

National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting
May 8, 2019
Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting on May 8, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The meeting was held via webinar and teleconference. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

NGAC members present:

Keith Masback, NGAC Chair
Mark Reichardt, NGAC Vice Chair
Frank Avila
Garet Couch
Pat Cummins
Xavier Irias
Sanjay Kumar
Tony LaVoi
Roberta Lenczowski
Kevin Pomfret
Amber Reynolds
Cy Smith
Rebecca Somers
Jennie Stapp
Christine Stinchcomb
Julie Sweetkind-Singer
Gary Thompson
Harvey Thorleifson
Jason Warzinik
May Yuan

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
Byron Bluehorse
Gar Clarke
Mike Hussey

Other Attendees: Dierdre Bevington Attardi (US Census Bureau), John Byrd (NSPS), Tyler Christensen (NOAA), Lucia Foulkes (FGDC), Doug Gevertt (Dept of Education), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Kevin Howald (Harris Geospatial Solutions), Tom Lee (Mapbox), Adam Martin (Esri), Eliana Perlmutter (Lewis-Burke Associates LLC), Tim Petty (DOI), Justin Reed (Booz Allen Hamilton), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Vaishal Sheth (FGDC), Paul Voosen (American Association for the Advancement of Science).

Welcome & Brief Introductions

NGAC Chair Keith Masback called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. EST and welcomed members and public attendees. Member introductions were made. The NGAC Chair introduced Mark Reichardt, who will serve as the NGAC Vice Chair.

Mr. Masback thanked Ms. Julie Sweetkind-Singer for her leadership during her role as the NGAC Chair. An overview of the agenda was provided. The NGAC Chair and Vice Chair welcomed the new NGAC members whom were recently appointed.

Review and adoption of Minutes from December NGAC meeting

The draft minutes of the December 2018 NGAC meeting were reviewed, and the Chair called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the December 6, 2018 NGAC Web meeting.

Greetings from the NGAC Chair & Vice-Chair

Keith Masback and Mark Reichardt reported on the NGAC activities in 2018 and noted the following recent products of the NGAC subcommittees:

Landsat Advisory Group

- Landsat Future Missions Recommendations
- Landsat Data Cube Feasibility for Forecasting

Data as a Service

- Geospatial Data as a Service: A Vital Investment in American Enterprise and Innovation
- Geospatial Data as a Service Use Cases

Geospatial Data and Infrastructure

- Geospatial Information: The Key to Smart Infrastructure Investments
- NGAC Infrastructure Use Cases:
 - Permit Streamlining
 - Underground Renewal
 - Pavement Management
 - NY State Cultural Resource Information System (NYCRIS)

An overview of the subcommittee activities and deliverables for 2019 was provided. The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 will be a key activity for the NGAC in 2019. Mr. Masback noted that the NGAC has developed initial feedback on the analysis of the law conducted by the FGDC Tiger Team.

Leadership Remarks

Dr. Tim Petty, DOI Assistant Secretary, Water & Science, welcomed the newly appointed members and thanked the NGAC for their service. Dr. Petty looks forward to working with the NGAC. He noted that the NGAC has been highly effective in providing advice and guidance to the FGDC. He added that the NGAC plays a key role in facilitating partnerships and collaboration with FGDC partners.

FGDC / Federal Programs Update

Ivan DeLoatch reported on current FGDC activities. Highlights included the following:

Geospatial Platform: GeoPlatform Release 15 focuses on enhancements to the user experience. There are a significant number of enhancements in content and layout as well as streamlined menu navigation to facilitate search and discovery.

GeoPathways: FGDC launched the GeoPathways internship program to attract and prepare future workforce for geospatial careers. For 2019, several GeoPathways students returned as team leads. Currently there are 19 students working on several projects including federated geospatial ecosystems, use case demonstrations for disasters, GeoPlatform testing and development, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and others.

OGC Concept Development Study: The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) initiated a successful Disaster Concept Development Study in 2018. The goal for 2019 is to strengthen partnerships in disaster-related programs. OGC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), which closed on May 7, 2019. Currently, OGC is evaluating those proposals that will continue next year.

Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO): COGO released its [2019 Report Card on the NSDI](#) in February 2019. FGDC collaborated with COGO to help inform development of the report card. Grades on the NSDI Themes showed improvement since the 2015 report card. FGDC will continue to work with COGO on future evaluations.

Annual Report: The 2018 FGDC Annual Report is now available at <https://www.fgdc.gov/resources/whitepapers-reports/annual%20reports/2018> for downloading in both high-resolution and low-resolution digital (.pdf) file format. To request print copies, contact Lucia Foulkes (lfoulkes@usgs.gov). Print copies will also be available at the June NGAC meeting.

Geospatial Data Act (GDA) Overview/Activities

Ivan DeLoatch provided an overview of the GDA and discussed current activities. The FGDC Steering Committee established an interagency Tiger Team to analyze the GDA. The Tiger Team has held two workshops to begin initial assessment of the law. The Tiger Team established GDA work groups to analyze sections of the GDA, identify impacts, requirements, and develop recommendations. The work groups are:

- Governance/Organization (Secs 753, 754)
- Data, Standards, and Delivery (Secs 755, 756, 757, 758)
- Covered Agencies/Reporting (Secs 759, 759A)
- Communication/Outreach

A high-level road map was developed to guide the implementation strategy. The road map describes the tasks and deliverables on the following:

- OMB Circular A-11 Language Revision
- Federal Data Strategy Action Plan Update
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement
- GDA Interagency Budget Initiative
- GDA Work Groups – Critical issues
- GDA Communications Strategy
- Development of OMB Guidance

Draft NGAC GDA Study Questions

A draft of GDA study questions was distributed to the NGAC for discussion. The topics included the following:

1. **OMB Guidance:** OMB plans to issue an updated version of the OMB Circular A-16 by October. The FGDC requests that the NGAC provide advice and recommendation on potential scope and content of the revision of A-16 in alignment with the GDA.
2. **NGAC Roles and Responsibilities:** FGDC asks the NGAC to provide guidance on how the NGAC should be organized and managed to fulfill the requirements of the GDA.
3. **Roles and Responsibilities for section 753 (c)(8):** *“The (FGDC) shall define roles and responsibilities and promote and guide cooperation and coordination among agencies of the Federal Government, State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector in the collection, production, sharing, and use of geospatial information, the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the identification of proven practices.”* FGDC requests that the NGAC provide recommendation on how the FGDC should address the requirements in this section.
4. **National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI):** FGDC requests advise from the NGAC on approaches the FGDC may take to advise Federal and non-Federal users of geospatial data on their responsibilities in implementing the NSDI.

NGAC feedback from discussion

- Section 753 will be crucial to address
- Governance component is critical to the GDA.
- Need to ensure that the NGAC updates operating procedures to fulfill new GDA responsibilities, while still addressing subcommittee work.
- GDA presents challenges and opportunities. Think about the overarching framework. Don't lose sight of the big picture.
- Rethink stakeholder engagement and define roles and responsibilities.
- NGAC does not have a formal public comment approach. NGAC should consider process to address stakeholder engagement and public comment approach.
- Review OMB Circular A-16 paper adopted by the NGAC in 2016.

NGAC Initial Feedback on GDA Activities

A team led by Julie Sweetkind-Singer reviewed the initial analysis of the GDA performed by the FGDC GDA Tiger Team. The NGAC developed high level comments specific to the following sections that were reviewed:

- Governance
- Data, Standards, and Delivery
- Covered Agencies
- Communications and Outreach

The draft paper “Initial Comments on Geospatial Data Act Implementation” was distributed to the NGAC prior to the meeting and discussed during the meeting. Following review and discussion, the NGAC approved the paper.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the “Initial Comments on Geospatial Data Act Implementation” paper.

Subcommittee Reports

The NGAC subcommittee chairs reported on the status of their activities:

Landsat Advisory Group (LAG)

Frank Avila and Roberta Lenczowski reported on the LAG's activities. The team has developed a draft report addressing Task #3 from the most recent LAG guidance, evaluating Cost Sharing Models for Landsat Data. The report will focus on three cost-sharing approaches:

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

The final report will be presented for adoption during the NGAC meeting in June 2019.

ACTION: The subcommittee will provide a draft paper on potential Landsat cost sharing models to the NGAC prior to the June 2019 NGAC meeting.

Cultural Resources Subcommittee

Garet Couch reported on the subcommittee's activities. The subcommittee is working on a paper addressing the management of geospatial assets associated with sensitive cultural and historical resources. The group developed a standardized guide to interview Federal contacts. The group has identified draft recommendations and next steps, and is continuing to refine its summary paper. The subcommittee chair requested additional volunteers to join the group.

Next steps:

- Develop draft report and distribute review draft report prior to September 2019 NGAC meeting
- Solicit feedback from NGAC members
- Review comments and modify report
- Present final draft report for approval at September 2019 Meeting

ACTION: The subcommittee will provide a draft paper on management of geospatial data associated with sensitive cultural and historical resources to the NGAC prior to the September 2019 NGAC meeting.

Infrastructure Subcommittee

Cy Smith reported on the subcommittee's activities. The group is working on a Infrastructure Renewal Best Practice paper. This paper will complement the subcommittee's previous products, which include papers on:

- Geospatial Information: The Key to Smart Infrastructure
- NGAC Infrastructure Use Cases: Permit and Streamlining, Road Maintenance, Underground Renewal, NY State Cultural Resources Information System (NYCRIS)

Next steps:

1. Redistribute the Best Practice document to NGAC members.
2. Solicit and request additional comments by May 31, 2019.
3. Adjudicate comments and redistribute prior to the June 11-12 NGAC meeting.

ACTION: The subcommittee will provide a draft paper on infrastructure renewal best practices to the NGAC prior to the June 2019 NGAC meeting.

Public Comment Period

An opportunity for public comment was provided to meeting attendees.

The Chair noted that written comments were submitted by Mr. John Palatiello related to the NGAC Underground Renewal Use Case paper. The Chair noted that the comments have been referred to the Infrastructure Subcommittee for consideration. The subcommittee will review the comments and provide recommendations back to the NGAC on how they should be addressed.

Planning for 2019 NGAC Activities

Keith Masback and Mark Reichardt led a discussion on plans for NGAC activities in 2019. Topics discussed included the following:

- FGDC/NGAC priorities: The current NGAC subcommittees will complete their work on current papers as planned by the June and September meetings.
- GDA ideas
 - Reference initial NGAC feedback on GDA analysis approved today.
 - There are 4-5 key elements of GDA implementation that NGAC should address.
 - Roles and responsibilities related to governance are critical.
 - Do we need a new standing committee focused on GDA?
 - Remember the intent of the law – improve access to data, apply to decision making.
 - Take advantage of the momentum. This is important with the stakeholder community, move forward aggressively.
 - Make best use of geospatial community conferences and events – FGDC and NGAC members should be spokespeople.
 - Communications: when other groups address their own community, send it to FGDC so we can compile what info was shared.
 - Be cautious about GDA messaging. Don't overpromise and underdeliver. GDA implementation will take several years and additional resources, so don't oversell the immediate impacts.
 - Develop FAQs to address key aspects of the GDA.
 - GDA is an opportunity to enrich our knowledge on infrastructure.
- GDA Study questions
 - OMB Guidance
 - One of the first deliverables – by October 2019
 - OMB expects to update Circular A-16
 - Refer to 2016 NGAC comments.
 - Small group to prepare discussion at June meeting
 - Changing Role of the NGAC
 - Review and plan for key changes
 - Rethink some of our processes so NGAC is not overwhelmed
 - Still want to be able to address forward-looking issues
 - How do we comply with specific GDA reporting requirements?
 - Plan to have a session at the June meeting to discuss the NGAC role and the GDA in more detail

- Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
 - Really a governance issue – will require a lot of attention
 - Look at other models, expand to stewardship program
 - What’s urgent is communicating to the community – to set the groundwork
 - We may get a different view if we get input from stakeholders rather than imposing our own view
 - Get the communication going to give us the guidance moving forward, we may get different views
 - Utilize social media
- NSDI Strategic Plan
 - Need engagement from the stakeholder community
- Emerging Topics. The NGAC members identified several potential topics for future NGAC consideration, including the following:
 - Public-private partnership models
 - Public safety NG911
 - Privacy protection
 - Geo technologies for smartphones – including apps for wildland fire protection
 - 2022 Datum change
 - Suggestion – continue having guest speakers from non-geospatial organizations at NGAC meetings

Announcements & Wrap-up

The Chair reviewed and summarized the actions from the meeting. The next NGAC meeting will be on June 11-12, 2019 in Washington, DC.

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 June 11, 2019

May 2019 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 <https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/may-2019/index.html>

FGDC Update

- FGDC Status Report

Geospatial Data Act

- Geospatial Data Act Overview and Current Activities

NGAC Geospatial Data Act Paper

- NGAC Initial GDA Feedback Overview
- NGAC Paper - Initial Comments on Geospatial Data Act Implementation

Landsat Advisory Group

- Landsat Advisory Group Status Report

Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee

- Cultural & Historical Resources Subcommittee Status Report

Geospatial Technology & Infrastructure Subcommittee

- Geospatial Technology & Infrastructure Subcommittee Status Report