GDA-related opportunities and challenges. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

#### Key Points:

- The community must continue to engage in operations.
- Directly engage stakeholder community.
- Address reporting in context – not just geospatial, but as part of the broader data community.
- Reporting should be against meaningful metrics.
- Address resource shortfalls not only in funding, but via other business models (e.g., PPP's, industry arrangements for value adds, etc.).
- Don't lose track of key issues such as privacy.
- Assure coordination of GDA roll out with other key legislation (Open Data Act, Evidence Act).
- Focus from broad viewpoint -- political, policy, and operational perspectives

#### Opportunities:

- Passage of Geospatial Data Act is an opportunity to spread the message. Stay the course, we have been demonstrating good governance, continue to advance the data themes and publish metadata and utilize web services.
- Geospatial data is a critical element of infrastructure.
- Greater transparency. The GDA is called out specifically in budget proposals.
- Opportunity to collaborate with State, local, and Tribal governments.
- Greater opportunity to educate Congress on the complex geospatial ecosystem.
- Congressional reporting should not be just about numbers.
- Every activity is political. Use NGAC members' political influences in different levels. City and county leadership as well as state leadership are important. Need funding at every level. But also need States, counties, and Tribes to tell the story not just to Congress but to everyone. Key touch points include water and public safety, to name a few.

#### Challenges:

- Funding (need of appropriate funding).
- NGAC will need to manage its work load carefully.
- Preservation will also be a challenge.
- Funding and staffing of the FGDC.
- How do we appropriately fund the NAD, imagery? Is there a way to streamline this process?
- Standards are an opportunity and a challenge. Need to develop tools and guidance.

- We need a collaborative governance structure.
- Reporting is a challenge for the NGAC.
- DOI has an interest in improving recreation (trails). This is currently not an NGDA. There are competing objectives. How do we align political and legal interests?
- We can build a template to help agencies put together their data. It needs to be consumable by Congress.
- NGAC should look at the NGDAs to identify which one of those NGDAs belong, do not belong or are missing in the portfolio.
- Formalize stewardship program at Federal level through FGDC.
- Privacy is very critical.

### **National Address Database Update**

Steve Lewis (DOT) and David Cackowski (Census Bureau) provided a brief update on the development of the National Address Database (NAD).

Mr. Lewis noted that a NAD developer started in mid-September 2018. However, only limited funding is available for this activity. The State of Texas submitted data in December 2018 with 9.3 million records. The states of Wisconsin and Wyoming are new partners to the NAD. The NAD developer is focusing on existing partners and prioritizing updates. New Mexico and New York also recently submitted updates. The NAD team is expecting to receive updates from Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Virginia. The NAD V2 is now available for download. The plan is to do quarterly releases.

### Puerto Rico Address Working Group

Mr. Cackowski reported on the activities of the Puerto Rico Working Group. The Working Group was identified as a need at a workshop in October 2018. The first meeting was held in April 2019. The Working Group charter was recently approved. A subgroup was established to develop a document on a proven practice inventory. A draft report is expected by the end of June.

### **OMB Circular A-16 Work Group**

Amber Reynolds provided a report on the activities of the NGAC A-16 Work Group. At the May 2019 NGAC meeting, the NGAC established the A-16 Work Group to provide initial recommendations on the revision of OMB Circular A-16. The Work Group presented a draft paper with initial recommendations on the revisions to Circular A-16. In developing the paper, the Work Group built upon previous NGAC recommendations developed in 2016 regarding revisions to A-16. Key points from the 2016 review included the following:

- A complete revision of A-16 is needed.
- Engage broad set of Federal and non-Federal stakeholders.
- Recognize producers, aggregators, consumers.
- Roles of non-Federal stakeholders should be expanded.
- OMB should take a lead role in the revision.

The Work Group identified several additional recommendations:

- Consider the dynamics of the geospatial ecosystem.
- Consider evaluating OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance.
- Consider the positioning of the GDA among other Federal data initiatives.

The NGAC engaged in a discussion of the draft paper. Key points from the discussion included the following:

- NGAC should provide additional recommendations on where changes are desired.
- FGDC team is working on A-16 revision recommendations. NGAC could be a sounding board for this. FGDC team is crafting the edits of the Circular.
- Why not retire Circular A-16 and write a new one that reflects the new law (GDA)?
- Step back and review, stop and think, don't be driven by process.
- Financial reporting – how? We must have a template, a unified way to report to Congress, something that Congress understands. Tell a story.
- Reporting should include: process, metrics, value, story, template. Need to develop a template-based approach.
- COGO and URISA are working on a reporting process that can feed into GDA reporting.
- Think about automating the reporting process.

The Work Group agreed to make revisions to the draft paper and present the revised version for NGAC action during the second day of the meeting.

### **Subcommittee Work Sessions**

The NGAC subcommittees met in breakout groups to continue work on their study topics.

### **Lightning Session 1**

An opportunity for brief announcements was given to NGAC members and the audience.

### Datums 2020 – Gary Thompson

Mr. Thompson discussed the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) modernization initiative, which is scheduled for 2022.

### Digital Information Task Force – Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – Garet Couch/Blythe Semmer

Garet Couch introduced Ms. Semmer, who provided a brief overview of ACHP's "Digital Information Task Force." The Task Force will develop recommendations on how the availability of digital and geospatial information about historic properties can be improved to inform Federal project planning.

### Transcontinental Railroad 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Julie Sweetkind-Singer

Ms. Sweetkind-Singer gave a presentation on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. She noted that the Stanford University library holds a remarkable collection of materials related to the transcontinental railroad. She also discussed the role and contributions of Chinese railroad workers.

### **Wrap-up**

The Chair summarized the actions for day one of the meeting and provided a brief overview for day two

## Wednesday, June 12, 2019 NGAC Public Meeting

### **Start-up**

The Chair and Vice Chair welcomed NGAC members to the second day of the meeting. A brief overview of the agenda was provided.

### **NGAC Operations Work Group**

Cy Smith led a discussion of the changing role of the NGAC considering the requirements of the Geospatial Data Act. The discussion included the following critical topics:

- Various changes to NGAC responsibilities will require updates to NGAC charter and bylaws.
- Need to develop guidelines process for potential NGAC requests to agencies as described in GDA.
- Need guidance on applicability of FACA compared to requirements of GDA.
- Need to plan for additional NGAC review and comment responsibilities included in the GDA.

The group discussed NGAC operations based on the following question: *In order to meet the requirements outlined in the GDA, operationally, what do we have to continue doing, improve, start, or stop?* Key points included the following:

### **Continue**

- Communication with FGDC staff.
- Emerging technology sessions.
- Subcommittees focused on important topics.
- Developing use cases in subcommittee work. Use cases demonstrate impact and how spatial data is used.
- Agenda setting and development by NGAC.

### **Improve**

- Consider expanding in-person meetings to 3 days, once per year (in Shepherdstown).
- Develop mechanisms to understand impact – feedback loop.
- NGAC membership – get good people to apply, cast a wide net, get groups not currently represented.
- Include a session on the agenda to talk about nominations. NGAC can help identify groups where representation is lacking (not specific people).
- Consider developing a mechanism for public comment on products.
- Consider how to engage stakeholders in NGAC meetings
- Consider lightning talks by NGDA leads to report on theme-related activities.
- Holding FGDC accountable for GDA responsibilities (reporting, communications, GeoPlatform, etc.).

### **Start**

- Communications plan for stakeholder engagement.
- Question/protocols process for getting information from agencies.
- Understanding workload of the NGAC.
- NGAC members/organizations may consider GIS day on Capitol Hill
- Develop a reporting template for agencies.
- Communication plan – process, events, other ways to engage.

- Geospatial value report – impact and use.
- Interaction with other FACAs.
- Open session time.

### Stop

- Information briefs in person – can be done in an email report.
- NGAC public conference call, webinar meeting (not referring to subcommittee or information briefings).

## Subcommittee/Work Group Reports

### Landsat Advisory Group

Frank Avila reported on recent LAG activities. The LAG developed the paper, “Evaluation of a Range of Landsat Data Cost Sharing Models,” in response to the guidance provided to the LAG in 2018 (Task #3). The final draft paper was approved by the LAG in May. The paper was presented to the NGAC for final consideration and adoption.

The LAG focused on three cost-sharing approaches:

- Charging for traditional data
- Charging for value added products and services
- Private-public partnership (P3) structures

Following discussion of the draft paper, the NGAC agreed on the following action:

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the following paper, developed by the Landsat Advisory Group: “Evaluation of a Range of Landsat Data Cost Sharing Models”

Tim Newman (USGS) spoke about the Landsat program and thanked the members of the LAG for their work on the paper. He indicated that USGS staff had discussed potential study topics with the LAG, and were refining the topics/questions.

**ACTION:** USGS National Land Imaging Program staff will refine ideas for the next set of study questions for the LAG.

### Infrastructure Subcommittee

Cy Smith reported on the subcommittee’s activities. The team presented the paper, “Infrastructure Renewal Best Practices.” This paper is one of a series of documents produced by the Infrastructure Subcommittee in response to the 2017-2018 guidance to the NGAC. Previous products include the paper, “Geospatial Information: The Key to Smart Infrastructure Investments” and a set of use cases on Permit Streamlining, Underground Renewal, Pavement Management, and the New York Cultural Resource Information System. The best practices paper was approved by the subcommittee in May. The paper was presented to the NGAC for final consideration and adoption. Following discussion by the NGAC, the committee agreed on the following action:

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the following paper, developed by the Infrastructure Subcommittee: “Infrastructure Renewal Best Practices”

### **Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee**

Garet Couch reported on the subcommittee's activities. The subcommittee is working on a paper addressing the protection of geospatial assets related to cultural and historical resources. Following discussion by the NGAC, the committee agreed on the following action:

**ACTION:** The subcommittee continues its development of a report making recommendations on management of geospatial data assets related to sensitive cultural and historical resources. The timeframe for completion of the paper is as follows:

- Refine draft report within the subcommittee (in progress)
- Distribute draft report for NGAC for review and comment in July 2019
- Review comments and modify report prior to September 2019 NGAC meeting
- Present final draft report for approval at September 2019 meeting

### **A-16 Work Group**

Amber Reynolds reported on the status of Circular A-16 revision and NGAC recommendations. The Work Group reviewed the feedback received on day 1 of the meeting and made revisions to the paper. Ms. Reynolds presented the revised paper and outlined the revisions. Following discussion by the NGAC, the committee agreed on the following action:

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the following paper, developed by the NGAC A-16 Team:  
"Comments on the Revision of OMB Circular A-16"

### **Public Comment Period**

An opportunity for public comment was provided to meeting attendees. There were no public comments this month.

### **Emerging Technologies**

The NGAC held a session on emerging technologies, featuring the following two speakers:

Anne Hale Miglarese (Radiant Earth Foundation, and former NGAC Chair). Ms. Miglarese discussed "The Dramatic pace of innovation in Geospatial Analytics for Land, Sea, and Space." Ms. Miglarese highlighted new industry trends including sensors on Earth observations, new hardware, and analytic approaches.

Steven Ramage (Group of Earth Observations Secretariat). Mr. Ramage discussed GEO's operations, including an initiative with Amazon Web Services utilizing grants, cloud services, and technical support for projects in developing countries to use Earth observations to support sustainable environmental development based on GEO priorities.

### **NGAC Discussion: Emerging Topics / NGAC 2019 Activities**

The NGAC held a session on emerging topics, breaking into groups to discuss NGAC operations, potential study topics, and other activities for 2019. The groups reported on their discussions, which included the following key points:

#### GDA activities

- Stakeholder engagement

- Reporting requirements
- NGAC operating procedures
  - Bylaws
  - Charter
  - Process for public comment

Other topics

- Public-private partnerships (value proposition, use cases, business models - Federal, State, local, Tribal)
- Public safety (inform and educate)
- Privacy protection (current laws impacting Geospatial activities)
- Infrastructure
- Emerging technologies
- Datums 2022 (spotlight panel, presentations with updates)

Following additional discussion, the NGAC agreed on the following actions:

**ACTION:** The NGAC agreed on the following subcommittees for 2019:

- Landsat Advisory Group
- Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee
- Public-Private Partnerships Subcommittee
- NGAC Operations Subcommittee
- Circular A-16 Work Group

**ACTION:** The NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and DFO will collaborate to update subcommittee assignments, and to schedule initial meetings of the new subcommittees

**Meeting Wrap-up & Next Steps**

The Chair reviewed and summarized the meeting actions. The next NGAC meeting will be on September 4-5, 2019 in Shepherdstown, WV. An additional in-person meeting is planned during December 2019.

**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.

Mr. Keith Masback, 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 September 4, 2019***

## 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/june-2019/index.html>

### NGAC Operations Work Group

- NGAC Operations Work Group Presentation

### Landsat Advisory Group

- Landsat Advisory Group Report
- NGAC Paper - Evaluation of a Range of Landsat Data Cost Sharing Models

### Infrastructure Subcommittee

- Infrastructure Subcommittee Report
- NGAC Paper - Infrastructure Renewal Best Practices

### NGAC Circular A-16 Team

- Circular A-16 Team Report
- NGAC Paper - Comments on the Revision of OMB Circular A-16

### Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee

- Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee Report

### Emerging Technologies Spotlight Session

- The Dramatic Pace of Innovation in Geospatial Analytics for Land, Sea and Space – Anne Miglarese
- GEO-Amazon Web Services Earth Observation Cloud Credits Programme – Steven Ramage

### Lightning Sessions

- NSRS Modernization – Thompson (pdf)
- National Address Database Update – Lewis/Cackowski
- ACHP Digital Information Task Force – Semmer