

**NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24-25, 2010**

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2010 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on March 25, 2010. The meeting was held at the One Washington Circle Hotel in Washington, D.C. 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)
Steve Wallach (NGAC Vice-Chair)
Sean Ahearn
Robert Austin
Timothy Bull Bennett
Sophia Beym
Allen Carroll
Dick Clark
David Cowen
Jack Dangermond
David DiSera
Dennis Goreham
Kass Green
Randy Johnson
Randall Johnson
Jerry Johnston
Barney Krucoff
Xavier Lopez
Kimberly Nelson
Matthew O'Connell
Jack Pellicci
Jay Parrish
Cynthia Salas
Eugene Schiller
Christopher Tucker

NGAC Members not present:

Timothy Loewenstein
David Schell

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

Other Attendees:

Gary Adkins (Applied Geospatial Solutions International, Inc.), Cliff Allison (NAVTEQ), Talbot Brooks (GITA/Delta State University), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), John Byrd (MAPPS), Michael Byrne (FCC), Pat Cummens (ESRI), Colleen Cochran Ditmars (Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.), Frank Derby (Penn State

University), Brady Foust (First American Spatial Solutions), Randy Fusaro (Census Bureau), Michelle Gallinger (Library of Congress), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions), Roy Kolstad (NAVTEQ), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress), Stephen Lowe (USDA), Arista Maher (FGDC), John Mahoney (USGS), Charlie Mondello (Pictometry), Bill Mullen (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency), Jean Parcher (USGS), Ted Payne (USDA) Milo Robinson (FGDC), Bob Samborski (GITA), Donna Scholz (DOI), Steve Schwartz (MMS), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), John Siegman (First American Spatial Solutions), Jon Sperling (HUD), Larry Sugarbaker (USGS), Michael Therway (GSA), Tim Trainor (Census Bureau), Mike Wooster (Sanborn Map Company).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

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 March 25. Public observers were introduced to the Committee.

Review and Adoption of December 2009 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Miglarese reviewed the draft minutes from the December 2009 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the December 2009 meeting.

Leadership Dialogue

Andrew Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology, Information and Business Services at the Department of the Interior, addressed the committee. Mr. Jackson welcomed the newly-appointed members of the committee. Mr. Jackson also announced that Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar will serve in the role as Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee. Mr. Jackson indicated that Secretary Salazar looks forward to partnering with the NGAC and the various stakeholders in the geospatial community. Mr. Jackson noted that the Secretary will be assisted by members of his leadership team for day-to-day management; and that the composition of this team is still under discussion.

Mr. Jackson spoke to the importance of incorporating geospatial data and technology into the Secretary's priorities. He provided a brief overview of the Secretary's key priorities for Interior:

- 1.) *America's Great Outdoors (Treasured Landscapes Program)* – Through this initiative, the Department will try to identify landscape-scale conservation projects. By coordinating among land agencies and strategically planning conservation, can have a great impact on conservation efforts as a whole.
- 2.) *At-Risk Species/Climate Change* – The Department is committed to using its resources to ensure the protection of at-risk species and to reversing the impact of climate change wherever possible.
- 3.) *Development of Renewable Energy* – The Department will work with others to develop a balanced energy portfolio.
- 4.) *Water Conservation* – A Departmental priority that deals with identifying opportunities to use water more wisely and to conserve water.
- 5.) *Youth and Diversity in Conservation* – The Department is working to further outreach efforts to youth in urban areas and to concentrate on developing a diverse workforce.

- 6.) *Tribal Trust Responsibilities* – The Department of Interior will work to continue to honor the Nation's commitments to the Tribes.

Mr. Jackson provided a summary of the guidance provided to the NGAC from the FGDC Executive Committee. The priority policy areas from the guidance are as follows:

- 1.) Geospatial Platform
- 2.) Place-Based Policies
- 3.) Emerging Technologies
- 4.) The National Base Map
- 5.) Broadband Mapping
- 6.) Geospatial Workforce Development
- 7.) Partnerships

Mr. Jackson also provided observations on the approaches of the Administration and the Office of Management and Budget to technology, innovation, and budget priorities, and he addressed questions from the committee members. Mr. Jackson indicated that he looked forward to continued, productive engagement with the NGAC.

Member Introductions

NGAC members (including the new members appointed in January 2010 who were attending their first committee meeting) provided brief self-introductions and discussed their backgrounds and objectives for committee membership.

Overview of the NGAC

Anne Miglarese gave a presentation summarizing the history, role, and objectives of the NGAC. The purpose of the NGAC is to provide advice and recommendations on federal geospatial management and policy issues. As a Federal Advisory Committee, the NGAC serves in an advisory capacity.

Ms. Miglarese provided a summary of key NGAC activities in 2008 and 2009, including review and endorsement of Imagery for the Nation, initial recommendations on Geospatial Line of Business (LoB), recommendations on National Parcel Data, authorship of the *Changing Geospatial Landscape* paper, recommendations to FGDC on transition and economic stimulus, approval of the NGAC strategic vision, a dialogue on national geospatial policy and strategy, along with other topics. Ms. Miglarese also provided a summary of the results from the recent NGAC member evaluation.

ACTION: FGDC will post results of NGAC membership evaluation.

Portfolio Management/Geospatial Platform

Adrienne Walker and Kshemendra Paul of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provided a presentation on portfolio management and the geospatial platform.

Adrienne Walker gave an overview of portfolio management from OMB's perspective. Portfolio management is an important management tool that can be used in a variety of contexts. Portfolio management enables organizational strategies, helps weigh benefits against costs, optimizes the value of a portfolio, balances risks, and cross-cuts performance management.

Ms. Walker discussed the roles and responsibilities, under federal portfolio management, of project managers, portfolio managers, program managers/business leaders, and governing bodies. Ms. Walker

discussed model approaches to portfolio optimization, including assessments of cost, benefits, value, and risk. She also discussed challenges to moving toward a portfolio management model

Mr. Paul gave a presentation on geospatial architecture and “platform” concept. Mr. Paul discussed segment architecture, and noted that the federal segment architecture methodology is a best practice for implementing architectural principles. The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) is currently using this methodology.

Mr. Paul also discussed the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM), and the Identity, Credential and Access Management (ICAM) approach. OMB is working with FGDC on best practices methodologies similar to NIEM and ICAM. Mr. Paul also discussed the Data.gov initiative, and noted that Data.gov will soon celebrate its one-year anniversary. He noted that the federal geospatial community has been very active in providing data to the site.

Mr. Paul and Ms. Walker engaged in a dialogue with the NGAC members, and encouraged them to provide input on the Data.gov draft concept of operations.

ACTION: FGDC will provide links to OMB templates for FEA Segment Architecture methodology.

ACTION: NGAC members are encouraged to provide comments, on an individual basis, on the Data.gov Draft Concept of Operations at: www.datagov.ideascale.com

Overview of the NGAC

Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director of FGDC, gave a presentation on the role of the FGDC and how the NGAC contributes to that role. Mr. DeLoatch briefly described the history of the FGDC, provided an overview of the FGDC’s current priorities and activities, and discussed the NGAC appointments process.

Mr. DeLoatch indicated that the FGDC will initiate the next round of NGAC appointments in mid-2010. Approximately one-half of the current appointments to the NGAC will expire in January 2011. Mr. DeLoatch said that the nomination and appointment process will be similar to previous processes. He asked NGAC members and other interested parties to provide any suggestions to improve the nomination and appointment process. He noted that the goal is to attract and appoint the best possible set of representatives.

The NGAC Charter must be renewed every two years, per the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The NGAC Charter was renewed in January 2010.

ACTION: FGDC will initiate the next round of NGAC nominations and appointments in May/June 2010 with a Call for Nominations. NGAC members are encouraged to provide suggestions to FGDC on improvements to the nominations and appointments process.

History of Federal Geospatial Coordination

Milo Robinson of the FGDC Secretariat provided a presentation on the history of federal geospatial coordination. In 1906, President Roosevelt created a geographic board via Executive Order, to avoid duplication of work and improve the standardization of maps. The first version of OMB Circular A-16 was issued in 1953, and it described the responsibilities of Federal agencies with regard to the coordination of surveying and mapping activities. Several other coordination activities have been utilized over the years. Mr. Robinson noted that coordination policies have well-established roots, and that there are similarities between the issues faced by early coordination organizations and the issues still facing us today.

Subcommittee Reports and Updates

National Map Subcommittee

Allen Carroll provided a report on the recent activities of the National Map Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has been providing input to the USGS as it develops a new strategic plan for the National Geospatial Program and The National Map. The Subcommittee is also discussing the possible role of the National Map in the development of a National Basemap/National GIS. Mr. Carroll noted that the Subcommittee is seeking new members to replace former members who are no longer serving on the NGAC.

Partnerships Subcommittee

Gene Schiller and Jerry Johnston provided a report on the activities of the Partnerships Subcommittee. The purpose of the Subcommittee is to develop recommendations to facilitate productive partnerships to facilitate the effective and efficient advancement of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Recent Subcommittee activities include compiling an inventory of case studies and best practices; developing an ArcNews article on case studies of partnerships; collaborating on an ASPRS survey on partnerships; gathering data on a legal framework review; and discussion and planning around case studies. Possible next steps for the Subcommittee include: updating and institutionalizing the case studies database; continuing analysis of legal framework; and implementing pilot projects.

Emerging Technologies Subcommittee

Anne Miglarese provided a report on the activities of the Emerging Technologies Subcommittee. The purpose of the Subcommittee is to explore emerging technologies and provide advice to the FGDC regarding these technologies and their potential applications to advance geospatial programs, products, and services. Possible next steps for the Subcommittee include developing a forecast of likely technology changes and their impact on Federal programs; coordination with agency New Media Teams on the use of geospatial technology in new media outreach; and developing advice/recommendations on cloud computing approaches.

Governance Subcommittee

Dennis Goreham and Chris Tucker provided a report on the activities of the Governance Subcommittee. The Subcommittee's direction came from the NGAC action plan developed in 2008. Subcommittee activities have included developing recommendations for a governance model, providing comments on draft OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance, and development of a paper outlining approaches to measure progress toward realizing the NSDI vision. Possible next steps include: continuing review of A-16 Supplemental Guidance implementation; continued refinement of the Metrics paper; and developing recommendations to define an operational national governance structure and implementation strategy.

Communications Subcommittee

Kass Green provided a report on the activities of the Communications Subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee is dual – internal and external. Internally, the goal is to keep members apprised of subcommittee and other developments. Externally, the goal is to continue to promote geospatial activities of the NGAC and the FGDC outside of the group, and to generate stakeholder awareness. Recently, the Subcommittee has provided advice and feedback on the initial FGDC Virtual Forum, which was held in December 2009.

FGDC Virtual Forum

Stephen Lowe of USDA provided a report on the first FGDC Virtual Forum, which took place on December 9, 2009. The first Forum was focused on a federal audience, and was planned as an opportunity to become familiar with the technology and tools and prepare for larger, future events.

Several NGAC members participated in the forum as observers, and provided useful feedback. In addition, Mr. Lowe thanked the members of the NGAC Communications Subcommittee for their input and suggestions. The next forum will be held for a wider audience, including non-federal partners and stakeholders. Plans for the next forum(s) are under development.

ACTION: NGAC members interested in participating in future FGDC Virtual Forums are encouraged to contact Stephen Lowe (USDA).

Adjournment for Day 1

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

Steve Wallach, NGAC Vice 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 Business Report

Ivan DeLoatch provided a report on the recent activities of the FGDC Secretariat, including the following topics:

- President's FY 2011 Budget
- Geospatial Platform
- Geospatial Line of Business
- Revision of Draft OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance
- Data.gov activities
- Place-Based Policies and Programs
- Imagery for the Nation
- National Geospatial Forum.

Public Comment Period

Public comment was provided by two individuals:

Talbott Brooks, Delta State University

Mr. Brooks discussed lessons learned from recent natural disasters, including the Haiti earthquake and Hurricane Katrina. These events have highlighted lessons about geospatial technology and emergency management. Products delivered in a paper format (maps) need to be usable for first responders and others "on the ground." Much of the federal data that is available doesn't have a consistent symbology. Students of mapmaking need to be taught to make maps that are able to be used in emergency management situations.

Michelle Gallinger, Library of Congress

Ms. Gallinger discussed recent digital preservation activities. The Library of Congress recently held a workshop with federal government stewards to discuss preservation strategies and approaches. The Library of Congress is signing a cooperative agreement with Columbia University to create a portal for digital preservation of information in the geospatial community. The portal will kick off this summer, and should be widely available in winter of 2010.

FGDC Guidance/Development of NGAC Action Plan – Dialogue with FGDC ExCom Members

The Committee hosted a panel discussion and dialogue with members of the FGDC Executive Committee (Karen Siderelis, Ivan DeLoatch, Jerry Johnston, Steve Wallach, and Stephen Lowe). Ms. Siderelis began the discussion with a presentation on the direction in the President's FY 2011 budget, including direction for development of a modernization roadmap for the Geospatial Platform. The Executive Committee members provided their thoughts and perspectives on the budget guidance, the Geospatial Platform, and the priority issues identified in the FGDC guidance to the NGAC.

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

- Geospatial Platform
- Place-based policies

- Emerging technologies/cloud computing
- Broadband mapping
- Geospatial workforce development
- Development of a National Basemap/National GIS
- Geospatial partnerships
- Virtual forum

The NGAC members then divided into discussion group focusing on four issue areas: Broadband Mapping, Place-Based Policies, Geospatial Platform, and Geospatial Workforce. The discussion groups reported the results of their discussions to the committee as a whole. Highlights include the following:

Broadband Mapping

- **Scope** – What should the Broadband Map look like? What kind of content will be published there? Broadband needs to move from availability to high adoption rate. Where do community anchor institutions fit in?
- **Approach** – FCC and NTIA will summarize issues and come back to NGAC for comment.

Place-Based Policies

- **Scope** – Build the geospatial portal and develop a formalized way in the budgetary process for how these things are considered
- **Approach** – Hold a place-based policy workshop, possibly through a Virtual Forum. Identify and publish best practices by: developing a white paper, creating a prototype, defining a system, developing a policy direction/regulatory requirement for agencies, building a geospatial platform. Results in transparency, better collaboration, etc.

Geospatial Platform

- **Scope** - Make sure that the Geospatial Platform does not get limited to the traditional geospatial data community. The Geospatial Platform is intended to not only enable access to traditional geospatial data, but also to ensure that all government business data is accessible in a spatially- and temporally-enabled environment.
- **Approach** - Work closely with budget side of OMB to include in their FEA dashboard a series of metrics for the Geospatial Platform and the larger NSDI. These metrics should provide a level of transparency and accountability within the NSDI community that will incentivize participation by all Federal agencies as well as State, local, Tribal, academic, private and non-profit partners.

Geospatial Workforce

- **Approach** – Need to do research on the work that is already out there on this topic. Develop a plan, estimate costs, and then focus on marketing the plan. There are lots of universities that are providing training – we need to find out about these programs and how best to take advantage of them. Internships are also areas which might be useful in exploring.

NGAC Subcommittees

The committee discussed the organization of Subcommittees to address the priority areas described in the FGDC's 2010 guidance to the NGAC.

ACTION: The NGAC agreed upon the following Subcommittee structure:

- Geospatial Platform (ad hoc subcommittee – including members from the current emerging technologies, partnerships, governance and communications committees to respond to near-term priorities)
- Place-Based Policies (ad hoc subcommittee – including members from other established subcommittees to respond to near-term priorities)
- The National Map (continuing subcommittee)
- Partnerships (continuing subcommittee)
- Emerging Technologies (continuing subcommittee)
- Governance (continuing subcommittee)
- Communications (continuing subcommittee)
- Broadband (new subcommittee)
- Geospatial Workforce (new subcommittee)

ACTION: NGAC Members are asked to indicate their preferences for Subcommittee membership. Respond to John Mahoney and Tricia Gibbons.

ACTION: NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and DFO will make Subcommittee assignments based on indicated preferences.

ACTION: Subcommittee Chairs are asked to complete and submit Subcommittee Meeting Summaries following each NGAC Subcommittee meeting.

News and Notes Forum

Climate Change – Bull Bennett

Mr. Bennett reported that the North Dakota Association of Tribal Colleges (NDATC) has been working with 18 member tribes on climate change. NDATC is gathering scientists from North and South Dakota, as well as other states, to participate in a forum on climate change. The efforts that come out of this will largely be geospatially-based.

Geospatial Technology Competency Model – Kass Green

Ms. Green discussed the Geospatial Technology Competency Model – what kind of competencies must people at various levels of industry have?

Geo-Search Capabilities – Jack Dangermond

Mr. Dangermond provided a demonstration of geo-search capabilities.

NGAC Action Plan

ACTION: NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and DFO will integrate information from the meeting and develop a draft Action Plan for NGAC activities in 2010. Plan will be distributed to NGAC members by mid-April.

Next Meeting

The next NGAC meeting is scheduled for June 22-23, 2010 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Potential agenda topics include the following:

- Update on the Geospatial Platform
- Broadband recommendations
- Data.gov update
- Prototype of place-based policies
- National Map/BaseMap Subcommittee report
- “Lightning talks” (10-minute maximum presentations)
- Dialogue with agency New Media Teams
- Dialogue with Secretary Salazar at future meeting in D.C.

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 June 22, 2010

March 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/march-2010/index_html

FGDC Guidance to NGAC

- FGDC Guidance to NGAC – March 2010

Overview of the NGAC

- NGAC Overview - Miglarese
- NGAC Member Evaluation
- NGAC Overview - DeLoatch

Portfolio Management / Geospatial Platform

- Investment Management Concepts – OMB

History of Federal Geospatial Coordination

- NGAC Historical Perspective

Subcommittee Reports & Updates

- National Map Subcommittee
- Partnerships Subcommittee
- Emerging Technologies Subcommittee
- Governance Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee

FGDC Report

- FGDC Report

Geospatial Platform Overview

- Geospatial Platform Overview

FGDC Guidance/Development of NGAC Action Plan

- FGDC Guidance Discussion
- Emerging Technologies Considerations

News and Notes Forum

- Geospatial Technology Competency Model
- Place Based Budgeting