

**NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 4 - 5, 2011**  
**Minutes**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 4, 2011 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on October 5, 2011. The meeting was held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

**NGAC Members present:**

David Cowen (Chair)  
Jerry Johnston (Vice-Chair)  
Robert Austin  
Richard Clark (via teleconference)  
Jack Dangermond  
David DiSera  
Kass Green  
Randy Johnson  
Laurie Kurilla  
Anne Hale Miglarese  
Kimberly Nelson (via teleconference)  
Timothy Nyerges  
Matthew O'Connell  
Patrick Olson  
Jack Pellicci  
Mark Reichardt  
Anthony Spicci  
Gary Thompson  
Gene Trobia  
David Wyatt

**NGAC Members not present:**

Joanne Gabrynowicz  
Xavier Lopez  
E. Donald McKay  
Cynthia Salas  
Eugene Schiller

Anne Castle, Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, and John Mahoney, alternate DFO for the NGAC, were also in attendance.

**Other Attendees:**

Juliana Blackwell (NOAA), Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA), Nancy Brelos (Pictometry), Lori Caramanian (DOI), Pat Cummins (ESRI), Randy Fusaro (Census Bureau), Brady Foust (CoreLogic), Kevin Gallagher (USGS), Hank Garie (Grant Thornton), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Larry Hothem (USGS), Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions), Jim Kwolek (NGA), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Steve Lewis (US-

DOT), Stephen Lowe (USDA), Arista Maher (FGDC), Charles Mondello (Pictometry), Joan Mondello (ITT), Robin Parrish (Envitia), Milo Robinson (FGDC), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Jon Sperling (HUD), Howard Shuster (CoreLogic), Karen Siderelis (DOI), and Steve Wallach (GeoEye).

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4:**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Dr. David Cowen, the NGAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., welcomed the committee members and audience to the meeting, summarized the meeting agenda, and asked members and attendees to introduce themselves.

**Review and Adoption of June 2011 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Cowen reviewed the draft minutes of the June 8-9, 2011 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the minutes of the June 2011 meeting.

**Introductory Remarks**

Dr. Cowen provided brief introductory remarks, including a focus on practical uses for geospatial technology. He cited several examples, and he discussed globalization trends and how they relate to the geospatial industry. Dr. Cowen noted that a key objective of our work should be to restore the U.S. Federal Government to a leadership role in innovative use of geospatial technology.

**Summary of Key NGAC Issues**

Dr. Cowen and NGAC Vice Chair Jerry Johnston provided an overview of key issues and objectives to be addressed during the meeting, including the following:

Geospatial Platform

- Inform members on progress
- Share a demonstration of Platform Version 1 site
- Provide feedback on the Geospatial Platform Value Proposition document
- Offer suggestions to be included in the Platform business plan

Innovative Strategies White Paper

- Inform and engage membership in the discussion with focus on:
  - Leveraging technologies, policies, & trends
  - Fostering a data integration environment
  - Utilizing innovative solutions to secure data
- Validate and refine key concepts
- Review, prioritize, and consolidate draft recommendations
- Outline next steps moving toward NGAC endorsement of the White Paper

Geospatial Workforce Development

- Report key findings from research:
  - STEM Education & Programs
  - DOL Competency Model
  - Geospatial Associations Best Practices
  - Standard Occupational Classification Codes

- Review, prioritize, and consolidate draft recommendations
- Outline next steps moving toward NGAC endorsement of the White Paper

#### Understanding Tribal Issues

- Outline potential focus areas for NGAC Tribal subcommittee activities:
  - Provide an overview of concerns among Tribes
  - Land Records Management System
  - ELA licensing process
  - Communications between Federal government & Tribes
  - Tribal GIS Committee
- Discussion related to a Land Records Management System
  - Discuss reasons and requirements
  - Propose a recommendation from NGAC to DOI

Dr. Cowen introduced Anne Castle, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, who serves as the Chair of the FGDC.

#### **Leadership Dialogue**

Ms. Castle provided remarks on FGDC and Administration activities and priorities. She also introduced Ms. Lori Caramanian, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior.

Ms. Castle noted that the topics, white papers, and draft recommendations that the NGAC would discuss during the meeting were very timely and would be helpful as the FGDC plans its activities for the coming year. She also noted that FGDC Steering Committee would meet the day after the NGAC meeting and that many of the NGAC members would be in attendance. Ms. Castle indicated that she was pleased that these meetings would once again be held back-to-back, since the interaction and sharing of ideas that can be promoted by collaboration between the two groups is an important benefit of the committee.

Ms. Castle reflected back on the actions and results since the last NGAC meeting and provided updates on current developments on several issues. Since the last meeting, Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes sent a memo to the President's Management Council asking members to update their agency's designations of Senior Agency Officials for Geospatial Information (SAOGIs) to the FGDC. There has been good response and high-level appointees. Sally Ericsson of OMB is the new SAOGI representing OMB, and she will also serve as the Vice Chair of the FGDC. One of the actions that the FGDC agreed to take at the last meeting was to provide a report on FGDC actions taken in response to the recommendations from the NGAC. Ms. Castle also provided an update on the President's budget initiative for a National Land Imaging program to continue the Landsat missions. Ms. Castle noted that the NGAC's resolution in support of this initiative has been very helpful.

Ms. Castle provided thoughts on issues that the NGAC would address during the meeting, including the following:

Geospatial Platform. Ms. Castle noted that the NGAC has provided helpful feedback on the Modernization Roadmap for the Platform, and that the FGDC looked forward to hearing the NGAC's suggestions on improvements to the Value Proposition. Both of these documents, along with the NGAC's input, will serve as foundational material for the development of a more fully-developed

business plan and shared investment strategy for the Platform. She also indicated that the FGDC team looked forward to providing a demonstration of the early operational capabilities of the Platform during the meeting.

Draft NGAC White Papers. Ms. Castle indicated that she had briefly reviewed the draft white papers that the NGAC had developed on Innovative Strategies and the Geospatial Workforce. Ms. Castle said she appreciated the work that the NGAC had done in researching and drafting these papers to address the guidance that FGDC provided to the committee. She mentioned several points for the NGAC to consider in completing the next versions of the papers. She emphasized that the Federal government is in a very difficult budget situation, and she encouraged the NGAC to prioritize the recommendations in the draft papers to identify a relatively small set of results-oriented recommendations that will help advance Federal geospatial programs in the most efficient and effective manner.

Ms. Castle also noted that the USGS, in cooperation with partner agencies, will soon complete a National High Resolution Elevation Study. She said that that Interior would like to ask for the NGAC's review and comment on this document once it is completed.

Ms. Castle briefly reviewed the topics that would be addressed at the upcoming FGDC Steering Committee meeting. She also announced that Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar is appointing three new members to the NGAC to fill slots for members who have recently resigned. The three new appointees are:

- Mr. Bert Granberg, State of Utah (representing State Government)
- Mr. Jim Kwolek, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (representing the Federal Government)
- Ms. Molly Vogt, Oregon Metro (representing Regional Government).

Following her presentation, Ms. Castle engaged in a dialogue with the NGAC on the topics covered in her presentation.

**ACTION:** FGDC Chair Anne Castle announced three new appointees to the NGAC: Jim Kwolek (NGA), Bert Granberg (State of Utah), and Molly Vogt (Portland Metro, OR).

**ACTION:** NGAC will review and comment on the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment, per DOI's request, once the Assessment is completed in late 2011.

#### **Geospatial Platform: NGAC Feedback**

Anne Miglarese and Jerry Johnston led a discussion aimed at providing feedback to the FGDC on the Geospatial Platform initiative. They began with a demonstration of the Platform Version 1 website, and later presented a discussion of the FGDC's draft Geospatial Platform "Value Proposition" document.

Dr. Johnston provided an update on recent activities related to the Platform that have occurred since the last NGAC meeting in June. The presentation included a brief review of what capabilities and services will be provided through the Platform, and focused on the use of shared cloud infrastructure and a collaborative environment for geospatial information services.

Dr. Johnston showed a demonstration of the Platform Version 1 site, which is available at [www.geoplatform.gov](http://www.geoplatform.gov). Capabilities such as the map gallery were demonstrated for the Committee. The

example of the demographics of the coastal zones in New Orleans was used as an example of a useful tool of the Geospatial Platform. The demo map showed areas where populations are vulnerable to flooding. The map draws from data from the Census Bureau to obtain demographics. NOAA's data on economic interests also populates the mapping capability on the Geospatial Platform. NGAC members offered very positive reactions and feedback on the new Geospatial Platform site.

Ivan DeLoatch provided a brief overview of the Geospatial Platform Value Proposition document. The purpose of the Value Proposition document was to describe the need for the Geospatial Platform, provide use cases demonstrating how the Geospatial Platform will support mission needs, and describe the benefits of the Geospatial Platform. The FGDC completed the *Modernization Roadmap for the Geospatial Platform* earlier this year, which serves as a blueprint for the design and development of the Geospatial Platform. These documents provide the foundation for the Geospatial Platform Version 1 website, and the more comprehensive business plan that will be developed over the next several months.

Anne Miglarese provided a summary of the NGAC's comments on the draft version of the Value Proposition document. Key observations included the following:

- The committee is eager for details of how the platform will be implemented.
- This document does not fully present these details and perhaps was not intended as such.
- The committee's suggestion is to complete this document as a high level overview that is used as a marketing tool to garner interest at the executive level of government.
- The committee suggests that a more detailed business plan be developed to answer the implementation requirement and to gain implementation support at the executive level of government.

Specific comments on the document included the following:

- In general, the document is a good high-level introduction to the concept.
- Not clear who the intended audience is. Paper is too long for the intended audience if it is a general introduction or marketing document.
- Needs additional focus to build consensus and support for the initiative.
- Too much repetition – needs to be streamlined.
- Needs a compelling introduction to hook the audience.
- Consider synthesizing a use case into the introduction.
- Section on Effective Management of Federal Geospatial Assets is very good and important.
- Benefits are asserted and not necessarily documented.
- Open standards, although mentioned numerous times in the Roadmap, seems to be missing in the Value Proposition.
- Challenge to guarantee the platform delivers "trusted, authoritative, reliable data."
- Use Cases don't clearly make the case for the Platform.

Recommended next steps:

- Define the intended audience and purpose of this document. Streamline next version to meet these requirements with committee's comments in mind.
- Develop an annotated outline for a business plan that is responsive to the subcommittee commentary on the "what, why, who, how much and from whom & by when" issues related to the Platform.

The Committee met in breakout groups to discuss ideas for the business plan for the Geospatial Platform. Ideas arising from these discussions included: demonstration of taxpayer savings, consideration of water resources as a use case, and clear identification of target audiences. The NGAC agreed on the following actions:

**RECOMMENDATION:** The NGAC strongly recommends that the FGDC Steering Committee immediately take the following actions:

- Finalize the business plan and shared investment strategy for the Geospatial Platform as a part of the FY 2013 budget cycle.
- Designate the managing partner organization with appropriate authorities and responsibilities to implement the Geospatial Platform.

**ACTION:** FGDC Secretariat will revise and finalize Geospatial Platform Value Proposition document by November 1, 2011, incorporating feedback and suggestions from the NGAC.

**ACTION:** The NGAC Emerging Technology Subcommittee will organize and compile feedback on the Version 1 of the Geospatial Platform.

**ACTION:** The NGAC Geospatial Platform Subcommittee will develop suggestions for components and content that should be included in the business plan for the Geospatial Platform.

#### **ASPRS Industry Forecast**

Charles Mondello of Pictometry provided a report on the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Ten-Year Remote Sensing Industry Forecast. The Forecast was first conducted in 1999 with the goal of providing the remote sensing-based geospatial industry with an iterative, phased snapshot of key qualitative and quantitative metrics over time. The primary intent of the current phase (Phase VI) of the Forecast is to provide additional information about the industry in response to questions elicited by the results of the first five phases. In particular, Phase VI extended its inquiries into the areas of workforce issues, technology trends, information needs by users, and trends in U.S. leadership in the geospatial industry. Mr. Mondello provided initial results of the Forecast and engaged in a dialogue with the NGAC members.

#### **Innovative Strategies**

Dr. David Cowen and Dr. Timothy Nyerges led a review and discussion of the draft white paper that was developed by the NGAC Innovative Strategies work group. The work group included Dr. Cowen, Dr. Nyerges, Bob Austin, and Mark Reichardt. The objective of the paper, as described in the 2011 FGDC guidance to the NGAC, was to:

*"Provide feedback and recommendations on how FGDC partner agencies can take the use of geospatial data and technology to a new level in the future by:*

- *Strategically leveraging and influencing technologies, policies, & trends,*
- *Fostering a data integration environment that facilitates better decision-making and supports place-based policies, and*
- *Utilizing public-private partnerships and other innovative solutions to develop geospatial data, fill critical data gaps, and leverage scarce resources."*

Dr. Nyerges provided an overview of the draft paper, including the following points:

- Overarching recommendations and background
- Challenges facing the FGDC
- An Extended National Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Partnership strategies
- Geoplatform implementation and use process
- Recommended strategies

NGAC members met in breakout groups to discuss and prioritize the draft recommendations in the paper. Based on the breakout group discussions, the NGAC rated the following recommendations as most critical for inclusion in the revised draft of the white paper:

1. Strategically leverage and influence technologies, policies, & trends

- Measure and Monitor Progress with the Geospatial Platform
- Funding Formula
- Geospatial Platform Managing Partner

2. Foster a data integration environment that facilitates better decision-making and supports place-based policies

- Application to Track Common Data Interests

3. Utilize public-private partnerships and other innovative solutions to develop geospatial data, fill critical data gaps, and leverage scarce resources

- Broader View of FGDC Partnership Programs
- Assessment of Federal Interagency Partnerships
- Enable Identification of Shared Interests
- Innovative Procurement
- Encourage OMB to enforce A-16 stewardship

The NGAC members discussed possible actions and recommendations related to the Innovative Strategies white paper, and agreed to finalize these actions during Day 2 of the meeting.

#### **LightSquared/GPS Update**

Milo Robinson of the FGDC Secretariat, who is serving on an assignment with the U.S. Space-Based Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) National Coordination Office, provided a status report on the LightSquared/GPS interference issue. He began by reviewing the structure of the PNT organizational structure and by presenting a brief timeline of U.S. GPS policy history. Mr. Robinson provided a brief overview of the LightSquared interference issue. Mr. Robinson also discussed the Department of the Interior's involvement in the LightSquared issue, including a position letter was issued from DOI Deputy Secretary Hayes to NTIA on August 8 expressing concerns about the proposal. The NGAC discussed the LightSquared issue and agreed to discuss a proposed recommendation during Day 2 of the meeting.

#### **FGDC Update**

Ivan DeLoatch provided a report on the recent activities of the FGDC. Highlights included the following:

#### A-16 Supplemental Guidance

Mr. DeLoatch provided an update on the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance, which was issued by OMB in November 2010. The Supplemental Guidance defines a portfolio management approach for managing Federal geospatial data assets. The objectives of the Supplemental Guidance are to:

- Clarify the objectives outlined in Circular A-16 and Executive Order 12906
- Promote systematic portfolio management for Circular A-16 themes and associated data sets
- Improve ability to coordinate and collaborate on completion of Circular A-16 themes and associated data sets by Federal agencies and their partners
- Develop a process to modify Circular A-16 Appendix E themes and associated data sets to reflect the current business of Federal agencies and their partners

Mr. DeLoatch noted that portfolio-based management is a new concept for the Federal geospatial community and that agencies will need to consider new approaches to managing certain data assets. He indicated that initial implementation priorities include developing training materials and templates, educating agency leadership, developing agency implementation plans, and completing portfolio management pilots.

#### Cloud Computing – Wetlands Mapper

Mr. DeLoatch discussed the Fish and Wildlife Service's Wetlands Mapper application, which is the first geospatial data application from the Department of Interior to be provided through an operational Cloud Platform. This effort was part of the FGDC's Technology and Architecture Working Group prototype deployment of public geospatial data and service offerings in a Cloud environment. The Wetlands Mapper is currently available in the cloud environment at:

<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

#### Metadata Summit

The FGDC is hosting a Metadata Summit on Thursday, October 27 at USGS in Reston, VA. It will be a one-day meeting intended to bring NSDI Stakeholders up-to-date on International Organization for Standardization (ISO) metadata, to identify challenges, and to set a course for implementation. Registration is available online at: <http://www.fgdc.gov/site-events/metadata-summit>.

#### Cooperative Agreements Program

Mr. DeLoatch provided a brief update on the FGDC Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP), an annual program to assist the geospatial data community through funding and other resources in implementing the components of the NSDI. The CAP grants are open to State, local and Tribal governments, academia, commercial, and non-profit organizations. The program provides small seed grants to initiate sustainable NSDI implementations. The program emphasizes partnerships, collaboration and the leveraging of geospatial resources in achieving its goals. The categories for the 2012 CAP are as follows:

- Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance
- ISO Geospatial Metadata Standards Implementation
- FGDC-endorsed Standards Implementation Training and Outreach
- FGDC Standards Development Assistance
- Fifty States Initiative: Business Plan Development and Implementation
- Geospatial Platform Cloud Service Test-bed
- State Geospatial Platform Data Catalog Registry

The announcement for proposal submissions is expected to be released in late October 2011. Additional information about the program is available at: <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants>.

#### Coordination Group Co-Chair

Mr. DeLoatch introduced Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA, who began serving as the Co-Chair of the FGDC Coordination Group in October 2011. Mr. DeLoatch also recognized and thanked Randy Fusaro (Census Bureau), the past Co-Chair, for her service in this role in 2010-2011.

Mr. DeLoatch also recognized Karen Siderelis, who is leaving her position as Geospatial Information Officer at the Department of the Interior for a new position with the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation. Ms. Siderelis was presented with a plaque recognizing her service on behalf of the FGDC, the NGAC, and the Federal geospatial community.

#### **Review Action/Results of NGAC Recommendations**

Ivan DeLoatch and John Mahoney provided an update on FGDC actions resulting from previous NGAC recommendations. At the June NGAC meeting, the FGDC agreed to report back to the NGAC on the status of actions taken in response to previous NGAC recommendations. This topic was also discussed at the June meeting of the FGDC Steering Committee. In response, the FGDC Secretariat compiled a summary report describing the status of the NGAC recommendations and the actions that FGDC has taken in response. The report was sent by Anne Castle to the members of the NGAC in July 2011 and is posted on the NGAC website. Mr. DeLoatch noted that the products, feedback, and recommendations that the NGAC has provided have been helpful to the FGDC in a variety of ways. For example:

- NGAC products such as the Geospatial Policy Benefits Paper have been foundational material for initiatives such as the Geospatial Platform
- The comments the NGAC provided on the A-16 Supplemental Guidance helped shape the final version that was issued by OMB
- NGAC has also provided helpful feedback on initiatives like the Geospatial Line of Business.
- Products such as the “Best Practices Paper for Local Government Geospatial Programs” have been very well received.

Mr. DeLoatch indicated that the recommendations summary would be updated on a regular basis.

#### **Lightning Session 1**

This session provided the opportunity for NGAC members to provide announcements or brief updates on topics of interest to the Committee.

Gary Thompson discussed about a current North Carolina initiative with the National Geodetic Survey regarding data adjustments (NAD 83). A focus of this work is the need for a model or process to manage adjustments in a more practical manner.

#### **Day 1 Wrap-Up/Planning for Day 2**

The Chair summarized the day's activities, made announcements regarding logistics, and provided an overview of the agenda for Day 2 of the meeting.

#### **Adjournment for Day 1**

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

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5:**

**Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda**

Dr. David Cowen provided a summary of the previous day's events, as well as an overview of the agenda.

**Geospatial Workforce Subcommittee**

Dave DiSera led a discussion on the draft white paper developed by the NGAC Geospatial Workforce Development Subcommittee. The subcommittee members are: Dave DiSera (Chair), Joanne Gabrynowicz, Randy Johnson, Don McKay, Matt O'Connell, Cindi Salas, and Tony Spicci.

The objective of the paper, as described in the 2011 FGDC guidance to the NGAC, was to:

*"Provide recommendations on approaches to develop intergovernmental and public-private strategies to facilitate the development, training, and retention of a highly skilled workforce to meet the expanding geospatial needs of public and private-sector organizations. Examine opportunities for synergies with the Administration's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education initiatives."*

The draft white paper focuses on the following topics:

- The Administration's STEM Education Initiatives from a Geospatial Workforce Development Perspective
- Opportunities to Utilize the DOL Geospatial Competency Model to Meet Federal/State/Local/Tribal Government Needs
- Opportunities to Work with Geospatial Industry Associations and Educational Institutions to Identify and Document Public-Private Geospatial Workforce Development Best Practices
- Updating "Externally" Focused [GIS Themed] SOC Standard Occupational Classification Codes and "Internally" Focused Federal Occupational Series Classifications

Mr. DiSera provided a summary of the key findings and draft recommendations for each of these topic areas. The NGAC engaged in a discussion about the paper and the draft recommendations. NGAC members provided feedback on which recommendations were the most important/pressing to act on right now. The subcommittee agreed to review the feedback and update and revise the paper for consideration at the next NGAC meeting. The NGAC agreed on the following action:

**ACTION:** The Workforce Subcommittee will revise the Geospatial Workforce Development white paper and recommendations by December 2011 to incorporate comments and feedback from the NGAC members.

**Tribal Subcommittee**

David Wyatt led a discussion on the activities of the NGAC Tribal Subcommittee. The subcommittee members are: David Wyatt (Chair), Jerry Johnston, Dick Clark, and Gene Schiller. The purpose of the Subcommittee, as described in the 2011 FGDC guidance to the NGAC, is to:

*"Provide advice and recommendations on innovative approaches to develop collaborative nation-to-nation partnerships with Tribal governments to foster effective development and use of geospatial data and capabilities."*

Since the June meeting, members of the subcommittee have discussed Tribal issues with multiple Tribes. Mr. Wyatt noted that there will be a Tribal GIS conference in Albuquerque, NM at the end of October where additional conversations will occur. Mr. Wyatt provided an overview of the President's plan for Tribal relationships, which includes a focus on Sovereignty, Tribal-Federal Relations (Government-to-Government relationship), and Trust Responsibility (fulfilling fiduciary trust responsibilities).

Mr. Wyatt also discussed the Department of the Interior's Tribal Consultation Policy, which includes the following tenets:

- honor the government-to-government relationship
- involve the appropriate level of decision maker in a consultation process
- promote innovations in communication by including a Department-wide tribal governance officer
- detail early tribal involvement in the design of a process implicating tribal interests
- capture a wide range of policy and decision making processes under the consultation umbrella

Mr. Wyatt discussed potential focus areas for the Tribal Subcommittee, including the following:

- Providing recommendations on Tribal Lands Management System
- Establishing a DOI Tribal GIS Committee
- BIA Enterprise License Agreements for Tribes

The NGAC members discussed these topic areas and agreed on the following actions:

**RECOMMENDATION:** The NGAC encourages DOI to develop a Tribal Land Records Management System in collaboration with Tribes to assist in the implementation of the settlement of the Cobell lawsuit.

**ACTION:** The FGDC Secretariat will arrange a meeting between the NGAC Tribal Subcommittee and the BIA to discuss BIA Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) support to Tribes.

#### **Public Comment Period**

Members of the public attending the meeting were given the opportunity to make comments to the NGAC.

Dennis Klein (Boundary Solutions) – Mr. Klein spoke about the Seamless USA Plan. He noted that he is partnering with the University of California-Berkeley on the project. Mr. Klein also indicated that he is interested in developing partnerships to encourage open records.

#### **Lightning Session 2**

This session provided a second opportunity for NGAC members to provide announcements or brief updates on topics of interest to the Committee.

Timothy Nyerges presented on the proposed Geospatial Extension Program, noting that a workshop will be held on November 10, 2011. He stated that Derek Douglas (EOP) and Raphael Bostic (HUD) have been involved in this activity. The Department of Homeland Security has provided initial funding to support a workforce development activity. Dr. Nyerges noted that this is an urban extension program rather than a rural program, and will be a research and learning network activity.

Jack Pellicci provided a brief update on ERDAS and Intergraph, which are now integrated as part of the Hexagon corporation. The main reason for Hexagon's purchase was building geospatial capability. The focus of the enterprise is leveraging the joint strengths of both companies and working on interoperability and standards.

David Cowen provided a brief report on his participation in the "Summer at the Census" program. His presentation on the results of his work is available online at: [www.census.gov/geo/www/gss/parceldata.pdf](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/gss/parceldata.pdf).

Jack Dangermond spoke about India's National GIS Program. The key elements are: senior leadership, a central GIS organization, leveraging partnerships for mission organizations, a practical architecture, and effective governance.

#### **NGAC Action Plan**

This session included status reports on the implementation of the 2011 NGAC Action Plan, including reports from NGAC Points-of-Contact (POCs).

Gene Trobia – Transportation for the Nation. Mr. Trobia introduced Steve Lewis from US-DOT, who provided a brief update on the Transportation for the Nation (TFTN) initiative. Mr. Lewis noted that while a strategic plan for TFTN has been completed, funding to develop a TFTN business plan has not been identified. Mr. Lewis noted that his office is continuing to seek for support or funding to develop the TFTN business plan.

Gene Trobia – Address Data. Mr. Trobia introduced Randy Fusaro of the Census Bureau, who provided an overview of the Addressing Questionnaire that was recently conducted by the Census Bureau. The Questionnaire was conducted because many Federal agencies need the same common services and data related to addresses, associated latitude/longitude coordinates, building footprint/location, geocoding, and CASS certification. The aim of the Questionnaire was to initiate a national dialogue in order to make the case for a national address database.

Gary Thompson provided an update on USGS activities related to The National Map. Key points included the following:

##### *USGS Topographic Maps*

- The 7.5 minute topographic map series is being published on a three-year update cycle
- The program has met its FY 2011 production goal of 18,000 maps
- More than 50,000 new maps have been published since US Topo production began in October 2009
- Downloads of the GeoPDF format have exceeded 750,000 to date

##### *Historical Maps*

- Prior to 2009, USGS topographic maps were created using traditional cartographic methods and printed using the lithographic printing process
- The National Geospatial Program (NGP) is converting these historical printed topographic quadrangles to electronic format (GeoPDF)

##### *National Enhanced Elevation Assessment*

- Completed two important tasks during the past quarter:
  - Inventoried existing enhanced elevation data

- Nearing completion of the business requirements (needs assessment) phase
- USGS estimates that more than \$4B in annual benefits could be realized if a national program were able to support these needs

Dick Clark announced via teleconference that the Western States Cloud GIS consortium plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for GIS Cloud Services in late October/early November. The RFP will be issued by the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) and will be open to all States.

Kim Nelson announced via teleconference that information about the Tech America Foundation's Commission on U.S. Deployment in the Cloud is available at:

<http://www.techamericafoundation.org/cloud-commission>

The Commission's report, "Cloud First, Cloud Fast: Recommendations for Innovation, Leadership and Job Creation" is available at: [http://www.techamericafoundation.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/CLOUD2\\_Report\\_Cloud\\_First\\_Cloud\\_Fast\\_Recommendations\\_for\\_Innovation\\_Leadership\\_and\\_Job\\_Creation.pdf](http://www.techamericafoundation.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/CLOUD2_Report_Cloud_First_Cloud_Fast_Recommendations_for_Innovation_Leadership_and_Job_Creation.pdf)

Laurie Kurilla reported on several recent lawsuits in California dealing with access to GIS data and land parcel information. She noted that the lawsuits have attracted significant attention in California and across the geospatial community.

Kass Green reported on Landsat activities. Ms. Green showed change detection slides demonstrating the value of the Landsat program. She explained that Landsat is the only tool for measuring global land use and land cover change over the last 40 years. Landsat data is continually used, both nationally and internationally. Ms. Green noted that USGS and NASA are working together on Landsat 9, but that funding has not yet been approved. Ms. Green also discussed the establishment of a new NGAC subcommittee on NLIP/Landsat

Bob Austin gave an update on the Broadband Mapping Program. The National Broadband Map is now operational. The purpose of this effort was to create a map that shows a comprehensive picture of existing broadband capabilities and to identify areas that do not have broadband. Mr. Austin noted that there was significant competition for funds for the creation of a broadband map in States. Updates have been funded through 2015.

Tony Spicci provided an update on Imagery for the Nation, including an overview of the recent imagery survey conducted by NSGIC. Almost 300 respondents participated in the survey; half were state participants, and one-third represented local/county government. Access to the survey results has been provided to the NAIP program, and the survey will be posted online in its entirety.

#### **NGAC Discussion/Actions and Decisions**

The NGAC discussed and finalized action on the following issues:

##### LightSquared/GPS Interference Issue

Following up on the discussion earlier the meeting, the NGAC approved the following recommendation:

**RECOMMENDATION:** The NGAC shares the serious concerns expressed by the Department of the Interior, other Federal agencies, and many geospatial organizations regarding the adverse impacts that the proposed LightSquared network would have on our Nation's Global Positioning

System (GPS). The NGAC concurs with the comments submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) by Deputy Secretary David Hayes on August 8, 2011 about these impacts, and encourages Interior and other agencies to work with NTIA and FCC to ensure that the LightSquared proposal does not result in adverse impacts to GPS.

#### Innovative Strategies

Based on the discussion earlier in the meeting, the NGAC agreed on the following actions:

*The NGAC believes there is a need to reconfigure, focus, reposition, empower and authorize the FGDC as the national lead for developing, managing and assuring Geospatial Information Services for the Nation. These services are critical to support the development of information products required by the public sector, and form the basis for the Geospatial Platform and the implementation of A-16 Supplemental Guidance.*

**ACTION:** By December 2011, the NGAC will update the recommendations on Federal geospatial leadership and coordination that were provided in the October 2008 NGAC Transition Recommendations paper and incorporate them into the NGAC Innovative Strategies white paper.

**ACTION:** The Innovative Strategies team will revise the Innovative Strategies white paper and recommendations to incorporate comments and feedback from NGAC members.

#### Landsat

Following up on the discussion earlier in the meeting, the NGAC approved the following action:

**ACTION:** The NGAC agreed to work with DOI and USGS to establish an NGAC subcommittee to provide advice and recommendations on Landsat and the National Land Imaging Program.

#### **Meeting Summary/Wrap-Up**

The results and actions from the meeting were briefly summarized. The next NGAC meeting will be a webinar, planned for December or January. The primary agenda topic for the webinar will be review and action on the draft NGAC white papers. The next in-person NGAC meeting is planned for April 2012

#### **Meeting Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Certification**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

David Cowen, 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 January 12, 2012***

## **October 2011 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/october-2011/index\\_html](http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/october-2011/index_html)

### **Summary of NGAC Issues**

- Opening Remarks
- NGAC Key Activities

### **Geospatial Platform**

- Geospatial Platform – NGAC Comments

### **ASPRS Industry Forecast**

- ASPRS 10 Year Industry Forecast - Mondello

### **Innovative Strategies**

- Innovative Strategies for Geospatial Programs and Partnerships Report

### **LightSquared/GPS Update**

- LightSquared - GPS Interference Issue

### **FGDC Update**

- FGDC Report

### **Geospatial Workforce Subcommittee**

- Geospatial Workforce Subcommittee Report

### **Tribal Subcommittee**

- Tribal Subcommittee Report

### **NGAC Point-of-Contact (POC) Reports**

- Transportation for the Nation
- The National Map - Elevation
- Landsat
- Broadband Mapping
- Imagery for the Nation

### **Lightning Sessions**

- Summer at the Census - Cowen