

NSDI Leaders Forum Webinar Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Executive Summary

On May 28, 2020, The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) hosted a second 2020 NSDI Leaders Forum meeting with leaders of geospatial organizations. The objectives of the session were to provide a status on the process and activities for developing the 2020 NSDI Strategic Plan, solicit feedback on the draft NSDI goals and objectives, and to discuss the role of the non-federal community in supporting the implementation of the strategic plan. Attendees included 15 representatives from national geospatial organizations and professional associations, plus representatives of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and members of the FGDC NSDI Core Team.

Welcome and Status of Activities

Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC Executive Director, welcomed attendees and thanked them for their continued engagement and input into the process of developing the new NSDI strategic plan. He noted that during this challenging period and we are learning that we can be productive despite the challenges.

Following brief self-introductions, John Mahoney of FGDC provided an overview of the approach for the development of the strategic plan and reviewed the current status of activities. The initial draft of the strategic plan (Version 1) is currently being reviewed by the FGDC Steering Committee and the NGAC. Once comments from their review and input from today's session are considered and addressed, the next version (Version 2) will be distributed in early July for public comment. It is anticipated that the final draft (Version 3) will be provided to the FGDC for approval and the NGAC for endorsement in early October. Agency plans and implementation plans will be developed upon approval.

John also reviewed the final draft vision, mission, and guiding principles included in the plan. He noted the changes that were made in the statements and their supporting paragraphs, which were influenced by the ideas discussed at the March Leaders' Forum. The revised draft statements include:

- **NSDI Vision:** Empowering a geo-enabled nation and world for place-based decision making.
- **NSDI Mission:** The NSDI provides a national network of geospatial resources that seamlessly integrates location-based information to serve the needs of the Nation and wider global interests.

NSDI Strategic Plan 2020:

Carrie Stokes from USAID, Co-chair of the FGDC NSDI Core Team, reviewed the general approach for developing the NSDI goals and objectives. The NSDI Core Team used the draft strategic plan that was in development in 2018 as its baseline. The goals and objectives were revised based on the GDA requirements, NGAC input, and discussions with FGDC agencies and stakeholders. Through the work of the NSDI Core Team, draft strategic goals were developed addressing the broad categories of policy, data, shared services, and partnerships. Since the last Leaders Forum, in addition to revising the strategic goals the Core Team developed objectives to support each goal.

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

The primary focus of the Leaders Forum was to solicit input and feedback on the goals and objectives to help inform the next version of the plan. Each of the goals were discussed separately. Participants offered concrete suggestions for each of the four goals which will be taken in consideration by the NSDI Core Team as they refine the goals and objectives.

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Goal 1 – Implement the national geospatial policy framework as defined by the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) and related statutes and policies.

There was generally a positive response regarding this goal. There was a concern that too much attention was on implementing the GDA and that policy and governance are not solely about the GDA. There may be a need for more general comments on benefits of GIS. It was also suggested that the order of the supporting objectives be changed by moving 1.4 to the second objective. There was a concern expressed that there was no mention about the leadership or convening role of the FGDC.

Goal 2 – Advance the maturity and expand sources of the National Geospatial Data Assets to ensure they are robust, easily accessible, and meet a wide range of needs

Discussion focused on the need to call out data acquisition both in the goal statement and objective 2.2. There was discussion about priority data sets and whether framework layers should be identified or mentioned in this goal. The group discussed possible wording changes in the goal statement and 3 of the objectives.

Goal 3 – Promote use of open standards to enable seamless integration, sharing, and use of geospatial data and services.

In general, attendees recognized the importance of this goal and supported this goal and its objectives. The group suggested that the language for each of the objectives be streamlined for clarity and understanding.

Goal 4 – Establish and implement collaborative geospatial partnerships for high priority national issues and business needs

The attendees were generally supportive of this goal and objectives. The discussion focused on building partnerships and working together as a community. It was suggested that “geospatial” be moved so that the goal statement is clear. There were also other wording changes and suggestions regarding objectives 4.3 and 4.4.

Partnerships in Building the NSDI: Implementation and Communications

Discussion focused on the activities and the potential contributions of the geospatial community in helping to implement and communicate the goals and objectives. Participants shared ideas ranging from developing educational materials, researching and developing new methodologies and technologies, coordinating among state, regional, and local government, focusing on partnerships, facilitating conversations among members of the community, communicating the concept and goals of the NSDI and the strategic plan, and serving as strong advocates. It was generally agreed that a marketing or communications strategy was needed to communicate the message and move the NSDI forward. Five of the leaders volunteered to help develop the strategy.

Actions/Next Steps

The group agreed on the following actions:

- Send and follow-up suggestions and comments to fgdc@fgdc.gov
- FGDC will post the meeting summary and presentation on the FGDC NSDI Plan web page: www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan
- FGDC will schedule a follow-up meeting with those participants who volunteered to help build a marketing/communications plan
- FGDC will distribute the next version of the 2020 NSDI Strategic Plan for public comment in July

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Attendees:

Geospatial Organization Representatives	
Name	Organization
Chris McGinty	AmericaView
Jackie Carr	American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing ASPRS
Michelle Kinzer	Association of American Geographers AAG
May Yuan	Cartography and Geographic Information Society CAGIS
Christine Stinchcomb	Coalition of Geospatial Organizations COGO
Cy Smith	(URISA/NGAC)
Mark Limbruner	GIS Certification Institute GISCI
Tim Trainor	International Cartographic Association ICA
John Palatiello	National Society of Professional Surveyors NSPS
Karen Rogers	National States Geographic Information Council NSGIC
Molly Schar	National States Geographic Information Council NSGIC
Nadine Alameh	Open Geospatial Consortium OGC
Camelia Kantor	U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation USGIF
Lynn Dupont	Urban and Regional Information Systems Association URISA
Glenn O'Grady	(URISA/COGO)

NGAC NSDI Subcommittee Members	
Name	Organization
Mark Reichardt	OGC
Gar Clarke	State of New Mexico
Bobbi Lenczowski	REL Consulting

FGDC NSDI Core Team Members	
Name	Organization
Ivan DeLoatch	FGDC
Carrie Stokes	USAID
Pamela Isom	DOE
Gita Urban-Mathieux	USGS
Lynda Liptrap	Census
Ken Shaffer	FGDC
John Mahoney	FGDC
Lorna Schmid	FGDC
Tricia Gibbons	FGDC Support
Vaishal Sheth	FGDC Support