

Resolution in Support of the Implementation Plan to Improve Mapping and Digital Representation of Surface Waters in North Carolina

Whereas State agencies, local governments, federal agencies, private developers and non-profit conservation organizations use maps of surface waters on a daily basis to make environmental and economic decisions; and

Whereas, up-to-date and accurate maps of surface waters made available to government agencies and the public on the internet via NC OneMap would increase the productivity and reduce costs for the public and private sectors; and

Whereas, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and their partners use maps of surface waters to avoid and minimize impacts to streams and wetlands, to plan and design mitigation projects, to design and construct sedimentation and erosion control measures, to design and construct drainage and storm water projects on a daily basis; and

Whereas, the General Assembly Studies Act of 2004 (Session Law 2004-161) recognized the limitations of existing maps and directed the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to “develop and recommend a plan to improve the mapping and digital representation of surface waters in North Carolina...” and present it to the 2005 General Assembly; and

Whereas, the State’s substantial investments to update and improve statewide floodplain mapping by using LIDAR technology can also be utilized to improve the mapping and digital representation of surface waters; and

Whereas, the GICC established a Stream Mapping Working Group of state, local and federal agencies, to develop the plan and determine user requirements, mapping specifications, implementation options, a timeline and budget for stream mapping; and

Whereas, the GICC at its January 5, 2005 meeting voted unanimously to adopt and present to the legislature’s Environmental Review Commission the “Implementation Plan to Improve Mapping and Digital Representation of Surface Waters” at a cost of \$16.2 million over five years, resulting in a benefit-cost ratio greater than 2:1; and

Whereas, the Hurricane Recovery Act of 2005 (Session Law 2005-1) recognized the critical need for more accurate stream information for the 19 western counties declared disaster areas (Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Yancey) and appropriated \$2.7 million to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for streambed maps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NORTH CAROLINA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COORDINATING COUNCIL endorses the completion of the statewide digital representation of surface waters in the coastal, piedmont, and remaining mountain areas of our state through full funding of the Implementation Plan to Improve Mapping and Digital Representation of Surface Waters.

Adopted November 9, 2005