

NSDI Leaders Forum Webinar Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2020

Meeting Summary

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) hosted an NSDI Leaders Forum webinar meeting for leaders of geospatial organizations on March 10, 2020 to solicit input and feedback on the development of a strategic plan for the advancement of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The objectives of the session were to provide a brief update on the implementation of the Geospatial Data Act (GDA), share the approach and process for developing the NSDI Strategic Plan, solicit perspectives on the vision, mission, and draft strategic goals, discuss roles and responsibilities of the different sectors involved in geospatial activities, and to identify actions and next steps. Attendees included leaders of 13 national geospatial organizations and professional associations, representatives of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), and members of the FGDC NSDI Core Team.

GDA Implementation:

FGDC Chair Tim Petty provided opening remarks and thanked the attendees for their engagement and input. FGDC Executive Director Ivan DeLoatch provided a brief update on the implementation activities in support of the GDA. There were questions regarding the governance process and opportunities for public comment on the revised OMB Circular A-16. It was noted that the Federal community is still waiting for guidance (revised version of Circular A-16) from OMB.

NSDI Strategic Plan 2020:

Carrie Stokes from USAID, Co-chair of the FGDC NSDI Core Team, reviewed the approach for developing the NSDI Strategic Plan and shared the draft vision, mission, and strategic goals developed by the NGAC NSDI Subcommittee and the FGDC NSDI Core Team. The NSDI Strategic Plan 2014-2016 and the 2017-2018 NSDI Strategic Framework, as well as other recent strategic plans and data initiatives, have provided foundational information for the new plan. The updated NSDI strategic plan will build on these recent plans and provide strategies to meet emerging needs and the requirements of the GDA. The plan is expected to be completed by the end of FY 2020.

May Yuan, Chair of the NGAC NSDI Subcommittee, summarized the subcommittee's process for developing the vision, mission, and guiding principles to set the context for the facilitated discussion. Participants also received a draft of the vision, mission, guiding principles prior to the webinar. Discussions and outcomes from the facilitated session provided insights and observations on the following topics:

Draft Vision Statement: Empowering a geo-enabled nation and world for place-based decision making.

The participants generally agreed that they liked the short, concise statement and felt it resonated well with them and the communities they represent. There were some questions about the meaning of "geo-enabled nation" and suggestions for adding language such as "for the benefit of society," or for "society, economy, and environment." There were also suggestions regarding rewording parts of the descriptive paragraph for the vision statement. Input from the meeting and comments sent to fgdc@fgdc.gov will be taken into consideration by the NGAC NSDI Strategic Plan Subcommittee.

Draft NSDI Mission Statement: The NSDI provides a geospatial network of resources that seamlessly integrates location-based information to serve the needs of the nation and global interests.

Participants reflected on the purpose of the NSDI and how their constituents might support the mission as stated. There were some questions about the wording and discussion about including references to

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geospatially referenced information or statistical data. There were also suggestions regarding incorporating high quality and open data. It was noted that some of the suggestions might be more appropriately incorporated into the descriptive paragraph that follows the mission statement. Most participants felt comfortable with the statement itself, pending minor revisions. Input from the meeting and comments sent to fgdc@fgdc.gov will be taken into consideration by the NGAC NSDI Strategic Plan Subcommittee.

Draft Goals & Objectives: Strategies to further the development of the NSDI

Participants discussed where the geospatial community needs to focus its energies and develop strategies for the advancement of the NSDI. Through the work of the NSDI Core Team, draft strategic goals have been developed addressing the broad categories of policy, data, shared services, and partnerships. In addition to the strategic goals the Core Team is developing objectives to support each goal. The draft strategic goals included:

- **Goal 1** – Implement the national geospatial policy framework as defined by the Geospatial Data Act and related statutes and policies
- **Goal 2** – Enhance management of National Geospatial Data Assets
- **Goal 3** – Promote use of open standards to enable seamless integration, sharing, and use of geospatial data and services.
- **Goal 4** – Establish and implement collaborative geospatial partnerships for high priority national issues and business needs

There was a robust discussion around the goals. Some represented organizations mentioned these goals aligned with their thinking. Others felt they would be able to create objectives to meet these goals. Many offered concrete suggestions for each of the four goals which will be taken in consideration by the NSDI Strategic Plan Core Team as they refine the goals and develop the objectives. Additional written responses may be sent to: fgdc@fgdc.gov.

Partnerships in Building the NSDI: Redefining Roles and Responsibilities

Discussion focused on the role of the Federal community now and the potential contributions of other sectors. It was suggested that in addition to communicator, partner, and convener of the community, the Federal community will continue in its roles of data provider, data aggregator, and data integrator. The key to defining roles is understanding requirements and needs and communicating between and among states, local governments, businesses, educational institutions, and organizations.

This forum represents one opportunity for input and feedback from stakeholders and the extended NSDI community. Insights gained from this and other sessions will be compiled and analyzed by the FGDC Community as the next version of the NSDI Strategic Plan is developed.

Actions/Next Steps

The group agreed on the following actions:

- Send suggestions and comments to fgdc@fgdc.gov
- Need your input to develop the objectives for the goals
- FGDC will schedule a follow-up meeting with this group
- FGDC will post meeting summary and presentation on the FGDC NSDI Plan web page: www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan