Federal Geographic Data Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 26, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT

Location:	South Interior Building
	1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
	Washington, DC 20240
Room:	Auditorium (1st Floor)

Agenda

1:00 – 1:10	**Welcome and Introductory Remarks; Leadership Update**	*Anne Castle, Chair, DOI*
1:10 – 1:15	**GAO Engagement Update**	*Anne Castle, Chair, DOI*
1:15 – 1:25	**NSDI Strategic Plan Implementation**	*Dan Cotter, DHS; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS*
1:25 – 1:45	**Real Property Theme Report**	*Michel Kareis, GSA*
1:45 – 2:00	**Geospatial Platform**	*Jerry Johnston, DOI*
2:00 – 2:10	**Report on June 24-25 NGAC Meeting**	*Robert Austin, Chair, NGAC*
2:10 – 2:30	**Open Water Data Initiative**	*Kevin Gallagher, USGS*
2:30 – 2:45	**NGDA Management Plan**	*Adrian Gardner, FEMA; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS*
2:45 – 2:55	**Lightning Session**	*Steering Committee Members*
2:55 – 3:00	**Wrap-Up**	*Anne Castle, Chair, DOI*
3:00	***Adjourn***	

Due Date: 6/26/14		
Lead:	FGDC Steering Committee Members	**Action#: 20140403-03**
Action:	The FGDC Steering Committee will have a discussion and possible workshop on best practices from member agencies successful in attracting senior-level management attention from their own agencies regarding the NGDA Management Plan.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Discussions on a potential workshop occurred on 5/15 and at the ExCom meeting on 5/22. The next steps are in discussion.	
Due Date: ASAP		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	**Action#: 20140626-01**
Action:	Steering Committee members who have nominations from their agencies for Coordination Group Co-Chair are asked to contact the FGDC Secretariat.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Due Date: ASAP		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	**Action#: 20140626-02**
Action:	Steering Committee agencies that receive questions from GAO on the current engagement are asked to contact the FGDC Secretariat to help ensure a coordinated response.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Due Date: ASAP		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	**Action#: 20140626-03**
Action:	Any Steering Committee members who would like to participate in reviewing and revising the geospatial investment definition and budget report codes are asked to contact the FGDC Secretariat.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Due Date: July 16, 2014		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	**Action#: 20140626-04**
Action:	Any Steering Committee members who would like to attend the NGDA working session at the Esri Conference on July 16 should contact Wendy Blake-Coleman.	
Contact:	Wendy Blake-Coleman, EPA, blake-coleman.wendy@epa.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Due Date: July 11, 2014		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	**Action#: 20140626-05**
Action:	The FGDC Secretariat will send out a call for feedback and support of the Open Water Data Initiative Proposal to Steering Committee members. Member responses will be due to Ivan	

	DeLoatch by July 11.
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov
Resolution/ Response:	

Federal Geographic Data Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
June 26, 2014

Non-voting members denoted with an asterisk*
*Quorum = 2/3 of voting members. Voting members = 27 **Quorum = 18***

√	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization	√	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization
X	Anne Castle	FGDC Chair/ Department of Interior		Dat Tran	Department of Veterans Affairs
	Scott Bernard	FGDC Vice Chair/ Office of Management and Budget		Harvey Simon	Environmental Protection Agency
x	Stephen Lowe	Department of Agriculture		Julius Knapp*	Federal Communications Commission*
	Tim Trainor	Department of Commerce	x	Angela Smith	General Services Administration
	Jeff Bell	Department of Defense		Ralph Ehrenberg	Library of Congress
x	James Dalton*	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*		VACANT	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
	John Easton	Department of Education		Paul Wester	National Archives and Records Administration
	Russell Pereira	Department of Energy		VACANT*	National Capital Planning Commission*
	Keith Tucker	Department of Health and Human Services		VACANT	National Science Foundation
	Luke McCormack	Department of Homeland Security		Darren Ash	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
x	Jean Lin Pao	Department of Housing and Urban Development		VACANT	Office of Personnel Management
x	Jerry Johnston	Department of Interior		Asghar Noor	Small Business Administration
x	Joseph Klimavicz	Department of Justice		VACANT	Smithsonian Institution
	Holly Donnelly	Department of Labor	x	Lew Sanford	Social Security Administration
	Cecelia Henderson	Department of State		Roy Teal	Tennessee Valley Authority
x	Patricia Hu	Department of Transportation		Carrie Stokes	U.S. Agency for International Development
	Jimmy Amoaka-Atta	Department of Treasury			

√	Steering Committee Alternate Members	Organization	√	Steering Committee Alternate Members	Organization
x	Tony LaVoi	Department of Commerce	x	Steve Lewis	Department of Transportation
x	Alex Ferry	National Geospatial-	x	Tom Garin	Department of Veterans'

			Intelligence Agency			Affairs
x	Wendy Blake-Coleman	Environmental Protection Agency		Jim Young	Department of Treasury
x	Nancy Blyler	Department of Defense/USACE		Donald Draper Campbell	Federal Communications Commission
	Tai Phan	Department of Education		Autumn Wallin	General Services Administration
	Teddy Dyer	Department of Energy		Butch Lazorchak	Library of Congress
	David Alexander	Department of Homeland Security		Stuart Reiter	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
	John Kim	Department of Labor		David Timmons	Social Security Administration
	Other Attendees	**Organization**		**Other Attendees**	**Organization**
X	Robert Austin	City of Tampa/NGAC Chair	x	Jacqueline Nolan	Library of Congress
X	Talbot Brooks	NGAC Member	x	Colleen Phillips	U.S. Government Accountability Office
X	Pat Cummens	ESRI/NGAC Member	x	Vaishal Sheth	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
X	Ivan DeLoatch	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Jon Sperling	Department of Housing and Urban Development
X	Kevin Gallagher	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Bryan Swan	General Services Administration
X	Michele Kareis	General Services Administration	x	Ben Swartley	U.S. Agency for International Development
X	James Lewis	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Harvey Thorleifson	NGAC Member
X	Lynda Liptrap	Census Bureau			
X	Vicki Lukas	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Gita Urban-Mathieux	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
X	Arista Maher	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Dick Vraga	U.S. Geological Survey
X	John Mahoney	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Jason Warzinik	Boone Co., MO/NGAC Member
X	Jack Maguire	Lexington Co., SC/NGAC Member			

Welcome and Introductory Remarks; Leadership Update – *Anne Castle, Chair, FGDC; DOI*

FGDC Chair Anne Castle welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Ms. Castle provided comments on Mr. Doug Nebert (FGDC OS) and Dr. Carolyn Merry (Ohio State University/NGAC Member), who both recently passed away. Ms. Castle noted their records of accomplishment and their long-term contributions to the geospatial community.

Ms. Castle called for approval of the minutes from the April 2014 Steering Committee meeting.

> **DECISION: The April 2014 Steering Committee meeting minutes were approved by the Steering Committee.**

Introductions of attendees were made. Ms. Castle provided updates on items of note, including an email that was sent to Steering Committee members during the previous week asking for suggestions on nominees for the Coordination Group's Co-Chair position. The Co-Chair position has been filled by a number of CG agencies on a rotating basis, and Ms. Castle requested that new nominations be sent to the FGDC Secretariat.

> **ACTION: Steering Committee members who have nominations from their agencies for Coordination Group Co-Chair are asked to contact the FGDC Secretariat.**

Ms. Castle noted that all Steering Committee action items from the April 2014 meeting are complete, except for one regarding organizing a "best practices workshop" for data theme leads and dataset managers. This topic came up at the April 2014 Steering Committee meeting, in the context of geospatial assets and funding. The leadership of the Steering Committee and the FGDC Secretariat are continuing to discuss how best to organize a workable, practical workshop prior to moving forward with scheduling.

Ms. Castle noted that the Steering Committee has approved the HIFLD Charter via an electronic vote. Since both the Coordination Group and Steering Committee have given their approval, a HIFLD Subcommittee has now been established within the FGDC structure.

Ms. Castle next gave an update on the ongoing GAO engagements. A second engagement was launched in January 2014. This new engagement will review the FGDC's progress in addressing the three FGDC-related recommendations from the 2012 report: development of the NSDI Strategic Plan, the NGDA Management Plan (formerly the A-16 Implementation Plan), and the Geospatial Platform. FGDC actions in response to these recommendations will be discussed at today's meeting. Another aspect of the second GAO engagement focuses on specific datasets-- namely, imagery and addresses. Agencies such as the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and the Postal Service are the focus for this aspect of the engagement. GAO also plans on engaging with stakeholders from the states of Maryland, Ohio, South Carolina, Montana, and Washington on these issues. USGS, NOAA, and Census are responding to questions on data use of NGDA themes, as well as on addresses-- including how they acquire the data, and, if quantifiable, associated costs.

> **ACTION: Steering Committee agencies that receive questions from GAO on the current engagement are asked to contact the FGDC Secretariat to help ensure a coordinated response.**

GAO anticipates a draft report in the December 2014 timeframe for agency review, with a final report expected in the February 2015 time frame.

NGDA Management Plan – *Adrian Gardner, FEMA; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS*
On behalf of Mr. Adrian Gardner, Mr. Ivan DeLoatch gave an update on the progress of the NGDA Management Plan. During the last Steering Committee meeting, it was decided that a memo would be helpful to issue to agencies to highlight the importance of the work being done to support the Plan. Activities are continuing for the NGDA theme leads and dataset managers, including the creation of a theme lead community on GeoPlatform.gov. There were some concerns about what metadata was required on the Geospatial Platform vs. on Data.gov. To respond to these concerns, the FGDC Secretariat organized an NGDA metadata focus group which is working on developing solutions to metadata challenges. At the Esri User conference in July, there will be a working session for the data theme leads and other dataset managers.

Some of the NGDA Management Plan actions have been completed. At the last Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting, members discussed reviewing and revising geospatial investment and budget reporting codes; they will take the first step in developing a definition of geospatial investment. Following this, the Steering Committee's input will be solicited.

> **ACTION: Any Steering Committee members who would like to participate in reviewing and revising the geospatial investment definition and budget report codes are asked to contact the FGDC Secretariat.**

There is still a need to identify NGDA Executive Theme champions for a number of themes. Theme lead changes for Geology, Imagery, Water-Inland, and Utilities-Terrestrial themes were described. It was noted that the Utilities-Terrestrial theme needs a lead agency. There has been good participation from theme leads and co-leads. 196 datasets have been identified as part of the NGDA dataset portfolio; 113 have been registered on Data.gov, and 83 still need registering.

Dr. Jerry Johnston and the technical team have been working on the registration of theme leads and dataset managers on the GeoPlatform Internal Theme Lead Community, which was launched in March 2014. There are now community pages for all of the themes. The Governmental Units and Transportation theme pages were recently updated. A metadata focus group was established to address issues related to metadata record content for NGDAs and registering metadata in Data.gov and Geoplatform.gov. The NGDA core team (focused on advancing the NGDA Management Plan) is taking steps to conduct a baseline data assessment of data theme leads and managers. A second round of comments for the assessment was due on June 2, 2014. The data theme leads and dataset managers will discuss this further during the Esri workshop.

The next steps are to: conduct side-by-side reviews and crosswalk analysis; put together the work group report including Census insights; conduct the working meeting at Esri; continue tracking other maturity efforts; and have the finalized baseline assessment tool ready by October 1, 2014.

ACTION: Any Steering Committee members who would like to attend the NGDA working session at the Esri Conference on July 16 should contact Wendy Blake-Coleman.

Real Property Theme Report – *Michel Kareis, GSA*
Ms. Michel Kareis reported on the Real Property Theme, one of the NGDA Themes that is championed by the General Services Administration (GSA). Real property assets consist of buildings, land parcels, linear structures, and structures. Leadership of the theme was reviewed. GSA is the Federal agency responsible for the theme, and Angela Smith serves as the SAOGI for GSA. There are a total of 15 real property datasets registered on Data.gov. These datasets are tagged, but the team is having issues related to harvesting of datasets (they are currently working with FGDC on resolving this issue). Department of Defense (DOD) datasets on military installations, ranges, and training areas are also registered on Data.gov and tagged as NGDA, but this area is not indicated as a real property theme. Thus, the team needs to properly tag them as such. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has 12 of 15 real property datasets; all are registered on Data.gov, but they are having issues related to harvesting them to the Geospatial Platform. The team is awaiting the release of the metadata best practices guidance to properly tag these datasets.

The Real Property Asset Data Standards (RPADS) establishes fundamental definitions of a real property asset (RPA) as buildings, land parcels, linear structures, and structures. RPADS defines the core minimum attributes needed to identify a RPA and its geospatial location as represented by a point, line or polygon. It is fully extendable and leverages FGDC-endorsed ISO and other geospatial standards. It was approved by the Steering Committee in February 2014.

Ms. Kareis next spoke on maturing future NGDA datasets. She noted that the Federal Real Property Profile (FRPP) contains an inventory of all Real Property buildings, structures, and land parcels for the 24 CFO Act agencies. The Federal Real Property Council (FRPC) members manage the data submitted. The data is collected by GSA for OMB. Asset level data is not public facing. Some data is sensitive but unclassified. GSA is attempting to provide geocoding preparation within FRPP to assure mature data. They have included new requirements in the FY 2014 data dictionary for agencies.

Additionally, GSA is working on an effort to collect complete, current and accurate addresses with support from GSA's GIS Center of Expertise. This effort will begin in FY 2014 Q4 to support future geo-coding capabilities, and will include FRPP's Address Correction Effort.

GSA plans on hosting a Real Property theme lead meeting with dataset managers in September 2014 to discuss implementation plan action items for FY 2015 and discuss the Geospatial Platform collaboration. They are populating and reviewing real property content on the Geospatial Platform. Next, they will begin discussions with the Federal Real Property Council to standardize the geo-coding of real property data. They also plan on identifying security issues that inhibit other agencies from using public-facing data and they will be implementing strategies to mitigate those issues.

Geospatial Platform – *Jerry Johnston, DOI*
Dr. Jerry Johnston provided an update on the Geospatial Platform. The Geospatial Platform is comprised of four tiers: web presentation and collaboration; search/catalog; shared IT/data investments; and National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs). The GeoPlatform home page was displayed. The team has spent a lot of time working with NGA and DHS on the release of the GeoCONOPS community. They are working on advancement of the World Wide Human Geography Data (WWHGD) working group community, and enhancements to trending data, as well as a viewer application for data discovery and data mashups (in testing phase). The GeoCONOPS community home page was displayed.

The search/catalog function: the catalog back-end enhancements on Data.gov and Geoplatform.gov are being made, including enhanced capabilities for marking content owned by others for inclusion in a community. On shared IT and data investments, they are working on release of new batch of HSIP public data, as well as supporting the White House climate data initiative and the potential Open Water Data initiative, which will be discussed in more detail later in today's meeting.

The Federal Geospatial Solutions (FISMA) Strategy at USDA for hosting data was described by Mr. Stephen Lowe (USDA). The high-level system architecture stack was reviewed, along with the Federal government's implementation activities.

Dr. Johnston also noted that he is expecting that an award on the Geospatial Platform support contract will be made very soon.

Report on June 24-25 NGAC Meeting – *Robert Austin, NGAC Chair*
Dr. Bob Austin reported on the outcomes and activities of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), which met on June 24-25, 2014. The membership of the NGAC was reviewed. He noted that membership of the NGAC represents a cross-section of the geospatial community, including members from Federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as non-profits, private industry, and academia.

A synopsis of the NGAC meeting agenda was provided. The agenda included items such as the NSDI Strategic Plan, NGAC Subcommittee reports, the Geospatial Platform, FirstNet, an updated on the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP), lightning sessions, and a public comment period. The Landsat Advisory Group (LAG), a subcommittee of the NGAC, was tasked with looking at value of Landsat data. They are developing draft summaries of new Landsat applications, and they are on track to have draft applications documented by the September NGAC meeting. On Geolocation Privacy, the Subcommittee worked on inventorying communities with an interest in privacy issues. The Subcommittee has reviewed and compiled NGAC observations on recent Administration reports on "Big Data and Privacy." On Geospatial Education and Workforce, the Subcommittee will coordinate with the FGDC to provide input on next round of revisions to the Department of Labor's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes in July. NGAC also received a briefing on USGIF/NGA professional geospatial certification activities. The National Address Database Subcommittee has coordinated closely with Census and FGDC on recent addressing activities. The Subcommittee will update draft use cases, incorporating NGAC feedback, by early July. Subsequently, the Subcommittee will prepare a consolidated paper, including the revised use cases and introduction, prior to the September NGAC meeting. The lightning talks at the NGAC meeting were discussed. The Subcommittees will next prepare draft papers from their research by the September NGAC meeting. In December, the NGAC plans on holding a webinar meeting to finalize many of the Subcommittee papers.

Open Water Data Initiative – *Kevin Gallagher, USGS*
Mr. Kevin Gallagher discussed a proposal to FGDC on a potential Open Water Data Initiative. Mr. Gallagher provided background and context regarding the issue, noting that water data is abundant, but fragmented. The ad hoc working group membership was displayed. He stated that quantifying the availability, use, and risks to our national water resources is a significant issue.

A number of studies underscore the importance of improving access to water information. Part of the White House Climate Data Initiative calls for accessibility of water data. There have been transitions from paper maps to digital data, and more recently, digital data to web services. The opportunity today in the context of water is for an Open Water Web (OWW). The vision of the OWW includes: foundational national data sets with data services to support a wide variety of water user applications; water metadata, web services, a community accessible on the GeoPlatform; access to integrated real-time monitoring data; data assimilation for a national modeling capability; water maps and other derivative products that integrate geospatial and water observations; and a marketplace of open source applications built upon OWW services. This vision for OWW is similar to the FGDC's NSDI Strategic Plan. The hope is that this vision can be realized for water data. The USGS has been implementing web services on the national water information system for a number of years, and the use of this data has increased greatly over the years. These foundational water data sets include: streamflow, groundwater levels, aquifers, water quality, reservoir storage, elevation, hydrography, landscape variables, climate/weather/ET, soil moisture, and human water use.

The Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI), which is FACA advisory committee chaired by Ms. Anne Castle, was established in 1991. ACWI's objective is to facilitate sharing of comparable water data across the Federal sector. Their capabilities—including water-quality and groundwater data portals with web services-- can be leveraged for open water data and integrated into the proposed architecture. ACWI and the FGDC share a subcommittee on Spatial Water Data, which has been active in the past but relatively dormant recently. That shared Subcommittee is the likely location for the work to advance open and accessible water data.

The U.S. academic community of hydrology has united behind the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI) to advance web service approaches for sharing research and government sources of data. The Open Water Data Initiative would build on a continued strong collaboration with the research community in developing a standards-based architecture that covers the hydrologic cycle. Another potential major partner is the OGC/WMO Hydrology Domain Working Group, which has a longstanding partnership with FGDC. Additionally, the Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS) Center at the University of Alabama includes a common operating picture for water resources and has a focus on simplifying water data access.

The proposal is that an Open Water Data Initiative will integrate currently fragmented water information into a connected, national water data framework, and that it will leverage existing shared infrastructure and tools to provide a platform for innovation, modeling, and data sharing, as well as solution development. The OWDI will also capitalize on cross-government interest in "big data," IT innovation, Open Data, Data.gov, etc., and will build on the ground-breaking work of the FGDC, OGC, IWRSS, CUASI, ACWI, and others.

A proposed charge statement was distributed to Steering Committee members. It was noted that the proposal has been presented to and endorsed by the ExCom. The key to the OWDI proposal includes: reviving and repopulating the FGDC/ACWI joint subcommittee on spatial water data; supporting the IWRSS consortium members on the scoping and implementation of pilot activities; creating an integrated water data portfolio for specific hydrologic regions or basins; developing a technical reference architecture that supports the sharing of water data and links observations to geospatial data; leveraging the Geospatial Platform to make water data more accessible and to support water data community collaboration; identifying how existing investments in water data sharing can be integrated and leveraged; engaging the international community in standards and technology development, including the Open Geospatial Consortium; identifying and prioritizing improvements to relevant framework geospatial data; and, utilizing the FGDC coordination and governance structure to support related activities in the Federal water sector.

The next steps are to: review and examine the draft charge statement and endorse the revival and repopulation of the Subcommittee on Spatial Water data; issue a charge to the subcommittee; work with IWRSS consortium to refine the charge going forward and define and implement the pilot project; and to schedule periodic check-ins with the Steering Committee.

Mr. James Dalton (USACE) commented that IWRSS began as a result of 2008 flooding in Nashville, TN. The community at that time blamed the Federal government for destruction that was claimed could have been prevented

by having more complete and available data. Thus, the Federal government began an effort to better share water and hydrologic data. So far, this sharing effort has focused on flood inundation mapping (requirements identified for that) and data synchronization/system interoperability. USACE thinks a pilot such as this would help demonstrate to Congress and the Administration that Federal agencies can work together to share water data, and USACE strongly supports this initiative.

> **ACTION: The FGDC Secretariat will send out a call for feedback and support of the Open Water Data Initiative Proposal to Steering Committee members. Member responses will be due to Ivan DeLoatch by July 11.**

NSDI Strategic Plan Implementation – *Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS*

Mr. Ivan DeLoatch gave a progress report on the implementation status of the NSDI Strategic Plan. He noted that there are nine objectives and twenty-nine actions in the plan. The NSDI Strategic Plan was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in December 2013. The ExCom has designated champions for each of the nine objectives. The core team has been coordinating with the executive champions, and implementation action plans have been developed for 7 of the 9 objectives in the plan. The action plans for the remaining 2 objectives (1.4 and 3.3) will be completed by the end of FY 2014 and initiated in FY 2015.

NSDI Action Plans identify the key, high level tasks that will be required to achieve the goals, objectives and actions in the NSDI Plan. Action plans include: tasks, timeframes, dependencies, metrics, and responsible parties. The ExCom has reviewed and validated the plans, and the plans have also been distributed to the Steering Committee and the NGAC.

The draft implementation timeline was shown. The September 2014 NGAC meeting and Steering Committee meetings will include a status briefing and provide continuing input on the Plan. The remaining action plans will be distributed in September. In addition, the FGDC will hold another NSDI Leaders Forum meeting in the July/August time frame to brief key partner organizations on the status of implementation and to provide an opportunity to provide continuing input. By September 30, action teams will submit FY 2014 status reports. Any revisions to FY 2015 targets will be due in Q1 of FY 2015.

Adjourn