

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 4-5, 2013
Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 4, 2013 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 5, 2013. 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:

Robert Austin, Chair
Jerry Johnston, Vice Chair
Richard Clark
Jack Dangermond
David DiSera
Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz
Matthew Gentile
Bert Granberg
Frank Harjo
Michael Jones
Jack Maguire
Carolyn Merry
Anne Hale Miglarese
Roger Mitchell
Timothy Nyerges
Matthew O'Connell
Mark Reichardt
Douglas Richardson
Anthony Spicci
Gary Thompson
Gene Trobia
Molly Vogt
David Wyatt

NGAC Members not present:

Talbot Brooks
Keith Clarke
Steve Coast
E. Donald McKay
Michele Motsko
Patrick Olson

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, were also in attendance.

Other Attendees:

Jim Bjostad (NGA), Nancy Brelos (Intergraph), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), Dan Cotter (DHS), Pat Cummins (Esri), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Jennifer Gimbel (DOI), Betsy Kanalley (USFS), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Steve Lewis (U.S. DOT), Stephen Lowe (USDA), Arista Maher (FGDC), Charles Mondello (Pictometry), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Larry Sugarbaker (USGS) Tim Trainor (Census Bureau).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4:**Call to Order and Welcome**

Dr. Robert Austin, NGAC Chair, called the public meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed the NGAC members and audience to the meeting. Dr. Austin provided an overview of the purpose, objectives, and logistics of the meeting.

Review and Adoption of June 2013 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Austin reviewed the draft minutes of the June 2013 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the June 11-12, 2013 meeting.

Perspectives from the Chair

Dr. Austin provided brief remarks on the recent activities of the NGAC and his objectives for the meeting.

Leadership Dialogue

Anne Castle, FGDC Chair, provided an update on the recent activities of the FGDC, along with perspectives on Department of Interior (DOI) and Administration priorities. She also introduced Ms. Jennifer Gimbel, who serves as Counsel to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Water and Science and will be a primary point-of-contact for geospatial activities within USGS and the Department of Interior.

Ms. Castle talked about DOI Secretary Sally Jewell's strong interest in geospatial activities. Secretary Jewell has spoken on numerous occasions about the geospatial capabilities that allow us to deliver data and information to constituents in ways that allow us to make important decisions and provide meaningful information to members of the public, and other partners. She has demonstrated her commitment to geospatial information and the power of mapping, and has made clear her intent to capitalize on that capability and deliver more meaningful information to decision-makers, which she spoke of in a recent Departmental town hall meeting. Secretary Jewell tasked Ms. Castle to determine ways to get input from stakeholders on what kind of geospatial capability would be most useful to the Department; and Ms. Castle believes that NGAC can be very helpful in this regard.

Ms. Castle noted that the next FGDC Steering Committee will be held on September 12. The agenda will include updates on the A-16 Implementation Plan, the NSDI Strategic Plan, and Version 2 of the Geospatial Platform. The Steering Committee will also hear an update on HIFLD/FGDC alignment activities. The HIFLD (Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data) Working Group seeks to deliver infrastructure-level data in a standardized way, and a partnership with FGDC could be beneficial to both groups. Additionally, the A-16 theme report on the Governmental Units and Statistical and Administrative Boundaries Theme will be given by Mr. Tim Trainor (Census Bureau).

Ms. Castle also provided an overview of the budget outlook for 2014. She indicated that there will not be a FY 2014 budget enacted before October 1. The Department hopes that a continuing resolution (CR)

will be approved by Congress. The Department is operating with the assumption of a continuing sequester. She noted that this has put particular pressure on grant programs. DOI is anticipating that the FGDC Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) will not be funded in FY 2014. She noted that grants have facilitated many good projects with partners. She noted that if the budget outlook improves, she is hopeful that the program might be revived in the future.

Ms. Castle also addressed the GAO Report. She noted that the FGDC is making very good progress on the three FGDC recommendations made by GAO (A-16 Implementation Plan, NSDI Strategic Plan, and Geospatial Platform enhancements). She noted that the NGAC would be briefed on these three topics later in the meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the NGAC's ongoing feedback and recommendations on these topics.

Ms. Castle provided a brief update on the Landsat program, noting that the launch of Landsat 8 in February 2013 was highly successful. This catalyzed the planning for Landsat 9 and beyond, which has recently accelerated. The NGAC's Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) summarized findings of the National Research Council (NRC) in its report on Landsat and its future. She noted that this was an excellent helpful summary, and that the NRC report will be very helpful for advocacy among constituents and on Capitol Hill.

Ms. Castle also provided a brief update on the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), and noted that the program would be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting. She expressed her appreciation for NGAC's support on the acquisition of elevation data. Ms. Castle also mentioned some of the potential future topics for NGAC discussion and study, including the National Address Database, geolocation privacy, and geospatial workforce and education. The National Address Database is very important and ambitious, so NGAC's advice is particularly helpful here. Geolocation privacy is a broader issue, as the paper developed by NGAC members on this topic recognizes. Privacy discussions are being held at all levels of government and commercial sector. Ms. Castle said she thinks FGDC and NGAC might want to consider limiting the scope of its review of geolocation privacy since it is such a broad topic area. Ms. Castle also discussed the geospatial workforce and education document developed by NGAC. Secretary Jewell has a big interest in educating young people on our resources, as well as educating scientists and resource managers. She suggested thinking about engaging with other organizations in addition to Interior, perhaps including the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, or other relevant organizations.

Finally, Ms. Castle noted that the call for NGAC nominations recently closed. The FGDC is pleased with the nominations it received. Hopefully, the new appointees will be announced by the end of 2013. Ms. Castle extended her thanks to members and participants in the FGDC community for getting the word out and nominating candidates. She also stated that she appreciates NGAC's passion and commitment to making progress in geospatial information. Secretary Jewell's interest in this field provides a huge opportunity to make more rapid progress. Ms. Castle engaged in a wide ranging discussion with the NGAC members about these topics.

Appreciation of Outgoing NGAC Members

Ms. Castle and Mr. DeLoatch then presented certificates of appreciation to the NGAC members whose terms will expire at the end of 2013. Several of these members were charter members of the NGAC, having served since the inception of the committee in 2008. Ms. Castle and Mr. DeLoatch thanked the outgoing members for their contributions and service on the NGAC.

FGDC Update

Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC Executive Director, provided an update on the recent activities of the FGDC. Highlights included the following:

GAO Response Actions

Brief updates on the three FGDC actions identified in the recent GAO report, "*OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication*"

- OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance Implementation Plan
- Guidance and timeframe for identifying planned geospatial investments using the Geospatial Platform Updated Strategic Plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

A-16 Supplemental Guidance

Update on recent activities to address the Supplemental Guidance, overview of schedule to develop the implementation plan, and outline of the draft implementation plan

NGAC Nominations Update

Update on the status of the next round of nominations to the NGAC. 16 of the current 29 NGAC appointments will expire in December 2013. A strong set of candidates submitted nominations for appointment. The nomination period closed in August, and will be evaluated by an interagency review panel. Final decisions on appointments will be made by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, and are expected to be completed by the end of December.

FGDC 2013 Annual Report

The FY 2013 FGDC annual report will be published in December 2013. The featured story is Geospatial Platform version 2.0. The report will include highlights, success stories, next year's goals, challenges, and 2013 performance information. The report will be available on the FGDC website.

FGDC Standards Activities

The FGDC endorsed the following standards in 2013:

- Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) version 1, with concurrent withdrawal of ISO 3166-1:2006 on country codes
- OGC® WaterML 2.0: Part 1- Time series
- ISO 19156:2011, Geographic information - Observations and measurements
- Time-Space-Position Information (TSPI) standard version 2.0
- Wetlands Classification Standard revision

NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP)

Mr. DeLoatch announced that the FGDC will not be soliciting CAP projects for FY2013 or FY2014. As a result of budget reductions and sequestration, the Federal funding portion of this cost-share program is no longer available. Active projects will continue to be supported through their scheduled completions.

2014 would have marked the 20th anniversary of this long-standing collaborative cost-share program between Federal and non-federal partners to advance the nation's spatial data infrastructure. Mr. DeLoatch indicated that the official announcement of this action is posted on the FGDC website at <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants>.

FGDC Steering Committee Meeting

Mr. DeLoatch also provided an overview of the agenda for the Upcoming September 12 FGDC Steering Committee meeting.

The FGDC will take following actions:

ACTION: The FGDC will provide the draft OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance Implementation Plan to the NGAC A-16 subcommittee for review and comment.

ACTION: The FGDC will convene an interagency panel to review the 2013 nominations for appointment to the NGAC and develop recommendations to the office of the Secretary of DOI. The announcement of the new appointments is expected by December 2013.

Lightning Session 1

An opportunity for NGAC members to make brief announcements and discuss geospatial community initiatives was provided.

Molly Vogt presented on the Oregon Metro Schools Atlas – a community investment initiative. This website provides a way to visualize information about schools to prioritize investments. Pre-loaded data layers from various school districts can show reading scores, math scores, the year schools were built, and other relevant information. There are two categories of data: data related to the community (free lunch/socioeconomic indicators), and facility-specific data (year school was built/renovated). These tools have been very useful to decision-makers in the state of Oregon and school districts.

Joanne Gabrynowicz made an announcement regarding the closure of the National Center for Air and Space Law at the University of Mississippi due to budget reductions. Prof. Gabrynowicz provided an overview of the significant contributions of the Center to the advancement of space and aviation law, and thanked the partners who contributed to the Center's many successes over the years.

Geospatial Platform

Jerry Johnston provided an update and demonstration of Version 2.0 of the Geospatial Platform, including an overview of recent enhancements to the site. The enhancements in progress include a geo search and a new filter capability, the latter of which is scheduled to be released in late September 2013. Dr. Johnston noted that the FY 2014 DOI Foundational Cloud Services contract has been awarded. The changes in the website core functionality, the marketplace, and the communities on the website were described. He noted that user login functionality, updates to forums and blogs, as well as a style update for the communities would be completed later in the week. In October 2013, the community self-service content management functionality will be available. The front page design will include the ability to feature maps and other geospatial content, as well as items that users are most interested in. Users will also be able to use mapping capabilities in blog items.

The marketplace is a capability recommended by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and is in the process of being implemented. Both Federal agencies and partners will be able to share data acquisitions and other information via the marketplace. Community content is currently in development, including the Department of Homeland Security Geospatial Concept of Operations, the HIFLD Working Group, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency/World Wide Human Geography

Data Working Group. The next wave of development includes the A-16 Theme Community Template and the Department of Defense civilian community. There are discussions occurring around a variety of other potential communities as well.

ACTION: FGDC will seek NGAC feedback and comments on the Geospatial Platform “Marketplace” function as it is developed.

DOI Priorities

Jerry Johnston led a discussion of Department of the Interior priorities. He showed a video clip of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s recent speech to Interior employees describing her vision and priorities for the Department. One of her key priorities is developing a “Landscape Level Understanding” of Interior’s resources. She has described geospatial technology and the Geospatial Platform as critical mechanisms to achieve this goal. The NGAC members expressed strong support for this initiative and discussed how the committee might offer its support. The committee discussed a possible resolution expressing support and offering assistance.

NSDI Strategic Plan

Dan Cotter, DHS, provided an update on the development of the updated strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Mr. Cotter provided a summary of the recent public comment period on the draft plan. The public comment period was open from July 31 to August 21, 2013. The FGDC received 136 comments from 28 different groups and individuals. Mr. Cotter indicated that the comments were well thought-considered and helpful. For example, URISA surveyed their membership and submitted a summary of their comments and feedback. In addition, the FGDC recently held the third in a series of “Leaders Forum” meetings with key geospatial organizations, which also resulted in helpful suggestions and comments. Overall, the feedback on the NSDI Strategic Plan was positive, while identifying a number of areas needing further work. He noted that the FGDC team will review the comments and develop the final draft version of the strategic plan. The target date for completion is December 2013. Following the presentation, the NGAC members split into breakout groups to discuss specific aspects of the strategic plan, including non-Federal roles and responsibilities, approaches to geolocation privacy, and key factors for success. Another breakout group discussed possible approaches to address the DOI Secretary’s priorities.

Day 1 Wrap-Up/Planning for Day 2

The Chair made announcements regarding logistics for the evening’s activities and the next day’s meeting.

Adjournment for Day 1

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5:

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

Bob Austin provided a summary of the previous day's events, as well as an overview of the agenda for day 2 of the meeting. Following a recap of the previous day's discussions, the NGAC adopted the following resolutions:

NSDI Strategic Plan

DECISION: The NGAC adopted a resolution supporting the revised draft NSDI Strategic Plan and encouraging FGDC to take steps to implement the plan:

"The NGAC supports the revised version of the draft NSDI Strategic Plan and encourages the FGDC to finalize the plan and take action to actively begin implementation. The NGAC welcomes additional opportunities to provide input and feedback on the implementation phase of the strategic plan."

DOI Secretarial Priorities

DECISION: The NGAC adopted a resolution supporting Interior Secretary Jewell's priority for the use of geospatial technology to promote and support better "landscape level understanding" within the Department of the Interior and among its network of partner organizations:

"The NGAC fully supports Secretary Jewell's priority objective for "building a landscape level understanding" ¹ by using GIS within the Department of the Interior (DOI) and throughout the network of partner organizations that share the mission of resource management and conservation in the Nation. The NGAC stands ready to provide support, recommendations and perspectives of the geospatial community on this important issue."

¹ *as described in Secretary Jewell's July 31, 2013 Town Hall meeting at Interior*

Lightning Session 2

A second opportunity for announcements and discussion of geospatial community initiatives was afforded the members.

Bert Granberg presented on the activities of the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) to provide mapping support for Enterprise 911. Mapping resources that are needed for 911 include the need to find and validate incident locations, assign response jurisdiction, provide content, and conduct post-incident analysis. The various map layers that are important to E-911 include road centerlines with address ranges, site/structure address points, highway mile markers and exits, jurisdictional boundaries (i.e., law, fire, EMS, State, and Federal agencies), common place names, base maps and aerial photography, cell towers, water features, and utilities/infrastructure. Since 2004, Utah has worked to integrate DOT's data on road centerlines into state databases. These are updated every two months. Address point data is also integrated. There are now about 950,000 address points included.

Landsat

Roger Mitchell, Co-Chair of the NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG), and Tim Newman, USGS, presented an update on the Landsat program, as well as the status of the LAG's recent activities. The NGAC also discussed the status of the LAG's draft papers.

Mr. Newman spoke about the Sustainable Land Imaging Architecture Study, which is being conducted by USGS and NASA with \$20 million in funding in FY 2014 to develop a plan for sustained global land imaging for 20 years beyond the life of Landsat 8. The plan will include options to maintain continuity, avoid data gaps, and develop new technologies. Beyond FY 2014, the funding is uncertain; the outcome depends on results of the study.

Mr. Mitchell provided an update on the activities Landsat Advisory Group (LAG). He noted that the 2013 guidance to the NGAC identified Landsat study questions related to product improvement, cloud computing, industry benefits, foreign partnerships, new applications, and the recent National Research Council (NRC) Report, "Landsat and Beyond: Sustaining and Enhancing the Nation's Land Imaging Program." Mr. Mitchell provided an update on the status of addressing these study questions. He noted that several papers would be presented to the NGAC at the planned December meeting. Mr. Mitchell also presented a LAG paper summarizing the recommendations in the recent NRC report. Mr. Mitchell indicated that the LAG would continue to hold meetings a=to address the NGAC study questions.

ACTION: The NGAC Landsat Advisory Group presented a synopsis of the National Research Council Report, *"Landsat and Beyond: Sustaining and Enhancing the Nation's Land Imaging Program."*

ACTION: The Landsat Advisory Group will develop draft papers addressing the FGDC Landsat study questions and provide an update at the December NGAC meeting.

3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Implementation Plan

Gary Thompson, NGAC Elevation subcommittee chair, and Larry Sugarbaker, USGS, provided a report on activities related to 3DEP, as well as a summary of comments provided to the program by the NGAC subcommittee.

Mr. Sugarbaker provided an update on the terrestrial elevation program at USGS. USGS continues to revise and refine the 3DEP acquisition planning approach, and USGS Geospatial Liaisons are working with the States to encourage them to move towards statewide plans or acquisition strategies. FGDC has helped with this process through grants from the Cooperative Agreements Program. Trial runs are beginning in FY 14 for the three-year planning process. The plans should be implemented in FY 2015. Mr. Sugarbaker also described the modernization of data control and delivery processes.

The FY14 President's budget includes the following additional funds for 3DEP:

- \$9M to USGS National Geospatial Program
- \$1M for Alaska to USGS National Geospatial Program
- \$2M for coastal elevation to USGS Natural Hazards/Coastal Marine Program
- \$750k for ecosystem data to USGS National Geospatial Program
- \$7M to NOAA
- \$500K to NPS for Alaska ifsar

In addition, Hurricane Sandy supplemental funding includes \$3.1M, with an additional \$4M requested.

Mr. Thompson provided a summary of the comments that the NGAC Elevation Subcommittee provided on the draft 3DEP implementation plan. The subcommittee members agreed the 3DEP Implementation Plan is well done and is moving in the right direction. The subcommittee felt there were no major omissions, but identified several areas in need of expansion or clarification. Mr. Thompson summarized the subcommittee's suggestions for improvement, and introduced a proposed resolution supporting the implementation plan. Following discussion, the NGAC approved the following actions:

DECISION: The NGAC adopted a resolution supporting the 3DEP Implementation Plan:

“The NGAC approves the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Summary Paper, endorses the direction of the 3DEP Implementation Plan, and encourages the USGS with its partners to actively implement the plan. The NGAC welcomes other opportunities to provide input and feedback to the 3DEP Initiative.”

ACTION: The NGAC approved the Elevation Subcommittee's paper summarizing the comments provided to USGS on the 3D Elevation Program Implementation Plan.

Lightning Session 3

Stephen Lowe, USDA, gave a brief presentation on the “USDA Indian Country Land Title Mapping Initiative.” Mr. Lowe indicated that this is an important issue to Tribal governments, with wide-ranging economic and other impacts. He indicated that he would keep the NGAC apprised of the status of this initiative as it is developed.

David Wyatt gave a talk on Indian Trust Boundaries and various issues that need to be resolved in this area. He noted that, in many instances, there are mismatched boundaries between BLM surveys, DOI, BIA, etc. This has many impacts on both Tribal and non-Tribal lands. He also noted that roads and addressing is another significant issue for Tribes. Many navigational systems do not work correctly on Tribal lands due to outdated or inaccurate transportation data.

NGAC Future Study Topics – Discussion and Feedback

Bob Austin initiated a session on potential future NGAC study topics. He noted that the NGAC established work groups at the June 2013 NGAC meeting to identify potential study questions for three topics: geolocation privacy (Joanne Gabrynowicz, lead), geospatial education and workforce development (Dave DiSera, lead), and the development of a National Address Database (Gene Trobia, lead). The NGAC split into breakout groups to discuss these three topics. Highlights were reported out as follows:

Joanne Gabrynowicz presented on geolocation privacy issues. The group noted that geolocation privacy is a complex and multi-faceted issue and that the scope of the potential NGAC study topics will need to be clearly defined and prescribed. The FGDC will review and refine the proposed geolocation privacy study questions and will provide additional guidance to the NGAC.

Dave DiSera presented on the Geospatial Education and Workforce issues. There was a discussion of the scope of the possible solutions for closing the gaps in geospatial education and workforce development.

The group noted that the NGAC had not yet reviewed the Administration's new strategic plan for STEM education, and that it would be helpful to better understand the plan and its impacts on geospatial activities. The FGDC will review and refine the proposed Geospatial Education and Workforce study questions and will provide additional guidance to the NGAC.

Gene Trobia presented on the National Address Database issues. Tim Trainor, Census Bureau, provided additional remarks on the presentation from the perspective of the Census Bureau. Mr. Trainor noted that additional use cases demonstrating the value of a National Address Database would be very helpful in making the case for investing in this initiative. The FGDC will review and refine the proposed National Address Database study questions and will provide additional guidance to the NGAC.

Following additional discussion about next steps related to the future study topics, the NGAC approved the following two resolutions:

National Address Database

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the following resolution:

"The NGAC reiterates its strong support for the development of a National Address Database in partnership with State, local, regional and Tribal governments; commends the Department of Commerce for its efforts to further this initiative; and encourages the FGDC Steering Committee to coordinate the development of a sustainable funding strategy."

NGAC Future Study Topics

ACTION: The NGAC reviewed draft papers identifying proposed study questions for the following topics:

1. National Address Database
2. Geospatial Education & Workforce Development
3. Geolocation Privacy

The FGDC will review and refine the proposed study questions and will provide additional guidance to the NGAC.

Review Action Plans and Next Steps

The meeting's actions and decisions were reviewed.

Meeting Summary/Wrap-Up

The results and actions from the meeting were briefly summarized. The next NGAC meeting is planned for early December 2013. Additional details will be posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac).

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.

Dr. Robert Austin, 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 December 11, 2013

September 2013 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/september-2013/index_html

FGDC Update

- FGDC Report

Geospatial Platform

- Geospatial Platform Update

NSDI Strategic Plan

- NSDI Strategic Plan Update

Landsat

- Landsat Program Update
- Landsat Advisory Group Presentation
- Draft LAG Synopsis of NRC Report “Landsat and Beyond”

3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Implementation Plan

- 3DEP Program Update
- NGAC Elevation Subcommittee Paper – Sept 2013

Lightning Sessions

- Mapping Support for Enterprise 911 – Granberg
- NGAC Tribal Update – Wyatt