

DRAFT MINUTES

NC Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee Meeting
July 9, 2008
Education Board Room Lounge
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Members Present: Steve Strader, Tim Johnson, Mike Mull, Hope Morgan, Gary Thompson, Julie Stamper, John Farley, Ted Cisine, Jeff Essic (for Steve Morris), Wayne Walcott (phone), Stephen Dew (phone)

Attendees: Megan Durden, John Dorman, Julia Harrell, Cam McNutt, David Giordano

Welcome/Introductions

Tim Johnson chaired the meeting. Meeting minutes were approved.

SMAC Member Announcements

Ted Cisine, representing the LGC, will be leaving the SMAC. Tim thanked him for his service to the committee. Julie Stamper, the other LGC representative, will be leaving the SMAC after the next meeting. Julie was recently appointed chair of the LGC. Her seat on the SMAC will be filled soon. The LGC will fill Ted's seat beginning at the next SMAC meeting.

Tim welcomed Mike Mull as a new SMAC member. Mike is from the Town of Cary and represents the League of Municipalities. Mike replaces John Spurrrell.

NC Geographic Information Coordinating Council

Council Update – Tim Johnson

The Council membership will change in the coming months. Coming off the GICC are Dempsey Benton (Chair), Tom Gray, Bill Holman, Susan Johnson, Mary Combs, and Lee Mandell. Dr. Mandell has been renamed by virtue of a different seat, as have Anne Payne and Colleen Sharpe. Continuing on the GICC are Steve Puckett and Rodney Bunch. Bill Gilmore is a new member. Mr. Gilmore is from the Ecosystem Enhancement Program.

The GICC last met on May 14. The committee received a status report on the NC OneMap Ortho Server, as well as reports from the Archival and Long Term Access Working Group, the Surveyors' Model Law Working Group, and the Working Group for Seamless Parcels. There was also a presentation on the NC StreetMap application by Janet Lowe, NCDOT-GIS.

A whitepaper comparing and contrasting orthophotography collection using traditional aerial film cameras vs. digital cameras was distributed to GICC members for feedback. Dr. Mandell suggested the important decision points be summarized, and be placed in the front of the paper.

With this being the last meeting chaired by Mr. Benton, Tim presented him with a series of North Carolina historic maps from the Division of Archives and History, and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Benton's service to the GICC.

State Government Subcommittee – Sean McGuire

Julia Harrell spoke for Sean, who was not in attendance. The SGUC executive committee is meeting regularly. They will study the recommendations in the GIS Study and then look at implementation details for each.

The next general meeting is July 17. A majority of the meeting will be centered on ArcGIS 9.3, with ESRI staff on hand to demonstrate it and answer questions.

The SGUC has a new chair. John Correllus, Dept. of Commerce, takes over for Dianne Enright. The SGUC executive committee has developed a vision, mission statement, and established a series of five goals for the organization.

Local Government Committee – Ted Cisine/Julie Stamper

The LGC has a new chair – Julie Stamper. As a result she will vacate her LGC seat on the SMAC after its October 8 meeting. This is also the last meeting for Ted Cisine. The LGC will replace his representation. The new representative will be in place for the October 8 SMAC meeting.

The committee is working on incentives that could entice local governments to participate more fully in NC OneMap.

Federal Interagency Committee – Steve Strader

Steve Strader was unable to attend the last FIC meeting in May. Steve will get the meeting notes from Matt Duvall and then circulate among SMAC members through the listserv.

Work Groups

Roads and Transportation – Janet Lowe

John Farley said Janet is preparing a point paper in response to GICC questions in regard to NC StreetMap.

There are forty-nine registered users in the NC StreetMap application. Only five data layers have been uploaded. Julia asked if an LGC Alert has been sent out in an attempt to get more local governments to upload their street centerline data. Julie responded that the LGC has not been requested to do so, but can if asked. Ted added that he intends to upload centerline data for his county.

Imagery and Orthophoto – Gary Thompson

Gary told the SMAC NAIP imagery collection is in progress. The contractor has until August 30 to complete acquisition for NC.

Steve is working with Jeff Brown, CGIA, on cost-share opportunities for 2009-10, in particular, those counties that overlap National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) urban footprints. There are eighteen counties that fall in this category. The over-arching goal for the NC OneMap ortho program is for no county to have imagery older than four years.

Seamless Parcels – David Giordano

Rex Minneman briefed the SMAC on behalf of Tom Morgan.

The Seamless Parcels Work Group has held two meetings, June 4th and June 25th.

The June 4th meeting was the initial organizational meeting where the committee reviewed the workgroups charge and how best to proceed.

The June 25th meeting was dedicated to adopting a set of bylaws to work by and starting to work on a statewide survey of the county GIS systems. This survey will help identify the challenges in creating a statewide seamless parcel layer.

It appears that some of the counties data sharing policies as they relate to fees, the Public Information Act of North Carolina, the Freedom of Information Act of the federal government, and copyright laws will be one of the major obstacles the group has to overcome. Tom Morgan, WGSP co-chair, has contacted Mr. Curt Sumner, Executive Director of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), about these issues. Mr. Sumner sent an email to his contacts across the nation. He has received about 15 responses so far. The most interesting is a Supreme Court case in South Carolina between Horry County and a mapping company.

The next WGSP meeting is July 23rd at CGIA.

NC Board on Geographic Names – Wayne Walcott

At the June 12, 2008 meeting, the US Board on Geographic Names acted on recommended name changes from the SMAC and NCBGN. The USBGN approved the recommended name changes for Buttermilk Creek, Hickman Creek, and Lake Overlook. However, the Board did not approve the recommended name change of Big Branch. The other two recommended changes, Corner Gum and Whitehall Lake, did not appear on the USBGN docket at the June 12 meeting.

Tim presented a draft charter detailing a formal process for how the NCBGN will operate, including how a chair is selected, as well as how the committee membership will be formed. Tim asked for SMAC members to review the draft and reply with comments by July 24. Julia suggested adding membership from Cultural Resources. While Cultural Resources has no feature naming authority, then can provide an historical perspective on geographic features. Meagan Durden indicated she would ask around whether a representative should be from Archives and History or Historic Sites.

Action Item: SMAC to provide comments on NCBGN draft charter by July 24.

Action Item: Meagan Durden to inquire about preferred representation from Cultural Resources on the NCBGN.

Wayne was asked to comment on how the NCBGN voted on name changes. Wayne responded most of the voting was performed through email. Conference calling was only used as a necessity. Tim suggested an addition to the draft charter to involve the NCBGN to meet face-to-face when deliberating geographic names.

Action Item: Add to charter the need for the NCBGN to meet in-person when naming issues arise.

Steve suggested the NCBGN chair attend the Council of Geographic Names Authority meeting, held every year at various locations in the US.

Regular Status Updates

National Geospatial Programs Office – Steve Strader

Steve said he was inclined to think the National Map rollout change would occur at the NSGIC conference in September in Colorado.

Floodplain Mapping Program – Hope Morgan

Hope indicated FMP stillwater modeling will be completed this fall. They are also doing Hazard Risk Analysis (landslides, wind, earthquakes, etc.) for New Hanover, Buncombe, Edgecombe, and Pitt.

FMP is also in the process of digitizing building footprints of structures greater than 1,000 ft². There will be no attributes tied to the geometry. They asked counties for this layer and fifty-one of them supplied it to FMP. FMP is digitizing the balance of the counties. There is no current timetable for completion.

Once digitizing is complete, FMP is hoping counties can maintain the dataset. Julie said she thought most counties would not want to take that on, because of core tasks that require most of their attention. John Farley said his organization (NCDOT-GIS) may be able to maintain that layer once completed. Mike Mull added that maintenance should include not only new buildings greater than 1,000 ft², but also existing buildings whose new construction puts them over the 1,000ft² threshold.

Ortho flights for 2008-09 will be formalized soon. The FMP has a requirement of no imagery older than 5 years.

FMP can also create SLOSH model output as needed. Storm surge has been updated for the Tar-Pamlico basin. The Wilmington-Myrtle Beach basin is in progress. John Dorman indicated the SLOSH output is available for distribution.

Streambed Mapping – Joe Sewash

David Giordano briefed the SMAC for Joe. In April, the USGS assigned George Heleine as the new NHD technical POC for NC. George has been briefed on Phase 1 of the mapping project and is in tune with the current issues. He has the technical background that compliments “local resolution” NHD.

CGIA submitted an application to secure \$75,000 to support completion and extension of Phase 1 hydrography to areas outside the nineteen county area.

In April, May, and June CGIA provided outreach and support to Phase 1 users in the western NC Hurricane Recovery Act area. Briefing materials were developed for decision makers and other non-technical stakeholders on the benefits of adopting the streambed mapping dataset, as well as other materials highlighting the unique attributes that exist in the NC-specific data tables. A template was also developed to capture business case documentation for stakeholders and users. This will allow them to document the benefits and efficiencies supported by the streambed mapping dataset.

NC OneMap – David Giordano

David indicated there were several additions to the NC OneMap viewer. The following NC counties have some combination of orthophotography, street centerlines, and parcels now available in the viewer: Alleghany, Avery, Caswell, Cleveland, Davidson, Durham, Montgomery, Richmond, Rockingham, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, and Warren. Richland, SC data has been added to the viewer, as has the NC Streambed Mapping Project “local resolution” hydrography.

New imagery available for download from NC OneMap includes Craven and Dare, both from 2007. This brings the total number of ortho collections available for download to ninety-seven.

Library of Congress and Digital Preservation – Steve Morris

Jeff Essic reported that the interim report to the Library of Congress is on the project website at: www.lib.ncsu.edu/ncgdap (Under Menu, click on Documents). As part of the project, NCSU Libraries has shared data with data with Univ. of California – San Diego and the Library of Congress. NCSU is creating metadata for orthophotography, where none exists.

Action Item Review

Action Items from 4/9/08 meeting:

1. *Tim Johnson to bring back to the GICC the question of next steps that should be taken with regards to Data Sharing (i.e. implementation) – Next steps may come out of previously mentioned WGRT point paper by Janet Lowe, as well as WGSP activities. This action will be tabled and may need to be revived.*
2. *Tim Johnson and Steve Strader to discuss a letter from GICC supporting ortho cost-share partnership – A letter for the current FY ortho cost-share is not needed. However, a letter for future cost-shares is possible.*
3. *SMAC to ask for feedback from Council subcommittees for making NAVD88 the official vertical datum – The SGUC and LGC have been asked to provide comments.*
4. *Hope Morgan to email SMAC listserv digital camera white paper – Complete.*
5. *Hope Morgan to email SMAC listserv the DFIRM map maintenance status map – Complete.*
6. *David Giordano to ask SMAC members for additional data layers they think should be added to the initial 37 adopted by the GICC for NC OneMap viewer – This action is covered under New Business.*

New Business

Additional Layers for NC OneMap Viewer

David asked the SMAC members what other data layers they thought should be added to the NC OneMap viewer, in addition to the 37 already adopted by the GICC. He asked that ideas be emailed to him no later than July 24.

Differing Geographic Feature Names – Division of Water Quality and GNIS

There are discrepancies between some of the names of hydrographic features that exist at the NC Division of Water Quality (DWQ) and those in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS). As names are recommended by the NCBGN and approved by the USBGN, they are not communicated back to the NC agency.

The SMAC was polled as how to resolve the issue. Steve indicated that however it is resolved, the NCBGN needs to be involved. Cam McNutt added that the names on file with DWQ are state law and must be referenced in state-issued permits, etc.

Since GNIS is required by the USGS NHD standard, and that standard has been incorporated into the streambed mapping hydrographic dataset, it was suggested the Streambed Mapping Advisory Committee look at the breadth of this topic. This advisory committee already has representation from DWQ. DWQ is also represented in the new NCBGN charter (pending formal adoption). Some questions the advisory group could possibly answer: What are the specific differences between DWQ and GNIS? What are the possible courses of action to move forward with resolving this?

Action Item: SMAC to ask Streambed Mapping Advisory Committee to look at DWQ/GNIS differing names topic.

It was noted that any resolution would only pertain to hydrographic features. There may be other discrepancies between GNIS and other official geographic named features in NC.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.