



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
• Local Government Committee

MINUTES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
May 28, 2009

PROCEEDINGS

The quarterly meeting of the Local Government Committee (LGC), a committee of the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC), was held on May 28, 2009

PRESENT

LGC members:

Amy Durden, Elizabeth City, representing Carolina URISA
Steve Randone, Brunswick County, representing NC PMA
Julie Stamper, Pasquotank County, representing NC ACC

Others:

Chad Ives, Town of Havelock, LGC rep to the SMAC
Jason Mann, City of Asheville, LGC rep to the SMAC
Chris Thomas, WPCOG, for Scott Miller, LGC GIS Advisory Team
Tom Tribble, CGIA, Staff to the LGC

ABSENT

Chris Koltyk, Moore County, representing NC LGISA
Alex Rickard, Eastern Carolina COG, representing NC ARCED
Colleen Sharpe, City of Raleigh, representing NC LOM

LGC APPOINTMENTS FOR 2009-10

It is time to make annual appointments to the LGC. Based on earlier discussion by the LGC, the members agree that appointments should be for two years and that the appointment of the 6 members should be staggered to ensure continuity when members

leave. Tom Tribble will review the membership history and suggest an appointment schedule that sets up staggered appointments. Tom will share the schedule with the LGC members for approval. Tom will then contact the organizations to get their appointments.

Action Item – Tom will contact the organizations that comprise the LGC and get their appointments for 2009-10.

GICC REPORT

The complete minutes for the May 13, 2009 meeting of the GICC are available at the GICC web site.

Julie Stamper gave a review of the highlights of the GICC meeting.

The Master Address project is on-going. One positive outcome, perhaps unintended by the legislature, will be the development of a tool and methodology for acquiring data and creating a seamless statewide data layer that could be a model that is applicable to other layers, parcels for example.

Funds for implementation of the GIS Study are currently in the Governor's budget and the Senate budget. The schedule for a final budget is unknown.

Winston-Salem State University has a grant from FGDC to conduct free metadata workshops. All will be taught at WSSU. Tom asked if the LGC alert tool needed to be used to alert the NC GIS community. Amy Durden indicated that she had received several notices from Diana Hales about the workshops. The LGC decided not to send out duplicate notices and asked Tom to ask Diana to send out a reminder to the various list serves a few weeks before each scheduled workshops.

Action Item – Tom to ask Diana Hales to send out email reminder messages to the various list serves.

The Working Group for Seamless Parcels received the EPA grant to work on a tool for acquiring parcel data and developing a seamless statewide data set.

SMAC REPORT

Chad Ives summarized the results of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee meeting on April 8, 2009.

NC 911 Board

The PSAPs and 911 agencies in counties frequently acquire GIS data and may request basic GIS support from local government GIS shops. However, the NC 911 Board does not include someone who can represent the local government GIS community. Tim Johnson agreed to contact Billie Willis, chair of the NC 911 Board, about this question.

Julie noted that Mr. Willis reported at the GICC meeting that the membership of the NC911 Board is determined by legislation and that new members cannot be added. He indicated that the Board meetings are public meetings and that anyone can attend.

Chad noted that 25% of his time is paid for by 911 funds. Julie noted that local E911 agencies spend money that affects how GIS staff do their job. Chad agreed and stated that it was important for the NC 911 Board have access to input from a GIS person. He indicated that the SMAC was looking for an official opinion from the LGC.

Action Item – The LGC reps to the SMAC will notify the SMAC that the LGC strongly believes that local government GIS should be represented on the NC 911 Board, if not as a voting representative, perhaps as an invited adjunct member.

Ortho Cost Share Program

Chad reported that Steve Strader, National Geospatial Programs Office liaison to NC, is seeking \$375K in cost share funds for eligible counties to acquire orthos in 2010. Eligible counties would be those with orthos more than 3 years old. Tom regretted to report that Steve was not able to get the \$375K for counties in this category. He was able to get \$200K in cost share funds but the money will be restricted to 8 urban counties.

Chad indicated that the SMAC seeks the position of the LGC on the acquisition of CIR band and on the acquisition of oblique imagery. He indicated that it would cost 10-15% additional to acquire the CIR band and / or to acquire oblique imagery. Does the LGC recommend that the cost of CIR be added to the cost share program?

Steve Randone indicated that a consortium of 5 counties including Robeson County were able to negotiate the inclusion of the CIR band at no additional cost. Of course the data must be collected digitally for the CIR band to be available. Chad asked if some counties are still using film. Steve replied that probably a few are. Julie noted that the GIS folks generally have limited influence in the final decision on what to acquire.

Steve asked how oblique imagery helps a rural, coastal county. He is skeptical about their value. Jason Mann noted that Land Records shops can use oblique imagery to identify building improvements. Steve said that the same information can be extracted from regular orthos. Steve also noted a concern about the contractual requirements that the oblique imagery service providers want to impose, specifically that you may have to agree to acquire updates.

Tom asked what Chad should say to the SMAC.

Action Item – The LGC reps to the SMAC will report that 1) the LGC does not have a position on the value of acquiring oblique imagery - individual counties will make their own decision on the value of acquiring the data; and 2) the LGC supports the idea of acquiring the CIR band, especially if it is free.

Board on Geographic Names

Chad reported that the LGC was asked to appoint a member to the NC Board on Geographic Names. Julie indicated that this item was on the agenda for later but that it can be addressed now.

Tom summarized the role of the NC Board on Geographic Names. The NC BGN reviews and documents requests to change a name or to name an unnamed map feature. Typically the features are limited to streams, bays, inlets and other water features; mountain tops or ridges, crossroad communities and other features but not roads. Upon SMAC approval, the Chair of the NC BGN will communicate and recommend approval or non-approval of the proposed name to the US Board on Geographic Names. The commitment of the LGC rep to the NC BGN will be to participate in the process. Meetings and communications are typically by phone and/or email. Julie asked for volunteers. Amy Durden volunteered to be the LGC rep to the NC BGN.

Chad noted that the SMAC received a report on the Streambed Mapping Advisory Committee. If the next phase of the streambed mapping effort is funded, Joe Sewash, CGIA project manager, will work with local governments on issues related to the project. The Streambed Mapping Advisory Committee may seek help from the LGC to generate support by local governments to edit data and provide input on the process.

ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHY PLANNING WORK GROUP

Orthophotography standard

Julie reported that the GICC tasked the LGC with reviewing the draft technical specifications for orthophotography. Steve indicated that PMA participated in the preparation of the standard and that the PMA Board supported the standard.

Action Item – Tom will submit the standard for review to the A Team and request comments by Jun 16.

Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Proposal

Julie reported that Tanya Pearce, Durham PSAP, made a presentation to the GICC about a proposal that Durham PSAP submitted to the NC 911 Board. Julie asked Tom to describe the proposal.

Tom said that the proposal is for the NC 911 Board to fund the acquisition of new orthos for all 100 counties in 2010. Ms. Pearce said that regional 911 call centers need an orthophotography basemap that covers the entire state in the same time period at the same pixel resolution, instead of the current situation that has different pixel resolutions and

time periods when you cross a county or metropolitan boundary. The grant, if funded, would provide the imagery to each 911 PSAP and make it available for free download on NC OneMap. Ms. Pearce indicated that she sought advice on the proposal from the SMAC's Orthophotography Planning Work Group and met with its members including Tom Morgan, Land Records Management Program; Gary Thompson, chair of the working group and Director of NC Geodetic Survey; Hope Morgan, Floodplain Mapping Program; and CGIA, staff to the SMAC. The working group agreed to serve as advisors to the project. Ms. Pearce said the group recognized that this could be a one-time grant to provide this baseline data. The anticipated cost for the statewide imagery is \$12 million.

Steve questioned whether the service providers had the capacity to acquire orthos for the entire state in one year. Tom reported that Tom Morgan had surveyed various service providers and had been assured that it was possible. Steve remains skeptical noting that many service providers hire each other for various tasks and that capacity is limited.

It was noted that tax administrators like to acquire new imagery in the year they plan to do a reevaluation and that this plan would not meet their needs. It was also noted that some counties paid to fly in 2009 and that others were already working on contracts to fly in 2010.

Julie noted that this approach is in contradiction to the GICC plan for establishing a program for acquiring orthos approximately every 4 years. Julie also noted that the GIS Implementation Plan includes a charge to the GICC to develop a business plan for acquiring orthos.

Tom acknowledged that the PSAP approach did not fit with the GICC plan. Durham PSAP submitted the proposal on their own but to their credit they did seek advice from the Orthophotography Planning Work Group and propose to work with the group if the proposal is funded.

Julie noted again that Ms. Pearce's presentation was informational and that they were not seeking approval from the GICC. The NC 911 Board has not indicated when it will announce a decision on the proposals that they received in response to the grant program.

Ortho Cost Share Proposals

This item was covered in the SMAC section.

Surveyor's Model Law Committee

Julie reported on the presentation by Herb McKim, chair of this committee, to the GICC. He highlighted two issues that should go to the Attorney General for an informal opinion: whether "a local government can conduct GIS work for another local government" under the industrial exemption clause; and whether a Council of Government is also considered a local government under the General Statutes.

NCBELS will seek an opinion on the COG question. The GICC requested that the LGC frame an inquiry on the local government-to-local government data collection issue and submit that to the GICC to seek the official opinion.

Action Item – Julie will ask Alex Rickard to draft the question. Tom will find out the deadline.

NC StreetMap

Julie noted that Alex Rickard reported to the GICC that the Working Group for Roads and Transportation had tested the roads standard adopted by the GICC in 2005 and that a translator tool is needed to match local government data to the standards. Alex informed the GICC that the WGRT intended to seek a grant to develop the translator tool and WGRT might be seeking GICC support for the grant.

State Archives Meeting

Julie reported that several members of the LGC and John Gallimore and Kat Clifton, who had served as the LGC reps to the Archival and Long Term Access *ad hoc* Committee, participated in a conference call with staff from State Archives on April 21. State Archives will initiate efforts to work with local governments to implement some of the recommendations of that committee. John Gallimore and Kat Clifton agreed to continue working on this issue. Some of the LGC members may participate as well. The LGC will wait until State Archives initiates this effort.

APPOINTMENT OF LGC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

This item was covered in the SMAC section.

OTHER BUSINESS

Julie noted that every year or so the various list serves receive questions about where GIS shops are located within county government and what the charging policies are GIS data. She noted that the questions always generate lots of email traffic but no one summarizes the data or develops a database and a year later the question pops up again. She asked if Ramona could be used to ask these questions and to pose the results.

Tom noted that if Ramona could be used, then the LGC would need to accept an obligation to encourage counties and cities to participate in Ramona.

Julie asked how successful Pam Carver was when the Working Group for Seamless Parcels used Ramona to survey local governments on cadastral data. Tom did not know the answer.

Action Item – Tom will raise these questions to the CGIA Coordination Program and will report back to the LGC.

NEXT MEETING

The next LGC meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 27.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.