



**Federal Geographic Data Committee  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, June 7, 2011  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Final**

**(approved at the October 6, 2011 Steering Committee meeting)**

**Location:** American Institute of Architects (AIA)  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

**Room:** Board Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)

**AGENDA**

2:00 – 2:10	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<i>Anne Castle, Interior, FGDC Chair; Dominic Sale, OMB, FGDC Vice Chair</i>
2:10 – 2:25	<b>FGDC Path Forward</b>	<i>Anne Castle</i>
2:25 – 2:35	<b>FGDC Overview</b>	<i>Ivan DeLoatch, USGS, Executive Director, FGDC Secretariat</i>
2:35 – 2:50	<b>OMB Perspectives</b>	<i>Dominic Sale</i>
2:50 – 3:15	<b>Place-Based Policies</b>	<i>Raphael Bostic, HUD</i>
3:15 – 3:35	<b>Geospatial Platform</b>	<i>Jerry Johnston, EPA</i>
3:35 – 3:55	<b>National Geospatial Advisory Committee</b>	<i>David Cowen, NGAC Chair</i>
3:55 – 4:00	<b>Wrap-Up Discussion</b>	<i>Anne Castle; Dominic Sale</i>
4:00	<b><i>Adjourn</i></b>	



## Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee Meeting **ACTION ITEMS** Through June 7, 2011

<b>Due Date: 7/29/11</b>		
<b>Lead:</b>	FGDC Steering Committee Members	<b>Action#: 20110607-01</b>
<b>Action:</b>	Provide recommendations to DOI and OMB leadership on the Geospatial Platform and the next steps for moving forward for this initiative.	
<b>Contact:</b>	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC, <a href="mailto:ideloatch@fgdc.gov">ideloatch@fgdc.gov</a>	
<b>Resolution/ Response:</b>		
<b>Due Date: 7/1/11</b>		
<b>Lead:</b>	FGDC Secretariat	<b>Action#: 20110607-02</b>
<b>Action:</b>	Prepare a report to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) on the status of and actions taken in response to previous NGAC recommendations. Transmit final report from FGDC Chair to the NGAC.	
<b>Contact:</b>	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC, <a href="mailto:ideloatch@fgdc.gov">ideloatch@fgdc.gov</a>	
<b>Resolution/ Response:</b>		
<b>Due Date: 7/31/11 (Questions due 7/8/11)</b>		
<b>Lead:</b>	FGDC Executive Committee	<b>Action#: 20110607-03</b>
<b>Action:</b>	Develop the "business case" in support of the Geospatial Platform, including five to ten questions/issues that the Geospatial Platform is expected to help provide answers to or address in order to demonstrate the value of the Platform to decision makers, legislators, and the general public.	
<b>Contact:</b>	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC, <a href="mailto:ideloatch@fgdc.gov">ideloatch@fgdc.gov</a>	
<b>Resolution/ Response:</b>		
<b>Due Date: 7/29/2011</b>		
<b>Lead:</b>	FGDC Secretariat	<b>Action#: 20110607-04</b>
<b>Action:</b>	Create plan of action and milestones based on Modernization Roadmap V3.	
<b>Contact:</b>	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC, <a href="mailto:ideloatch@fgdc.gov">ideloatch@fgdc.gov</a>	
<b>Resolution/ Response:</b>		
<b>Due Date: 7/1/2011</b>		
<b>Lead:</b>	FGDC Secretariat	<b>Action#: 20110607-05</b>
<b>Action:</b>	Revise the Geospatial Platform one-page summary document to better communicate to the average layperson the Platform's purpose and value. These changes will be shared with the Steering Committee.	
<b>Contact:</b>	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC, <a href="mailto:ideloatch@fgdc.gov">ideloatch@fgdc.gov</a>	
<b>Resolution/ Response:</b>		

<b>Response:</b>		
<b>Due Date:</b>	7/1/2011	
<b>Lead:</b>	FGDC Secretariat	<b>Action#:</b> 20110607-06
<b>Action:</b>	Poll Steering Committee Members for interest in participating on Jerry Johnston's technical advisory team for the Geospatial Platform initiative.	
<b>Contact:</b>	Jerry Johnston, EPA, <a href="mailto:johnston.jerry@epa.gov">johnston.jerry@epa.gov</a>	
<b>Resolution/Response:</b>		

<b>ID</b> (yyyymmdd-#)	<b>Decision/Description</b> Decisions provide a position/foundation on which actions are taken.



## Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee Meeting MEETING MINUTES June 7, 2011

*Non-voting members denoted with an asterisk\**

√	<b>Steering Committee Primary Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>	√	<b>Steering Committee Primary Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>
x	Anne Castle, Chair	Department of Interior		Dat Tran	Department of Veterans Affairs
x	Dominic Sale, Vice Chair	Office of Management and Budget	x	Jerry Johnston	Environmental Protection Agency
	Stephen Lowe	Department of Agriculture		Julius Knapp*	Federal Communications Commission*
x	Joseph Klimavicz	Department of Commerce		Philip Klokis	General Services Administration
x	James Kwolek	Department of Defense		John Hebert	Library of Congress
	James Dalton*	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*		Adrian Gardner	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
	Jack Buckley	Department of Education		Michael Kurtz	National Archives and Records Administration
	TheAnne Gordon	Department of Energy		VACANT*	National Capital Planning Commission*
	John Teeter	Department of Health and Human Services		VACANT	National Science Foundation
x	Dan Cotter	Department of Homeland Security		Darren Ash	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
x	Raphael Bostic	Department of Housing and Urban Development		VACANT	Office of Personnel Management
	Karen Siderelis	Department of Interior		Deborah Anderson	Small Business Administration
	Harrell Watkins	Department of Justice		VACANT	Smithsonian Institution
	VACANT	Department of Labor		Linda Maxfield	Social Security Administration
x	Roy Standing	Department of State	x	Roy Teal	Tennessee Valley Authority
	Steven Dillingham	Department of Transportation		VACANT	U.S. Agency for International Development
	Gayle Bracy	Department of Treasury			

√	<b>Steering Committee Alternate Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>	√	<b>Steering Committee Alternate Members</b>	<b>Organization</b>
x	Steven Jackson	Department of Defense		Desryn Duncan	Department of the Treasury
x	Tai Phan	Department of Education	x	Autumn Wallin	General Services Administration
x	Cuddy Barker	Department of Energy	x	Butch Lazorchak	Library of Congress
	Jeffrey Booth	Department of Homeland Security	x	Myra Bambacus	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
	Jean Pao	Department of Housing and Urban Development		Stuart Reiter	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
	Steve Lewis	Department of Transportation		David Timmons	Social Security Administration
√	<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Organization</b>	√	<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Organization</b>
x	Brett Abrams	National Archives and Records Administration	x	Tony LaVoi	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
x	Bob Austin	NGAC Member	x	Vicki Lukas	U.S. Geological Survey
x	Wendy Blake-Coleman	Environmental Protection Agency	x	Jim Maas	Office of Management and Budget
x	Stephen Bryce	ESRI	x	Arista Maher	FGDC
x	Bill Burgess	National States Geographic Information Council	x	John Mahoney	FGDC
x	Colleen Cahill	Library of Congress	x	Julie Maitra	FGDC
x	Scott Cameron	Grant Thornton	x	Don McKay	NGAC Member
x	Marisa Capriotti	U.S. Department of Agriculture	x	Matthew O'Connell	NGAC Member
x	Dick Clark	NGAC Member	x	Pat Olson	NGAC Member
x	David Cowen	NGAC Chair	x	John Palatiello	MAPPS
x	Pat Cummins	ESRI	x	Mark Reichardt	NGAC Member
x	Jack Dangermond	ESRI	x	Milo Robinson	FGDC
x	Ivan DeLoatch	FGDC	x	Lew Sanford	Social Security Administration
x	Mark DeMulder	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Eugene Schiller	NGAC Member
x	Teddy Dyer	Department of Energy	x	Emily Sharp	Office of Management and Budget
x	Randy Fusaro	Census Bureau	x	Vaishal Sheth	FGDC
x	Kevin Gallagher	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Jon Sperling	Department of Housing and Urban Development
x	Tricia Gibbons	LEAD Alliance	x	Tim Trainor	Census Bureau
x	Peter Golihan	Office of Science and Technology Policy	x	David Wyatt	NGAC Member
x	Roxanne Lamb	FGDC			

## **Minutes of June 7, 2011 Meeting of FGDC Steering Committee**

### **Welcome and Introductions - Anne Castle, FGDC Chair; Dominic Sale, Vice Chair**

Ms. Anne Castle, Acting FGDC Chair and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior (DOI), called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Steering Committee members were asked to introduce themselves, followed by all other guests in attendance. Ms. Castle then gave a brief overview of the meeting's agenda and objectives.

Ms. Castle introduced Mr. Dominic Sale, who was acting on behalf of Mr. Jeffrey Zients (Office of Management and Budget), as Vice Chair of the meeting. Mr. Sale is the Acting Deputy Administrator, Office of E-Government and Information Technology, OMB.

Ms. Castle noted that the Secretary of the Interior considers geospatial information to be vital to the mission of the Department of the Interior. He has directed DOI bureaus and offices to better integrate various GIS to work more effectively. She noted that DOI leadership feels that geospatial technology is integral to meeting key priorities of the Obama Administration.

Ms. Castle indicated that the America's Great Outdoors initiative is an excellent example of the opportunities for utilization of geospatial technology. DOI and its partners must leverage state, local, and Tribal resources, in addition to Federal resources, in order to support this initiative. America's Great Outdoors outlines several key conservation priorities that overlap with geospatial information services: defining and determining protected lands; managing wildlife habitats, migratory bird corridors, and wind and renewable energy development on public lands. Ms. Castle emphasized the need to be able to visualize competing priorities for the land and look at integrated geospatial information for how to best use the land. There are many areas of intersection between geospatial capabilities and the Administration's priorities, for instance: the need for maps utilizing demographic information; maps showing the distribution of obesity (in relation to the First Lady's "Let's Move" initiative); maps showing unemployment filings, wildfire activity, foreclosures, land use encroachment, and other uses. Ms. Castle mentioned she had attended a conference about economic development in Afghanistan; the first presentation featured geologic mapping data about Afghanistan, demonstrating that mapping is essential to decision-making in a variety of domains.

Ms. Castle spoke about a recent example of the Obama Administration's attention to geospatial technology: the funding of Landsat. The launch of Landsat 8 is planned for the end of 2012. There has been a strong funding commitment for the National Land Imaging Program (Landsat 9 and beyond) as well. The Administration is very supportive of Landsat, and the uses for Landsat data grow every day. Landsat provides a powerful geospatial tool that can be leveraged for a variety of uses.

### **FGDC Path Forward - Anne Castle, FGDC Chair**

Ms. Castle discussed the FGDC path forward and her vision for Federal geospatial programs.. She stated that it is important to utilize the FGDC as effectively as possible. She noted that there are many talented members on the Steering Committee, and that she wants to ensure that

members' time and attention to significant geospatial issues are fully utilized. She and other leaders in the executive branch want to take advantage of Steering Committee members' knowledge and work to leverage their expertise in the most effective way. Congress has turned its attention to both the value of geospatial data and the need to avoid duplication of efforts within the Federal government. Promoting the use of geospatial information to meet these needs must be a collaborative process.

Ms. Castle and FGDC leadership would like to hear from Steering Committee members about each agency's critical issues within the context of FGDC. Some of the specific items they would like Steering Committee input on include: geospatial aspects of the Administration's IT reform initiative (i.e., how to best take advantage of technology and implement better information sharing in order to lower costs; cloud computing and the Geospatial Platform, specifically, reaching agreement on the Platform through the Steering Committee and moving forward); the Administration's place-based policy initiatives; how best to engage the NGAC to provide advice and recommendations on all of those topics, as well as other issues identified in FGDC guidance to the NGAC; and finally, thoughts on the A-16 Supplemental Guidance. Ms. Castle recognized the work that has been done by the FGDC Executive Committee (ExCom). She explained that ExCom meets on a monthly basis, sometimes more frequently, and that they are working hard to advance many of these Administration initiatives.

**ACTION:** Provide recommendations to DOI and OMB leadership on the Geospatial Platform and the next steps for moving forward for this initiative.

**ACTION:** Prepare a report to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) on the status of and actions taken in response to previous NGAC recommendations. Transmit final report from FGDC Chair to the NGAC.

Ms. Castle briefly reviewed the meeting agenda.

### **FGDC Overview - Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director, FGDC Secretariat**

Mr. Ivan DeLoatch, Executive Director, FGDC Secretariat, gave a brief report on the history, objectives, and current initiatives of the FGDC.

The FGDC is a Federal interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. In addition, the FGDC provides executive, managerial, and advisory leadership, direction and oversight for geospatial decisions and initiatives across the Federal government; the Geospatial Platform is among these initiatives. The Platform will be an opportunity to engage with state, local, and Tribal governments, along with the private sector and academia, in order to promote the efficient, transparent, accountable, and effective use of geospatial information. Furthermore, the FGDC acts as the interagency coordinating body for National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)-related activities.

There are three policy constructs that provide guidance for the FGDC. They are: OMB Circular A-16; Executive Order 12906; and the E-Government Act, Section 216. OMB Circular A-16

formally established the FGDC in 1990, and designated the Secretary of the Interior as the Chair. In 2002, the document was revised to include the establishment of a representative from OMB as Vice Chair of the FGDC. Executive Order 12906, which was signed into law by President Clinton in 1994, called for the development of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and assigned FGDC to lead and coordinate this effort. In 2003, Executive Order 12906 was revised to recognize the Department of Homeland Security as one of the members of FGDC. Section 216 of the E-Government Act of 2002 called for DOI, through the FGDC, to develop common protocols for geographic information.

A diagram showing the FGDC organization was presented. This diagram shows the interaction between the Steering Committee, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), the Executive Committee, Coordination Group, Working Groups, and the Secretariat Staff. The FGDC Secretariat is housed within the Core Science Systems division of USGS. The Working Groups are where much of the fundamental geospatial work of FGDC is accomplished. While some Working Groups are more active than others, they all contribute to the FGDC mission.

The FGDC Enterprise Initiatives beginning in 1992 were shown in a timeline diagram. These included: the Geospatial Clearinghouse Network (1992); the Geospatial OneStop Initiative (2001); the Geospatial Line of Business E-Gov Initiative (2006); the Geospatial Platform (2010); and the proposed Geospatial Shared Services Initiative (2013).

Some of the recent FGDC activities and achievements were described. These include: support for Recovery.gov, Data.gov, and support to agencies implementing the Administration's place-based policies; establishing the National Geospatial Advisory Committee as an advisory body; launching the GeoCloud Computing Pilot; completing the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance; endorsing over 70 technical and content standards; and completing the Modernization Roadmap for the Geospatial Platform. These achievements have allowed for better coordination and use of data across all levels of government.

### **OMB Perspectives - Dominic Sale, OMB**

Mr. Dominic Sale (OMB) provided a report on the key Administration IT and geospatial initiatives.

Mr. Sale stated that everyone can agree that geospatial information is important and valuable, but we have not done enough to promote the business value of geospatial information. He explained that the value of geospatial information can be seen clearly from his vantage point at OMB. However, some at OMB are unclear on what the FGDC does. GPS is one tool that has come out of the geospatial community that many laypeople and decision makers at OMB can see the value of. He emphasized that this community should continue to demonstrate value of key geospatial products. Practical applications that have demonstrated the value of geospatial data and the power of geospatial tools in action (for example, utilization of these tools in response to the Deepwater Horizon incident, Hurricane Katrina, and other emergency response situations) need to be communicated more broadly. The FGDC and geospatial community also need to demonstrate value in other ways. He explained that if there had been good cadastral data

available for the country prior to the mortgage foreclosure crisis, it may have helped avert or inform it.

Mr. Sale explained that he supports Mr. Vivek Kundra, the Federal CIO. He also described the new 25-point plan for Federal IT management. It has almost universal consensus for what ought to be accomplished for the geospatial community. The detailed plan has clear milestones and deliverables for planned accomplishments. He emphasized that the FGDC Steering Committee should follow this lead in setting similar milestones, and he said that he is confident that this body will become a leader in this effort.

**ACTION: Create plan of action and milestones based on Modernization Roadmap V3.**

Mr. Sale opened up the floor to questions and comments.

Mr. Dan Cotter (DHS) asked: Given the current budget constraints, what is the commitment of DOI in funding FGDC, Geospatial OneStop, or other activities? Ms. Castle responded that this is an open question. The President's 2012 budget contains FGDC support. The Administration is in the midst of formulating the 2013 budget, and it has not yet been finalized. The budget will continue to support the FGDC Secretariat, but to what level or extent has not yet been determined. Mr. Sale explained that it is less a matter of demonstrating that geospatial information can create value, than of focusing on a couple of things we can do really well.

### **Place-Based Policies - Raphael Bostic, HUD**

Dr. Raphael Bostic, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provided his perspectives on the best ways to move geospatial policies forward and bring them to the attention of decision-makers.

Dr. Bostic stressed to the Steering Committee that it is very important that the geospatial community in general and FGDC specifically have some visible, quick victories. These victories do not need to be big things, just small things that can be touted and then expanded. In relation to the Geospatial Platform, he explained that its value must be articulated beyond the technology community; its value also needs to be communicated to policy leaders. He suggested that the Steering Committee come up with a list of questions that the Platform will be able to answer and to clearly communicate this to decision makers. This way, the value can become more obvious quickly, and the value proposition can become much better understood. This community needs to better engage policymakers and the broader audience so that people can understand the value of geospatial technology and use it for multiple applications.

**ACTION: Develop the "business case" in support of the Geospatial Platform, including five to ten questions/issues that the Geospatial Platform is expected to help provide answers to or address in order to demonstrate the value of the Platform to decision makers, legislators, and the general public.**

Dr. Bostic opened up the floor to questions and discussion.

Ms. Castle concurred with Dr. Bostic's comments, and agreed with his challenge to think hard about how geospatial information can help solve particular problems, and in particular, how the Geospatial Platform can provide better services for Federal agencies.

Ms. Autumn Wallin (GSA) suggested that the group revisit the one-page document on the Geospatial Platform to better communicate to the average layperson what it does.

**ACTION: Revise the Geospatial Platform one-page summary document to better communicate to the average layperson the Platform's purpose and value. These changes will be shared with the Steering Committee.**

Dr. David Cowen, Chair of the NGAC, noted that there needs to be a common language for definitions (e.g., what is cadastral/parcel data?) Two years ago, the NGAC discussed these issues. The Congressional Research Service just published an update on parcel data, which shows the value for parcel data to mortgage crisis. This could be used as a potential example for demonstrating value. Mr. Sale responded that until there are concrete results (not just CRS reports), this community should not be satisfied with how the message is being communicated to policymakers.

Mr. John Palatiello (MAPPS) pointed out that there are three serious threats to the geospatial community stemming from the lack of understanding policymakers have about geospatial technology and services. These threats are: 1.) The FCC is considering a new wireless communication system sponsored by LightSquared that may have serious impacts on GPS systems; 2.) Proposed privacy regulations from the FTC include the term "precise geolocation data," which is not well-defined and may result in unintended consequences to geospatial data collection activities; and 3.) The FAA has determined that it has authority to regulate laser pointers pointed at airplanes. These potential new rules may have an impact on the operation of LiDAR systems.

#### **Geospatial Platform - Jerry Johnston, EPA**

Dr. Jerry Johnston, the Geospatial Information Officer at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as a member of the FGDC Executive Committee and Vice Chair of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), provided a report on the interagency Geospatial Platform initiative. The vision for the Geospatial Platform includes a means to provide common data, services, and applications on a shared infrastructure. Dr. Johnston's report provided an overview of implementation plans for the Platform.

The language in FY 11 President's Budget that described the vision for the Platform was read to the Committee. The definition and vision of the Geospatial Platform were presented as well. The Geospatial Platform is defined as "a managed portfolio of common geospatial data, services, and applications contributed and administered by authoritative sources and hosted on a shared infrastructure, for use by government agencies and partners to meet their mission needs and the broader needs of the Nation." The vision for the Platform was described as "All government agencies and their partners have access to geospatial capabilities to meet mission needs, ensure transparency and accountability, and geo-enable the business of government." Dr. Johnston pointed out that "geo-enabling the business of government" is a particularly interesting portion

of the vision – many agencies currently do not have the resources to geo-enable, and this is something the Platform should focus on improving.

Some of the touch points (potential wins for the Platform) with the OMB Implementation Plan were discussed. Dr. Johnston noted that this falls in line with what Dr. Bostic was talking about as far as determining questions/potential problem-solving areas for the Platform. Several of these include: completing detailed implementation plans to consolidate 800 data centers by 2015; shifting to a “cloud first” policy; developing a strategy for shared services; requiring an integrated Program Team; launching a best practices collaboration platform; working with Congress to create IT budget models that align with modular development, etc.

The Modernization Roadmap is a response to the direction in the FY2011 budget to implement the Geospatial Platform. The purpose of the Roadmap is to define the Platform and establish its vision and purpose; to describe the future state technology architecture; to identify processes and organization elements to ensure success; to describe the strategic path forward to implement the vision; and to identify actionable projects and activities for short- and mid-term implementation.

A diagram of the notional technical architecture for the Geospatial Platform was shown. Several FGDC Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Coordination Group members have been active in the Technical Deployment Task Team and in designing the technical architecture of the Platform. The relationship between Data.gov, the Geospatial Platform, and agency geospatial assets was outlined for the Steering Committee.

A high priority needs to be put on demonstrating the value proposition and benefits of the Platform. Messaging must be improved across the Federal government. Some business cases have been developed to explain to policymakers to what questions and problems should be addressed through the Geospatial Platform. These include: smart growth, emergency response, sustainability, coastal planning, energy development, food safety, and wildland fire response.

The next steps to implementation were discussed. The Technical Deployment Task Team is working to define and finalize the high-level architecture. Dr. Johnston noted that GSA has been an excellent partner and they are poised to issue tasking to build Version 1 of the Platform. However, the team needs more membership to assist with technical advisory and oversight aspects.

Mr. Butch Lazorchak (Library of Congress) asked what skills are needed on the advisory team. Dr. Johnston replied that ideal members will have technical capabilities with respect to metadata cataloguing experience and map viewer/geospatial mash-up capabilities. Technical expertise needed to provide guidance to contractors.

**ACTION: Poll Steering Committee Members for interest in participating on Jerry Johnston’s technical advisory team for the Geospatial Platform initiative.**

### **National Geospatial Advisory Committee - David Cowen, NGAC Chair**

Dr. David Cowen, Chair of the NGAC, and Professor Emeritus of Geography, University of South Carolina, provided a report on the activities, action plan, and planned products and deliverables of the NGAC. He also provided an overview of the upcoming NGAC meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 9. Dr. Cowen's principal message to the FGDC from the NGAC was, "don't waste our time."

The make-up of the NGAC was discussed, including its membership from the Federal, state, local, Tribal, private, and academic sectors. The purpose of the NGAC was defined as providing advice and recommendations on Federal geospatial policy and management issues, as well as providing a forum to convey views representative of partners in the geospatial community. The NGAC functions as solely an advisory body under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The NGAC's mission is to "provide strategies regarding the creation, management and dissemination of cohesive geospatial data, information and knowledge to enable commercial, academic, and nonprofit organizations and all levels of government to more effectively: empower and serve the public; protect our homeland; foster economic growth; advance science; manage our resources; prepare for and respond to emergencies; and govern our nation." In January 2009, the NGAC adopted the vision that "The Nation and its citizens value and are empowered by geospatial resources."

The NGAC's actions and activities to date were outlined. Between 2008 and 2010, the NGAC: endorsed recommendations in National Research Council report, "National Land Parcel Data: A Vision for the Future" and identified comments related to recommendations; endorsed the FGDC Executive Committee Record of Decision (ROD) on Imagery for the Nation (IFTN); made recommendations to the FGDC on the economic stimulus; provided on-going feedback and advice to *The National Map*; drafted a document entitled, *Economic Recovery: Lessons Learned for the Geospatial Community*; and reviewed and commented on OMB Circular A-16 Draft Supplemental Guidance, among other activities. Some of the key products NGAC created include: Recommendations for the 2008-2009 Presidential Transition Team; *The Changing Geospatial Landscape* paper; a Geospatial Policy Benefits Statement; and a fact sheet on GIS Best Practices for Local Government.

The various NGAC subcommittees and their membership were presented to the Steering Committee. Points of contact for several Federal programs and initiatives were also supplied to Steering Committee members.

Dr. Cowen emphasized that the NGAC believes that OMB Circular A-16 is fundamentally about data. Some of the key questions to be considered are: What data does the federal government require to fulfill its missions? What is the proper role of the federal government in the production, maintenance and distribution of these data? Which federal agency is the proper steward? How is the data program funded? And, how can the federal government work with state, local, tribal and private organizations to meet these requirements? Spatial data needs have shifted from producer to consumer from the 1990s to present day.

Dr. Cowen invited all Steering Committee members, OMB and DOI leadership, and any other interested participants to attend the NGAC quarterly meeting, taking place on June 8 – 9. The topics that will be discussed at that meeting were outlined.

Dr. Cowen stressed the importance of the NGAC's relationship with FGDC (including the Steering Committee, Executive Committee, and Coordination Group) being reciprocal. Problems identified by FGDC are sent to the NGAC for recommendations, and the FGDC should return feedback to NGAC on those recommendations. He emphasized the importance of making good use of the NGAC's time in order to make substantial progress.

**Wrap-Up Discussion - Anne Castle, FGDC Chair; Dominic Sale, Vice Chair**

Ms. Castle briefly summarized the outcomes of the meeting. Ms. Castle announced that the next Steering Committee meeting is tentatively planned for September or October. More details on this meeting will follow soon.

Meeting attendees were encouraged to also attend the NGAC meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, June 8 - 9, 2011.

The June 2011 meeting of the FGDC Steering Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

***Adjourn***