

National Geospatial Advisory Committee

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NSDI Collaborative Governance National and Federal

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Problem Statement

- Problem: There is no comprehensive national governance and coordination process that provides equitable participation in the NSDI
- Develop strategy for expanding NSDI capability and value through broadened stakeholder engagement, partnerships, resource investment, and utilization for improved decision-making
 - Recommend a national collaborative governance organizational construct that:
 - Significantly broadens stakeholder participation that ensures equitable representation by all interested stakeholder groups
 - Builds on significant progress made by federal government in advancement of NGDAs and associated NSDI technology, policies, criteria, standards, and human resources
 - Establishes a platform for discussion and formation of partnerships to advance the NSDI
 - Leverages pilot initiatives to 1) identify and test improved national collaborative governance approach and 2) to encourage innovation in addressing NSDI challenges

Background:

- Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA)
 - The creation and maintenance of many of the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) themes occurs at the local and State levels, with aggregation of this data from multiple sources forming NGDAs
 - Even though federal agencies engage with some local, State and Tribal governments through partnership programs, those participating governments do not represent the needs of all government entities.
 - GDA, Sec. 751(b)(2), “the private sector in the United States, for the purposes of acquiring and producing quality geospatial data and geospatial data services, has been and continues to be invaluable in carrying out the varying missions of Federal departments and agencies”
 - GDA, Sec. 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”

Background (cont)

- The NGAC has identified expansion of NSDI stakeholder engagement and the formation of P3s and other innovative partnerships as essential for reaching greater national geospatial coverage and capability for improved decision-making
 - December 2020, NGAC Paper: Advancing the NSDI through Public-Private Partnerships and other Innovative Partnerships
 - Recommendation 3: The NGAC should work with the FGDC and stakeholders to *design a recommended strategy for the creation of a national collaborative governance process* to guide a more efficient investigation, prioritization and implementation of P3s and other innovative partnerships to advance the NSDI...
 - June – September 2021: Community GDA workshops to engage public and private sector stakeholders
 - June 2021: GDA Community Workshop ; Sept 2021: GDA Government Only Workshop
 - Stakeholder Engagement SC has been working on an approach to identify and pilot a national governance approach that would augment FGDC coordination

Background (cont)

- Summary conclusions of GDA Workshops briefed to NGAC November 2021

Brainstorm on a OKR Roadmap



Collaborative Governance Structure

- Governance is the manner in which decisions are made about an activity, and the way in which an organization operates – **BUILDS TRUST**
- **Collaborative** governance is necessary when decisions must be made about something over which no one body or organization has full authority
- Collaborative governance is based on and creates shared **value**, and results in trust with stakeholders
- The NSDI requires collaborative governance because the activities to construct and maintain the NSDI are authorized at multiple levels of government, and involve **partnerships** between public and private sector

National Governance for the NSDI

- The Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2018 codified the existing Federal governance structure for the NSDI
- The GDA also codified the role of NGAC as an advisory body, not as a part of the decision making for the NSDI, rather as an advisor to the FGDC
- Collaborative governance will establish an equitable seat at the table for all stakeholders

NSDI National Governance Model

- Ensure authoritative geospatial data and associated services and other infrastructure are available/accessible to support priority activities for the Nation
- Build trust and relationships – Reduce and share risk
- Utilize shared resources to accomplish objectives
- Advance shared understanding of issues
- Employ mechanisms to recognize, incorporate, and prioritize new issues

NSDI National Governance Characteristics

- Stakeholders have equitable seats at the table for decision-making
- Procedures and institutional arrangements are minimized
- Policy-making to align & coordinate activities related to:
 - Data development/maintenance
 - Standards development/approval/implementation
 - Data discovery
 - Authoritative data recognition
 - Shared attainment of value among private and public partners
- **The components of the NSDI are publicly available to the greatest extent possible.**

NSDI National Governance Characteristics

- Acknowledge and build on existing federal partnerships
- Subordinate committees of public sector and private sector
- Collaborative governance body that supports open participation and equitable representation by all public sector and private sector stakeholders
- P3s and other innovative partnerships at all levels aligned and working toward objectives established by governance body
- Sustainable funding with shared investment/benefits to support data aggregation/maintenance
- Data governance policies/procedures established by governance body

Governance Pilot Projects

- Advisory body would be convened to design several pilots and determine appropriate geographies
- Pilots would be organized to support specific use cases and development/improvement of several NGDA data sets
- Each pilot would be governed by a collaborative body comprised of representatives from all stakeholders, which would test the collaborative governance structure
- Documentation of the pilots would be a key deliverable, including challenges, successes and failures of the governance structure
- Funding and resources for pilots would be solicited from all stakeholders