National Geospatial Advisory Committee Webinar Meeting April 11-12, 2023 Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting on April 11-12, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held via webinar and teleconference. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

NGAC members present:

Gary Thompson, NGAC Chair Roberta Lenczowski, NGAC Vice Chair Nadine Alameh Clio Andris Frank Avila Chad Baker **Byron Bluehorse** Maggie Cawley Garet Couch Jack Dangermond Lynn Dupont William Haneberg Tony LaVoi Mark Meade Siva Ravada Vasit Sagan Cyril Smith **Kathleen Stewart Tim Trainor**

Josh Delmonico, Acting Executive Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, and John Mahoney, Alternate DFO, were also in attendance.

Other Attendees:

Dierdre Bevington-Attardi (Census), Gale Blackmer (State of Pennsylvania), Deirdre Bishop (Census), John Byrd (National Society of Professional Surveyors), David Carter (DOI), Julie Carter (FGDC Support), Pat Cummens (Esri), Alexx Diera (USGS), Elizabeth DuBan (FGDC), Jonathan Duran (State of Arkansas), Garry Engle (ICEYE US), Erik Eucker (USACE), Rich Frazier (FGDC), Glenn O'Grady (URISA), Matt Gerig (Chatham County, GA), Tiffany Gibby (TVA), Jenn Harlan (FGDC), James Irvine (Ardent MC), Nathan Jones (Census), Deane Kensok (Esri), Jenna Leveille (Arizona), Steve Lewis (USDOT), Julia Lopez (Census), Vicki Lukas (USGS), Jess Miller (NGA), Amy Nelson (DOT), Marc Prioleau (Overture Maps), Mark Reichardt (OGC – Retired), Paul Riley (Census Bureau), Amy Rose (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), Linda Rowan (Congressional Research Service), Jill Saligoe-Simmel (Esri), Adam Schimmelpfenning (Omni Federal), Shelby Sencindiver (FGDC Support), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Steve Steinberg (County of Los Angeles, CA), Tim Stryker (USGS), Tanya Trujillo (DOI), Jim Van Rens (Riegl, USA Inc.)

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 NGAC Public Meeting:

Welcome & Brief Introductions:

NGAC Chair Gary Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members and public attendees. Member introductions were made. The Chair introduced Roberta Lenczowski, the NGAC Vice Chair. An overview of the agenda was provided.

Review and Adoption of Minutes from December NGAC meeting:

The draft minutes of the December 2022 NGAC meeting were reviewed, and the Chair called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the December 6-7, 2023 NGAC meeting.

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Overview:

Josh Delmonico, John Mahoney, Libby DuBan, and Ken Shaffer of the FGDC staff provided a briefing on current and upcoming FGDC activities. Highlights included:

- Current activities include GDA reporting, revisions to OMB Circular A-16, upcoming FGDC Executive and Steering Committee meetings, and NGAC appointments.
- GDA Implementation Activities the FY 2022 GDA reporting cycle is almost completed, 70% of all covered agency requirements met expectations, while 86% of lead covered agency requirements were making progress. A subgroup of the NGDA Theme Leads along with the FGDC Office of the Secretariat (FGDC OS) have been working on an NGDA Theme Strategic Plan Template, Theme Strategic Plans are tentatively scheduled to be completed in December 2023. FGDC OS is working on a draft for the 2023 Report to Congress which will include updates from the FY2021 and FY2022 GDA reporting cycles.
- OMB Circular A-16 FGDC OS has been collaborating with OMB on updates to Circular A-16. The current draft is under OMB review. OMB has indicated that it will release the draft for public comment and agency review concurrently.
- The next FGDC Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023.
- The FGDC Executive Committee will meet on April 17, 2023. The Executive Committee has identified a set of FGDC priorities which include geospatial standards, governance, the GeoPlatform, and the NSDI Strategic Plan.
- FGDC Staff Updates Josh Delmonico continues to be the Acting FGDC Executive Director, Dierdre Bevington-Attardi is the Acting NGDA Portfolio Coordinator (on detail from the Census Bureau), Jennifer Harlan is acting in the FGDC Financial Operations role (on detail from within USGS), Sarah Davis has moved to a new position within USGS.
- The next NGAC meeting is scheduled for June 27 28 in Washington, DC at the Department of the Interior building.

ACTION: The next round of appointments to the NGAC is expected to be completed in April 2023. FGDC will issue a call for nominations later in 2023 for the 2024 round of appointments.

ACTION: FGDC staff will keep NGAC members apprised on the status of the revisions to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16. OMB plans to hold a public comment period on the draft Circular.

ACTION: FGDC staff will incorporate the papers from the GDA Reporting Subcommittee and the GDA Implementation Subcommittee into the 2023 GDA Report to Congress.

NGAC Member Recognition:

Josh Delmonico and John Mahoney recognized NGAC members whose terms were expiring in April 2023 and thanked them for their service and contributions to the NGAC. The following NGAC members were recognized:

- Chad Baker, representing State Government (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Garet Couch representing the Tribes (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Jack Dangermond, representing the private sector (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Bill Haneberg, representing State Government (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Mark Meade, representing the private sector (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Siva Ravada, representing the private sector (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Vasit Sagan, representing the private sector (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Tim Trainor, representing the private sector (completing his first term on the NGAC)
- Cy Smith, representing State Government (completing his second term on the NGAC)

Mr. Delmonico and Mr. Mahoney offered special thanks to NGAC Chair Gary Thompson (completing his first term on the NGAC), and NGAC Vice Chair Bobbi Lenczowski (completing her second term on the NGAC).

Geospatial Data Act (GDA) Reporting Subcommittee:

Chad Baker provided a report on GDA Reporting Subcommittee activities, including an overview of the subcommittee's draft report on FGDC's FY 2022 annual GDA report. Highlights included the following:

- The subcommittee continues to focus on the GDA annual reports, planning and coordinating NGAC comments on GDA reporting.
- The FY 2022 GDA reporting cycle occurred at the same time as the completion of the biennial GDA audits.
- Comments on the FY2022 Summary Report focused on: positive elements, areas needing improvement, recommendations for future reports, and other comments (a new category this year).
- The subcommittee noted that it was pleased to see that the FGDC had made changes and improvments to the annual reports in response to the NGAC's comments.

Mr. Baker provided an overview of the subcommittee's draft paper, "NGAC Comments on the FY 2022 FGDC Summary of GDA Annual Reports." Highlights of the NGAC comments included the following:

- Reviewers concluded the reporting process has benefitted from using standardized criteria and an online tool.
- Reviewers appreciate that the NGAC feedback from last reporting cycle was addressed in this year's reports.
- Cross agency collaboration in responding to reporting requirements was an important accomplishment.
- The GDA reporting dashboards are helpful, but need additional refinements.

• Commentary should be provided where the self-evaluations identified agencies as not meeting requirements.

Following discussion about the report, the NGAC agreed on the following actions:

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the paper, "NGAC Comments on the FY 2022 FGDC Summary of GDA Annual Reports", developed by the GDA Reporting Subcommittee.

ACTION: In 2023/2024, the GDA subcommittee will review and provide comments on the individual covered agency and NGDA data theme annual reports.

GDA Implementation Subcommittee:

Cy Smith and Maggie Cawley provided a report on GDA Implementation Subcommittee activities, including an overview of the subcommittee's draft report on evaluation of GDA implementation. Highlights included the following:

- The role of the subcommittee is to identify outcomes from GDA implementation and measure those outcomes moving forward, provide high level evaluation of GDA implementation and produce recommendations to be incorporated into the FGDC's 2023 Report to Congress, and to review NGAC's role as defined in the GDA and provide recommendations related to this role.
- The subcommittee's draft paper addresses several issue: aspirational outcomes, progress towards the aspirational outcomes, need for improved NSDI governance, need for improved data management, need for reporting improvements, and recommendations.
- The "Aspirational Outcomes" section recommended the following:
 - NSDI data should be made to all stakeholders to improve and support policy making and operations, respond to national priorities and circumstances, and support the national economy.
 - Meaningful partnerships with all NSDI stakeholders should be developed and fostered.
 - NSDI data content needs to be completed and maintained nationwide.
 - Improvements should be made to the management, accessibility, and availability of NSDI data.
- The draft report includes recommendations under the following categories: Need for Improved NSDI Governance (2 recommendations), Data Management (3 recommendations), and Reporting (3 recommendations).

The NGAC members discussed the recommendations made several suggestions for improvement. Following discussion, the group agreed to make modifications to the language in the recommendations, then provide a revised version for final consideration during the second day of the meeting.

Leadership Dialogue:

Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior, provided an update on FGDC and Administration activities. Highlights included:

- Ms. Trujillo recognized Gary Thompson and Bobbi Lenczowski, and thanked them for their service as leaders of the NGAC.
- Ms. Trujillo noted that Interior was finalizing the next set of appointments to the NGAC and will be announcing the new members very soon, including reappointments of some of the current

members. She indicated that this will be another excellent set of members coming on board, and that FGDC looked forward to collaborating with the new group.

- She noted that the Administration is committed to supporting investments in data to inform decision making and ensure policies are informed by the best available science. Geospatial data and technology play a key role in addressing challenges like climate change and to support many of the activities undertaken by the Department of the Interior.
- Ms Trujillo discussed several recent activities, including the U.N. Water Conference in New York City. She emphasized the approach of science-based answers, of transparency, and of inclusivity to address unprecedented challenges caused by the changing climate, working collaboratively with agencies, communities, and NGOs.
- Facing these challenges is only possible with investments in data to support decision making and with coordinated efforts through groups like NGAC and the FGDC.
- Ms. Trujillo briefly discussed several topics that the NGAC would address during the meeting. She noted that these NGAC study topics are important not only to the FGDC agencies, but to the broader geospatial community as well.
- In closing, she indicated that FGDC looked forward to working collaboratively with the NGAC to find creative ways to address the multiple challenges and opportunities we face as a Nation.
- Ms. Trujillo thanked the members for their service on the NGAC, and said she looked forward to hearing the results of the meeting.

3DEP Subcommittee:

Gary Thompson and Gale Blackmer provided an update on 3DEP Subcommittee activities. Highlights included the following:

- The 3DEP Subcommittee was established through the National Landslides Preparedness Act (NLPA).
- The subcommittee has three objectives:
 - 1. Meet the statutory assessment and reporting requirements for the subcommittee as outlined in the NLPA.
 - 2. Provide ongoing advice and recommendations to the 3DEP program.
 - 3. Serve a liaison role between the organizations/ sectors represented on the subcommittee and the 3DEP program.
- The primary focus of the group over the past year has been on developing the assessment paper required by the NLPA. To develop the assessment, the subcommittee established two working groups, "Trends and Developments" and "Program Management", to focus on the major requirements.
- The Trends and Developments working group is focusing on trends and developments in data collection and processing, data dissemination, and data use.
- The Program Management working group is focusing on the effectiveness of the 3D Elevation Program; the need to revise or reorganize the program; and the management, coordination, implementation, and activities of the program.
- The draft paper's recommendations focus on areas of technology, partnerships, program enhancements, future plans, standards, and governance.
- Mr. Thompson described the next steps for the subcommittee:
 - In April, the subcommittee will collect comments from the NGAC on the draft report.
 - From May to June, the subcommittee will revise the paper and prepare for a final draft.

- At the June NGAC meeting the subcommittee will present the final draft report for review and approval by the NGAC.
- Mr. Thompson asked the NGAC members to review the draft paper and provide comments by April 28, 2023.

Vicki Lukas (USGS) provided a 3DEP update. Highlights included:

- Ms. Lukas provided an overview of the plans for the FY 2023 Broad Agency Announcement for 3DEP partnerships.
- 3DEP is partnering with the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe on a project that covers large portions of northeast Arizona.
- 3DEP is working on an agreement with FEMA to support FY 2024 acquisitions in California and Arizona.
- Additionally, 3DEP has support to complete baseline 3DEP coverage in Nevada.
- Inflation Reduction Act funding will go towards the following projects: completion of the 3DEP baseline, expanding inland bathymetry acquisition, efficient processing for incoming data, development of 1M seamless DEM, and research on the next generation of 3DEP.

Following the presentations, the NGAC agreed on the following actions:

ACTION: NGAC members are requested to provide comments on the 3DEP Subcommittee's draft assessment paper by Friday, April 28, 2023. FGDC staff will provide additional details on the process to provide comments.

ACTION: The 3DEP Subcommittee will continue developing the report assessing the 3DEP program, as required under the National Landslide Preparedness Act (NLPA). The subcommittee will develop a final draft version of the report prior to the June 2023 NGAC meeting. The target date for completion of the report is July 5, 2023.

Adjourn

The Chair and Vice Chair made closing remarks and provided an overview of the Day 2 agenda.

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

NGAC Vice-Chair Roberta Lenczowski called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcomed members and public attendees, and provided an overview of the day's agenda.

NSDI Strategic Planning:

Deirdre Bishop (Census Bureau) and Josh Delmonico (FGDC) provided an overview of the development the new strageic plan for the NSDI, and led a disclussion with the NGAC members. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- The FGDC welcomes feedback on the NSDI plan.
- The target date goal for publishing the new NSDI Strategic Plan is mid- 2024.
- The NSDI Strategic Plan should address issues of completeness, accuracy, coverage, and findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable tools.
- Progress has been made in creating State SDIs, the GeoPlatform, and online data availability.
- Challenges include inconsistent coverage, capabilities, and investment.
- There may be barriers at the local, state, and Federal level that inhibit data sharing.
- Artificial Intelligence and other technological advancements will pose new challenges for the NSDI.
- While developing the NSDI strategy, consider what is needed to enable advances in technology and what the next iteration of the NSDI could require.
- The goal is to create a national strategy that encompasses the entire nation rather than just the Federal level. The approach will be nationally coordinated to involve Tribal, State, Local, Private Sector, Non-Profit, and Academic entities.
- Formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) could be used to organize and facilitate data sharing.
- The NGAC Public-Private Partnerships (P3) paper has multiple good examples and success factors.
- Stakeholder engagement, international partner insight, and national priorities are key factors in the strategic planning efforts.
- The NSDI core team is currently promoting awareness and soliciting initial stakeholder feedback and is planning to solicit comments from stakeholders throughout the planning process.
- When considering methods for socializing the NSDI Strategic Plan, the FGDC team should be aware of the high ticket prices for certain conferences as some potential interested entities may not attend due to cost.
- NGAC members can assist in the engagement with their sectors and other stakeholders, such as international partners.
- Public comment periods and Requests for Information (RFIs) could be effective ways to engage with non-Federal partners.
- Other engagement meeting opportunities include: the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) GIS-Pro conference, the FOSS4G conference, "FedGeoDay", the Open Street Map (OSM) National Conference, and a session for the VGI/open data community that attends the OSM National Conference.
- The Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) could also a role in getting stakeholders to participate.
- FGDC will play a lead role in collaboratively developing a governance structure and collaborative decision-making process.

- While the focus of the NSDI strategic plan will be working with "producers" to create the NSDI, the strategic plan also needs input from the consumers of geospatial information, including those who are not GIS experts.
- The NGAC can be utilized in several ways, such as: looking at data assets in a tiered approach to focus on national priorities, revisiting the NGDAs to determine if they are effective datasets that are aligned with national problems, and evaluating the foundational layers of the NSDI as well as the responsible parties.
- Multiple approaches should be used to collect information from stakeholders.

ACTION: FGDC staff will distribute a summary of the dialogue among NGAC members and the NSDI strategic planning team during the NSDI session.

ACTION: FGDC and NGAC leadership will coordinate on approaches to engage the NGAC in the development of the new NSDI strategic plan, which may include establishing a new NSDI subcommittee.

Public Comment

The following public comments were provided to the NGAC:

John Byrd, National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)

Mr. Byrd provided comments on the Federal Land Asset Reform Act (FLAR) Act. Highlights included:

- The intentof the FLAIR Act is to create a cadastre inventory of Federal property and assets.
- The FLAIR Act was passed as part of the omnibus appropraitions bill. The Act provided authority but no additional appropriated funding.
- Mr. Byrd suggested that the NGAC hold a future session on the FLAIR Act.

Mr. Byrd provided written comments that were distributed to the NGAC members.

Marc Prioleau, Overture Maps/Meta

Mr. Prioleau provided an overview of the Overture Maps Foundation. Highlights included:

- The primary focus of Overture Maps is the creation of current and next generation, interoperable mapping data that is reliable, user friendly, and shareable. The Overture Maps mission statement is available on their website.
- The Foundation currently has eight member organizations and is planning to add additional partners.
- Overture Maps is utilizing LIDAR data using 3DEP data.

Mr. Prioleau indicated that he would be glad to keep the FGDC and NGAC informed on future developments with Overture Maps.

GDA Implementation Subcommittee:

Cy Smith and Maggie Cawley provided an revised version of the paper, "Evaluation of Geospatial Data Act Implementation", which incorporated minor changes discussed on Day 1 of the meeting. Following discussion, the NGAC agreed on the following actions:

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the paper, "Evaluation of Geospatial Data Act Implementation", developed by the GDA Implementation Subcommittee.

ACTION: Committee raised some suggestions on recommendations. The team will make revisions tonight and address at the beginning of the meeting tomorrow.

Geospatial Excellence & Innovation Subcommittee:

Dr. Vasit Sagan and Dr. Siva Ravada provided an update on the activities of the Geospatial Excellence and Innovation Subcommittee. Highlights included the following:

- Vasit Sagan provided an overview of the membership and the role and objectives of the subcommittee.
- The objectives of the subcommittee are to:
 - Identify and examine issues critical to U.S. geospatial competitiveness, excellence and innovation.
 - Host NGAC sessions and workshops to explore key issues and engage with thought leaders.
 - Document NGAC findings with case studies on the topic.
 - Develop recommendations for the U.S. geospatial community to enhance key geospatial capabilities and initiatives.
- Subcommittee sessions to date include Datum Modernization (September 2022), Geodesy (September 2022), and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) (December 2022).
- The NGAC adopted a resolution on Geodesy on December 7, 2022 based on a geodesy community white paper on the topic. The NGAC resolution has been referenced in several publications, and was also referenced in a recent grant opportunity from NOAA.
- The subcommittee is planning for the following next steps:
- Organizing a panel discussion on Artificial INtellligence/Machoine Learning at the June 2023 NGAC meeting
- Developing a subcommittee summary paper that: 1) highlights key geospatial competitiveness issues, and 2) provides findings and recommendations that can be utilized in the development of the new strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The target date for completiuon of the paper is December 2023.

ACTION: The Geospatial Excellence and Innovation Subcommittee will work with FGDC staff to plan a session on Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) at an upcoming NGAC meeting.

ACTION: The Geospatial Excellence and Innovation Subcommittee will develop a summary paper that: 1) highlights key geospatial competitiveness issues, and 2) provides findings and recommendations that can be utilized in the development of the new strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. The target completion date for the summary paper is December 2023.

Landsat Advisory Group Subcommittee:

Tim Stryker (USGS) provided an update on the USGS National Land Imaging Program. Topics included the following:

- Landsat operations status (Landsat 7, 8, and 9)
- Landsat Archive operations Reprocessed "Collection 2" data available on Amazon Cloud

(currently on track for more than 10 billion user accesses this year).

- Update on plans for a multi-decadal Sustainable Land Imaging (SLI) program
- Update on plans for Landsat Next
- Update on Congressional communications about NLI and Landsat
- Landsat program activities and funding
- USGS/US civil space big data issues
- 2023 Vision for interagency operational efficiencies (including potential NGAC input)

Frank Avila and Bobbi Lenczowski provided an update on Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) Subcommittee activities. Highlights included:

- Frank Avila described the mission of the LAG, which was established in 2012 as an NGAC subcommittee. He noted that the bylaws for the LAG are being updated to be consuistent with current NGAC requirments.
- The 2023 LAG Task 1 paper will examine potential NLI future data products. The LAG will develop an updated draft version of the paper prior to the June NGAC meeting.
- The LAG team is working with USGS NLI staff to further define LAG Task 2 for 2023, which will address interagency coordination and efficiencies.

ACTION: The LAG Subcommittee will continue working on LAG Task 1 for 2023, addressing "Ideas for National Land Imaging (NLI) 'Next' Products."

ACTION: USGS National Land Imaging Program staff will provide additional details on LAG Task 2 for 2023, which will address interagency coordination and efficiencies.

ACTION: FGDC and NGAC leadership will coordinate with the USGS National Land Imaging Program to update the membership of the LAG and finalize the updated bylaws for the LAG.

NGAC Round-Robin Discussion:

The NGAC members discussed observations, takeaways, and possible future study topics. Highlights included:

- NGAC members noted that they look forward to meeting in person in June.
- Members identified several upcoming meetings and conferences, including the International Cartographic Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.
- NGAC members commented on what worked wll during the meeting:
 - The NSDI strategic plan session was informative and provides a new perspective and opportunities.
 - The draft 3DEP report is very thorough and shows strong progress and excellent engagement.
- Suggestions on improving the NGAC meetings included:
 - Consider using a tool to capture "live" interactive ideas and comments during discussions so that attendees can visualize what is said in discussions.
 - Consider new techniques to encourage more feedback from participants.
 - Look for opportunities to solicit feedback and discussion topics from other FGDC members. Consider developing problem statements from different agencies, so that the

NGAC can respond with advice or recommendations.

- Look for opportunities to increase public participation in NGAC sessions to increase community engagement.
- Consider using breakout rooms in future virtual meetings.
- NGAC members mentioned several potential future study topics or NGAC meeting topics, including:
 - The role of NGAC in NSDI strategic planning
 - o Geodesy capabilities/workforce development
 - Developing additional case studies/use cases
 - Implementation of the the FLAIR Act
 - o GeoAl.
- Members also suggested that FGDC improve communication with NGAC alumni many former members may be able to serve as subject matter experts.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the NGAC is scheduled for June 27-28, 2023. Additional information will be provided prior to the meeting.

Adjourn:

The Chair made closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

Certification

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Mr. Gary Thompson, Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee Mr. Josh Delmonico, Acting Designated Federal Officer, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the Committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

Note – these minutes were approved by the NGAC on June 27, 2023

Summary of Presentations and Handouts

The following is a list of the presentations and handouts from the meeting. These meeting materials are posted along with the minutes at: <u>https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/april-2023/index_html</u>

FGDC Report

• FGDC Update

Geospatial Data Act (GDA) Reporting Subcommittee

- GDA Reporting Subcommitee Report
- NGAC Paper NGAC Comments on the FY 2022 FGDC Summary of GDA Annual Reports

GDA Implementation Subcommittee

- GDA Implmentation Subcommittee Report
- NGAC Paper Evaluation of GDA Implementation

3DEP Subcommittee

- 3DEP Subcommittee Report
- USGS 3DEP Program Update

NSDI Strategic Planning

• NSDI Strategic Planning Presentation

Geospatial Excellence and Innovation Subcommittee

• Geospatial Excellence and Innovation Subcommittee Report

Landsat Advisory Group

- Landsat Advisory Group Subcommitee Report
- USGS National Land Imaging Program Update