

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
May 12-13, 2009

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2009 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on May 13, 2009. The meeting was held at the George Washington University Cafritz Conference Center 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)
Steven Wallach (NGAC Vice-Chair)
Sean Ahearn
Timothy M. Bull Bennett
Michael Byrne
Allen Carroll
Richard Clark
David Cowen
Jack Dangermond
Donald Dittmar
Dennis Goreham
Kass Green
Randy Johnson
Randall Johnson
Jerry Johnston
Barney Krucoff
Timothy Loewenstein
David Maune
Charles Mondello
Zsolt Nagy
Kim Nelson
John Palatiello
Jay Parrish
Eugene Schiller
Chris Tucker
David Schell
Michael Ritchie

Ivan DeLoatch, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, and Karen Siderelis, acting Chair of the FGDC, were also in attendance.

NGAC Members not present:

Matthew O'Connell

Other attendees:

Cliff Allison (NAVTEQ), Sergei Andronikov (GMU), Wendy Blake Coleman (EPA), Jeff Booth (DHS), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), John Copple (Sanborn Map Company), Dan Cotter (DHS), Pat Cummens (ESRI), Learnon Dalby (NSGIC), Louis Demargne (Fugro Earthdata), Randy Fusaro (Census), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Leonard Gore, Jr. (BLM), Rich Grady (Applied Geographics), Jim Heald (USDA/FSA),

Eric Hunn (Grant Thornton), Jill Jones (Sanborn Map Company), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions), Ray Kolstad (NAVTEQ), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Pat Lange (Booz Allen Hamilton), Tony Lavoie (NOAA), Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress), Arista Maher (FGDC), John Mahoney (FGDC), Craig Molander (Surdex), Bob Pierce (DOI), Kevin Pomfret (Cantor Arkema), Milo Robinson (FGDC), Mark Safran (BAE Systems), Paul Schirle (Library of Congress), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Jon Sperling (HUD), Larry Sugarbaker (USGS), Chuck Symer (Booz Allen Hamilton), Scott Vandermark (Fugro Earthdata)

TUESDAY, MAY 12

Call to Order & 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 morning of May 13. Ms. Miglarese reviewed the minutes from the February 4-5, 2009 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the February 2008 NGAC meeting.

FGDC Briefing

Karen Siderelis, Acting Chair of the FGDC, and Ivan DeLoatch, Staff Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), provided a summary of recent FGDC activities and initiatives. Ms. Siderelis discussed the status of Transition activities, including appointments of the new Federal Chief Information Officer and new Federal Chief Technology Officer, both of which are new positions in the Federal government. Ms. Siderelis indicated that a number of agency-level Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) positions have not yet been filled.

Ms. Siderelis also provided an update on the activities of the FGDC Executive Committee, which held an off-site planning meeting in April. The Executive Committee agreed to pursue the development of a National Geospatial Policy, discussed improvements in coordination/collaboration with other components of the FGDC, and discussed strategies to improve coordination on economic recovery activities and data issues.

Ms. Siderelis also provided an update on the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative, including the status of the IFTN contracting, governance, and hosting/infrastructure strategies. The Executive Committee plans to develop a Record of Decision to document the interagency agreements on the IFTN project plan.

Mr. DeLoatch provided updates on the following activities:

Recovery.Gov.

FGDC and partner agencies have been working with the Recovery.Gov team to develop architecture and guidance for the geospatial component of Recovery.gov. The goal is to utilize geospatial information as an integral component of the recovery effort. Mr. DeLoatch noted that the emerging strategy is consistent with the NGAC Transition recommendations.

Geospatial Line of Business

- Geospatial SmartBUY – Contract awards are expected in summer 2009. The vendor selection process is on track, and the technical evaluation board has developed a review process in coordination with GSA.
- OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance – Approved by FGDC Steering Committee and under review by OMB.
- FEA Geospatial Profile Version 2 – in comment adjudication/approval process.

NGAC Appointments Process

- Call for nominations will go out in June/July 2009. Nominations will be evaluated by Review Panel. Review Panel recommendations will be submitted to DOI Secretary in Fall 2009.

Appointments and updated charter should be approved by December, and the new appointments will take effect in January 2010.

- The NGAC has staggered terms, and approximately half of the current committee members' terms will expire in January 2010. FGDC will place a continuing emphasis on committee balance and representation from various communities.

State of the NGAC

Ms. Miglares provided a presentation on the status and progress of the NGAC. She discussed the accomplishments of the group in its first year of operation, including the development of recommendations and advice on major geospatial initiatives; drafting a vision for a National Geospatial Strategy; and serving as a voice for the geospatial community. Ms. Miglares also identified opportunities for improvement, including more active engagement from subcommittees, improved communication of the NGAC's activities, and ongoing assessment of the group's performance and impact. The committee engaged in a discussion of areas where the group has been successful and areas where improvements can be made. Committee members commented on the need for feedback on FGDC needs and priorities and for input into meeting planning and NGAC activities. The group also agreed on the following action:

ACTION: Transmittals of NGAC recommendations will be made available to NGAC members.

Keynote Discussion

Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO) Vivek Kundra provided a keynote discussion on Federal geospatial policy and priorities. Mr. Kundra views geospatial information and technology as vital components of service delivery at all levels of government. Mr. Kundra indicated that geospatial information is an important means with which to educate and communicate with leadership, and he sees it as a way to build context-driven government – building services around users and their needs. He also discussed the need to remove “artificial barriers” to intergovernmental data sharing. Mr. Kundra then engaged in a dialogue with the NGAC members, responding to a variety of questions on geospatial policy and programs. In closing, Mr. Kundra said he looks forward to working with the NGAC and the geospatial community to pursue common goals.

Presentation/Panel Discussion – Developing a National Geospatial Policy and Strategic Plan

Several members of the FGDC Executive Committee; Dan Cotter (DHS), Karen Siderelis, Steve Wallach, and Jerry Johnston; took part in a panel discussion about the development of a National Geospatial Policy and Strategic Plan. The discussion included an overview and discussion of draft proposal and approach for developing a National Geospatial Policy and Strategic Plan, and dialogue and feedback from the NGAC members.

National Geospatial Policy and Strategic Plan

The NGAC engaged in small group discussions on the concepts and overall approach to developing a national policy. The key points that were identified in the discussions of the potential scope/content of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy are as follows:

Key Elements of a National Geospatial Policy document:

- Purpose
- Vision statement
- Definitions
- Historical references
- Definition and alignment of roles and responsibilities
- High-level goals and objectives
- Governance
- Funding options
- Incentives and penalties
- High-level workforce strategy
- High-level Research and Development strategy

Key Characteristics of a National Geospatial Policy:

- Distributive implementation/coordination/integration
- Effective intergovernmental and public-private partnerships
- Processes for adjudication, problem solving, dispute resolution
- Policy statement of U.S. technology leadership
- Operational-level workforce strategy
- Operational-level Research and Development strategy
- Linkage to Federal Enterprise Architecture
- Addresses Security and Privacy issues
- Processes for interoperability
- Opportunity for innovation
- International leadership
- Supports emerging business technologies
- Encourages shared policies at multiple government levels.
- Promotes healthy and vibrant private sector
- Clear accountability processes
- Processes for cost sharing on data partnerships (Data Model Sharing Policies)
- Includes definition of content standards (common data model)
- Policy is created quickly
- Based upon collaboration from start with all sectors
- Organic
- Performance-based, at all levels
- Addresses defined national issues
- Sustainability
- Manageable scope
- Defined shelf life
- Articulates the business need and value

Implementation of a National Geospatial Policy:

- Establishment of a Federal Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) within the Executive Office of the President
- Establishment of a National Coordination Board with action authority
- Enforcement and implementation processes in place
- Processes and criteria for priority setting and resource allocation
- Appropriate benchmark metrics and performance measures in place
- Ongoing assessment
- Processes & procedures to ensure accountability
- Sustainable funding (cost sharing - sustained O&M)
- Funding conditioned on compliance
- Ensures national capabilities are in place for sustained and crisis-driven geospatial needs
- Ongoing outreach, education, promulgation of best practices

Adjournment for Day 1

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

The 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.

National Geospatial Policy and Strategic Plan

The NGAC continued its discussion of the development of a National Geospatial Policy and Strategic Plan. The NGAC engaged in small group discussions on the potential roles of the NGAC in supporting development of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy. The key points that were identified in the discussions are as follows:

- Provide feedback and advice on concept and approach
- Identify issues that could be resolved with federal policy
- Recommend funding approaches and policies
- Call for a study that characterizes geospatial domain/community, its trends, and sources of funding across all sectors
- Encourage collaborative leadership and governance in developing National Geospatial Policy
- Demonstrate the vision with elements of geospatial infrastructure that are already in place
 - Identify the needs and gaps/ the geospatial backlog, data inventory, goals & gaps
 - Provide key data and information
 - Itemize benefits that would come from improved infrastructure demonstrated within government and across the landscape
 - Define cost in terms of lost opportunities that we continue to accrue by not acting
- Provide ideas for consideration in a national policy. May include suggestions on language
- Be an idea incubator, translator, facilitator, and cheerleader
- Identify and communicate benefits, strengths & weaknesses
- Respond to and be supportive of the CIO
 - Address relevant issues that matter to the CIO and the administration (e.g., data.gov, recovery.gov)
 - Be quick and timely in response to CIO (more so than NRC)
 - Help the CIO be transparent and accountable
- Identify 10 apps consistent across the nation, e.g., geocoding
- Provide advice and recommendations on the development of the concept, approach and policy of national geospatial strategy via a collaborative process
 - Identify inputs to inform process – include various stakeholders
 - Advocate for high-level industry analysis
 - Request staff provides baseline metrics re: size of industry, trend data, etc.
 - Identify stakeholders to ensure inclusion in outreach effort and strategy development
- Advocate for a Geospatial Policy Forum. There are enough organizations that do this, but we advocate that it should be done
- Advocate for a social media approach to engage the geospatial community in the development of a National Geospatial Policy
- Draft an implementation plan and process for non-federal sectors (state, local, tribal, regional) in support of the policy

At the conclusion of the NGAC's discussion of the National Geospatial Policy, the NGAC agreed upon the following actions:

ACTION: FGDC staff will compile and summarize notes from NGAC sessions on 1) Potential scope/content of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy, and 2) Potential roles of NGAC in supporting development of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy. NGAC members will prioritize possible actions identified during discussion sessions.

ACTION: DFO and FGDC Executive Committee will review NGAC feedback and provide guidance to NGAC on roles/expectations for NGAC support in development of National Geospatial Policy/Strategy.

ACTION: FGDC staff will initiate discussion forum on NGAC wiki site regarding Executive Order 12906. The forum will allow NGAC members to provide comments and suggestions on potential revisions to E.O. 12906.

ACTION: FGDC Acting Chair, NGAC Chair, and DFO will meet with Federal CIO to discuss priorities for FGDC and NGAC.

Public Comment Period

The following input was provided during the public comment period:

Dan Cotter, DHS. Mr. Cotter encouraged the committee to consider three approaches while considering a National Geospatial Policy:

1. Current Policy is basically sound – just enforce it and make it work better
2. Minor updates and revisions to E.O. 12906
3. Full review and rewrite of Geospatial Policy framework (E.O. 12906, Circular A-16, etc.)

Learnon Dalby, NSGIC. Mr. Dalby indicated that NSGIC has provided comments and suggestions on the development of a national policy. Mr. Dalby recommended that the NSGIC-developed criteria for “For the Nation” initiatives should be an important component. Mr. Dalby also noted that NSGIC has provided several other policy papers that may be helpful in developing a national policy. Mr. Dalby also recommended the use of social media techniques in the development of a national policy/strategy.

Economic Recovery Subcommittee

Kim Nelson provided an overview of the activities of the NGAC Economic Recovery Subcommittee. The purpose of the Subcommittee is to “document lessons learned from our experience with lawmakers and decision makers during the drafting/passage of the American Recovery and Rehabilitation (ARRA) and to be better prepared for articulating the value of geospatial information as we address important challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century.” The Subcommittee held its first meeting in April. Thus far, the team has had one phone meeting and one in-person meeting and has identified a preliminary set of lessons learned. The Subcommittee plans to develop draft conclusions that can be presented to the NGAC at the August meeting.

ACTION: Economic Recovery Subcommittee will provide draft conclusions prior to August 2009 NGAC meeting.

Partnerships

Jerry Johnston and Gene Schiller provided an update on the activities of the NGAC Partnerships Subcommittee. The purpose of the Subcommittee is to “develop recommendations to facilitate productive Federal/State/Local/Tribal/Academic/Private partnerships to facilitate the efficient and effective advancement of the NSDI.” The Subcommittee issued a call for references in February seeking examples of best practices and success stories demonstrating successful geospatial partnerships. The subcommittee is compiling the responses and will provide draft findings to the NGAC in August. The goal is to produce a final document for the December NGAC meeting.

ACTION: Partnerships Subcommittee will review results of Call for References and provide draft findings prior to August NGAC meeting.

ACTION: Partnerships Subcommittee will explore developing a sample scenario of theme-based procurement to examine limitations of current procurement approaches (potential themes – parcel data, transportation)

The National Map

Allen Carroll provided an overview of the activities of the NGAC National Map Subcommittee. Mr. Carroll indicated that USGS is preparing a white paper on The National Map that addresses questions that the NGAC raised at the February meeting. The paper will provide a summary of the current status of the different components of The National Map. In addition, Mr. Carroll indicated that USGS is initiating the development of a 5-year plan for The National Map. The USGS team believes that the NGAC and the Subcommittee can play a valuable role in providing feedback at key points in the development of the plan. The Subcommittee will provide additional information about the planning process at the August NGAC meeting. During the discussion, Dennis Goreham requested that the NGAC be provided with a copy of a paper on "Geospatial Mapping and Survey Functions" prepared for the Interior Department in 2006. Ms. Siderelis and Mr. DeLoatch indicated that they would determine whether the paper was available to be released.

ACTION: USGS is preparing a white paper on the current activities and future direction of The National Map program. The TNM Subcommittee will review the draft paper, then the paper will be provided to NGAC for discussion at August NGAC meeting

Communications

Kass Green provided an overview of the activities of the NGAC Communications Subcommittee. Highlights included the following:

- The FGDC held a training session for the NGAC Wiki site on March 25. The Partnerships and Economic Recovery Subcommittees are using the Wiki for collaboration and subcommittee work. All meeting materials are now being posted on the Wiki.
- The NGAC website has been updated based on feedback from NGAC members.
- The NGAC Changing Landscape paper was translated into French and posted in Directions Magazine French edition: http://francais.directionsmag.com/articles.php?article_id=3090
- The Changing Landscape paper (shortened version) will be published in ASPRS PE&RS Journal.
- Committee members continue to give presentations on NGAC at a variety of different forums.

In addition, the NGAC agreed upon the following actions:

ACTION: FGDC staff will determine DOI/FACA policy regarding press releases on advisory committee activities.

ACTION: FGDC will provide regular updates to NGAC on FGDC activities.

ACTION: FGDC staff will post link to "Geospatial Revolution" video on NGAC web and Wiki pages.

Parcel Data

Dave Cowen provided a report on the May 7 stakeholder meeting sponsored by the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee. The goal of the meeting was to explore the potential uses of land parcel data for more effective management of mortgage and financial oversight programs and activities. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Seek input and feedback from key stakeholders on current uses of parcel data
- Demonstrate tools and capabilities to effectively utilize parcel data for monitoring and management
- Document requirements for land parcel data as well as the relationships between these data and other sources of information.

The meeting had a significant turnout, with participation from over 50 stakeholders. The Cadastral Subcommittee has compiled a summary of the meeting detailing conclusions and next steps, which is available at: <http://www.nationalcad.org/showdocs.asp?docid=1094&navsrc=Report&navsrc2=>

News and Notes Forum

Charlie Mondello provided an update on the status of the ASPRS Industry Forecast project. ASPRS is in discussions with NGA and USGS to partner on the study. The goal is to organize and complete the study by the end of FY 2010.

John Palatiello provided a summary of a presentation on geospatial governance that he provided at the recent BLM/Forest Service "Geospatial 2009" conference. The presentation provided background information on the history and evolution of geospatial management and governance, and provided ideas and suggestions on possible improvements and enhancements. Mr. Palatiello recommended that committee members review the research paper developed by Milo Robinson of the FGDC on geospatial governance.

ACTION: FGDC staff will provide link to research paper on history of geospatial governance on NGAC web and Wiki pages.

Next Meeting

The next NGAC meeting is scheduled for August 26-27, 2009 in Shepherdstown, WV. Potential agenda topics include the following:

- National Geospatial Policy/Strategy
 - NGAC/FGDC Priority Areas
 - Scope/Approach for Development of Policy
- Discussion of FGDC/Federal CIO Priority Issues
- Partnerships
- Subcommittee Reports

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

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 August 26, 2009

May 2009 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/may-2009/index_html

FGDC Update

- FGDC Update Presentation

NGAC Update

- NGAC Update Presentation

National Geospatial Policy/Strategy

- National Geospatial Policy/Strategy Presentation

NGAC Subcommittee Reports

- Partnerships – Johnston/Schiller
- Economic Recovery – Nelson
- Communications – Green
- Parcel Data – Cowen

News and Notes

- Geospatial Governance - Palatiello