

National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting

June 27-28, 2023

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting on June 27-28, 2023 from 9:00 am EST to 5:00 pm EST. The meeting was a hybrid meeting. The NGAC members met in person at the Department of Interior (DOI) Building in Washington D.C, and the meeting was also accessible via webinar. 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
Maggie Cawley, NGAC Vice Chair
Nadine Alameh
Clio Andris
Chad Baker
Byron Bluehorse
Lynn Dupont
Bert Granberg
Holli Howard
Leslie Jones
Tony LaVoi
Ryan Mattke
Mark Meade
Curtis Pulford
Devaki Raj
Siva Ravada
Breece Robertson
Vasit Sagan
Kathleen Stewart
Phil Thiel
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.

NGAC Members not in attendance:

Frank Avila
Jack Dangermond

Other Attendees:

Dierdre Bevington-Attardi (Census), Gale Blackmer (State of Pennsylvania), Annalise Blum (DOI), Deirdre Bishop (Census), Alex Bostic (Voyager Search), Earl Burkholder (Global COGO, Inc.), John Byrd (National Society of Professional Surveyors), Michael Calkins (US Marshals Service), Josh Campbell (Sand Hill Geographic), Julie Carter (FGDC-Support), Tod Dabolt (DOI), Elizabeth DuBan

(FGDC), Erin Dudley (INCATech), Eldrich Frazier (FGDC), Douglas Geverdt (Department of Education), Tiffany Gibby (Tennessee Valley Authority), Brian Goldin (Voyager Search), Ajay Gupta (HSR Health), David Herring (NOAA), Peter Highnam (Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering), Becky Humbertson (NewBridge Partners, Inc.), Roberta Lenczowski (Roberta E. Lenczowski Consulting), Fred Lipschultz (USGCRP), Lynda Liptrap (Census), Vicki Lukas (USGS), Mark Munsell (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency), Amy Nelson (DOT), Glenn O'Grady (URISA), Kimberly Pettit (DHS), Mark Reichardt (OGC, retired), Paul Riley (Census), Karla Riso (Census), Jill Saligoe-Simmel (Esri), Shelby Sencindiver (FGDC-Support), Ronald Sequeira (USDA), Ken Shaffer (FGDC), Vaishal Sheth (FGDC-Support), Madeline Sovich (Census), Susan Von Struensee (Global Research Initiative), Tim Stryker (USGS), Tanya Trujillo (DOI), Patrick Wilkerson (Census), Kim Valentine (NOAA), Yiqun Xie (University of Maryland)

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 NGAC Public Meeting:

Welcome & Brief Introductions:

NGAC Chair, Gary Thompson, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed members and public attendees. Member introductions were made. The Chair introduced Maggie Cawley, the NGAC Vice Chair. An overview of the agenda was provided. The NGAC members were invited to introduce themselves and provide a brief background about themselves. Julie Carter, FGDC Support, provided the logistics for the in-person attendees.

Review and Adoption of Minutes from April NGAC meeting:

The draft minutes of the April 2023 NGAC meeting were reviewed, and the Chair called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the April 11-12, 2023 NGAC meeting.

Leadership Dialog:

FGDC Chair Tanya Trujillo (DOI) and Annalise Blum (DOI) provided a briefing on current and upcoming FGDC and administration activities. Ms. Blum discussed activities including America the Beautiful, Landsat, and the Climate Change initiative. Ms. Trujillo noted that would soon be leaving her position at the Department of the Interior. Josh Delmonico thanked Ms. Trujillo for her leadership of the FGDC and her service to the Department.

Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) Report:

FGDC Executive Director Josh Delmonico provided a briefing on recent FGDC activities. Highlights included:

- FGDC is completing the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) Report to Congress 2023. The report has been approved by the FGDC Steering Committee and is undergoing final clearance within DOI.
- FGDC is working on templates for NGDA data theme strategic plans, which are required under the GDA. Each NGDA data theme will develop a new strategic plan by the end of FY 2024.
- The revised draft of OMB Circular A-16 is under review within OMB. OMB plans to release the document for public comment following the internal review.
- The FGDC Executive Committee has added new members and Julie Saville of the National

- Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) is serving as the new Executive Committee Co-Chair.
- Mr. Delmonico provided an overview of the priority areas that have been identified by the FGDC Executive Committee:
 - Standards – led by NGA, will be assessing the FGDC standards development and endorsement process, building a sustainable management process for the future, and publishing an updated endorsement list of geospatial standards before the 2024 audit.
 - Governance – led by FGDC OS, will undertake a review and analysis of the existing FGDC governance to develop a process to retire inactive subcommittees/working groups and develop a potential FGDC governance structure taking NSDI governance into consideration.
 - GeoPlatform – led by DOI, with two objectives. First to ensure the GeoPlatform provides access to geospatial data and metadata for geospatial data to the general public in accordance with the GDA. Second, to expand use and adoption of the GeoPlatform across Federal Agencies. Evaluate if there would be expanded use and adoption of the GeoPlatform by expanding available data products and services.
 - NSDI Strategic Plan – led by U.S. Census and FGDC, with a goal to develop the next NSDI Strategic Plan. The current NSDI Strategic Plan runs through 2024.
 - Supporting Administration Priorities – FGDC supports several projects under this priority, including Climate Core Team (supporting CRIS/CMRA), the proposed FGDC Puerto Rico Working Group, and the FAIRness Project.
 - Task teams have been established to lead FGDC efforts to address these issues, and FGDC expects to coordinate on these issues with the NGAC.
 - NGAC Scheduling – Next meeting in-person at DOI Oct 11 – 12, with a webinar meeting in December 2023.

ACTION: The FGDC Steering Committee has approved the draft 2023 GDA Report to Congress, which incorporates the recent papers from the NGAC GDA Reporting Subcommittee and GDA Implementation Subcommittee. The report is in final review with the Department of the Interior and the Office of Management and Budget. FGDC staff will keep NGAC members apprised of the status of the report.

ACTION: FGDC has initiated a process to develop strategic plans for each National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Theme, as required by the GDA. The target date for completion is September 2024. FGDC staff will keep NGAC members apprised as these plans are developed.

ACTION: FGDC will issue the next call for nominations for appointment to the NGAC in late 2023. The next round of appointments to the NGAC will be completed in 2024.

Climate Initiative Session:

Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Kim Valentine (NOAA), David Herring (NOAA), and Fred Lipschultz (USGCRP) provided an update on the development of the Climate Resilience Information System (CRIS) and Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation (CMRA) portal. Highlights included:

- NGAC has held multiple sessions since 2021 to help support the development of the climate initiative. In October 2021, NGAC passed a resolution supporting the findings and

recommendations of the FGDC report “Advancing the Nation’s Geospatial Capabilities to Promote Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Climate Planning and Resilience.”

- Discussions included:
 - Local hubs and authoritative data – local communities are standing up their own hubs and adding what they consider their own authoritative data, NOAA is not monitoring or defining authoritative. These hub sites are self-governed however NOAA is hoping to have some connective tissue in the future making sure these hubs are discoverable.
 - GeoPlatform –
 - Is there a relationship between CRIS/CMRA and GeoPlatform Marketplace – yes but still working on the architecture between the two.
 - Why isn’t CRIS/CMRA sitting on the GP? – initial evaluation of the CRIS/CMRA needs did consider GeoPlatform however it is unable to support CRIS/CMRA in its current state.
 - Are there additional GeoPlatform enhancements needed in order to support a CRIS/CMRA type system, if so NGAC needs to know so that they can help solve the problems.
 - Tracking usage of the systems – google analytics and a feedback section.
 - CRIS/CMRA does not have AI/ML capabilities.
 - Communications plan for CRIS/CMRA are potentially coming in the future.
 - Use cases or user stories might be a good product for CRIS/CMRA, we’ve heard a lot of the “what” but not so much of the “how” and “why” of CRIS/CMRAs value.

ACTION: FGDC will continue to keep the NGAC apprised of the status of the development of the Climate Resilience Information System (CRIS) and the Climate Mapping for Resilience & Adaptation (CMRA) portal

FGDC ExCom Roundtable:

Maggie Cawley facilitated a discussion with members of the FGDC Executive Committee. Highlights included:

- The following FGDC ExCom members were in attendance: Tod Dabolt (DOI), Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Deirdre Bishop (U.S. Census), Ron Sequeira (USDA), Kimberly Pettit (DHS), Amy Nelson (DOT)
- Discussions topics included:
 - Josh Delmonico reiterated the FGDC priorities, which require building strong partnerships and increasing communication and transparency.
 - Where could NGAC support have the most immediate impact? GeoPlatform – who is the customer, what is the GeoPlatform trying to achieve. Where do we need to be as a community along with the NSDI and how can the GeoPlatform get us there?
 - All agencies have huge data requirements, how do we most effectively make Federal data accessible and available to users.
 - How do we get to the concept of FAIR?
 - AI – Federal agencies need support to review their approach towards AI and how to integrate it.

- UAS issues – resourcing. USDA farm example: need to acknowledge that users are deploying drones, can they share data. Automation is needed to analyze these large amounts of data.
- DHS: there are also privacy issues with UAS and users potentially using them in nefarious ways.
- Tim Trainor noted that OMB’s engagement in FGDC and NGAC activities is critical, given OMB’s role in budgeting and governmentwide priority-setting. Since OMB serves as Vice Chair of the FGDC as indicated in the Geospatial Data Act, he suggested that FGDC should invite OMB to participate in future FGDC and NGAC meetings.

FGDC/NGAC Joint Session on NSDI Planning:

The NGAC held a joint session with members of the FGDC core team developing the new version of the NSDI Strategic Plan. Deirdre Bishop and Josh Delmonico provided an update on the development of the plan. Highlights included:

- The NSDI Strategic Plan core team will be expanding stakeholder engagement to include external partners that have not had a voice in the past. The team has been and will be continuing to meet with stakeholders throughout the summer.
- The draft NSDI Strategic Plan will have a similar vision and mission from the current strategic plan, however the goals will be changed and adapted significantly. The current plan was focused on how to adhere to the GDA and the draft plan will incorporate better implementation (now that we have all of this data, how do we create robust applications to serve the users?).

Following the NSDI update, the NGAC held breakout discussions with members of the FGDC team. Summaries of the discussions included the following:

- **Table Discussion 1 – What are the national circumstances, priorities, challenges driving the future NSDI? What global priorities and challenges should be considered?**
 - Priorities – Driving the future of the NSDI; specific priorities included disaster relief, health related security, transportation/human mobility (how do people move around and understand their environment, how are costs, gas for example, being tracked and how do these impact people moving around the country), infrastructure management, underground utilities, modernization of emergency services/emergency preparedness, broadband digital equity, climate resiliency (including rising sea levels), natural resources, supply chain issues, immigration, economics.
 - Challenges – Data openness/access/preservation: where do communities get their data, how is it shared, what about communities that don’t want to share or do not have the resources to share. Governance: how to share data up and down at all levels, need a crosswalk for how data can bubble up from smaller units of government up to a larger national viewpoint, how to incentivize interoperability? NSDI Messaging – what is it, why/how should people use it, what’s new and exciting about it, messaging needs a broader representative buy-in and commitment to implementation amongst all stakeholders.
 - Opportunities – Trained workforce – long term success of NSDI depends on trained workforce (K-12 and higher education). Communication – show visible wins in order to

change the culture. Models – use the state SDIs as a model for how to name and share data.

- **Table Discussion 2 – What are your thoughts on changing or expanding the NGDAs? What are the most effective methods to disseminate geospatial data to user communities?**
 - Focus on the user: how to expand and communicate around the user perspective. Users want information not datasets. Governance: need to create a clear model around NSDI and what the Federal agencies are there for. Methods of dissemination: trusted data portals, sensible aggregation, pushing data to one place rather than multiple portals or locations, the GeoPlatform doesn't work as a data distributor, could it be re-envisioned to be a one stop shop for Federal data only and the state SDIs could be the authoritative one stop shop for local data. Current NGDAs: need an inventory of the current themes, ranking them by what purpose they're serving, also rating them by if they serve a national or global application, realign the NGDAs with Discussion 1 above, analyze themes for gaps and then can the local/state governments have the capacity to fill those critical gaps with their own data, review NGDA management for efficiencies, users want more than the building blocks – they want multiple layers of data all in one. Authoritative data: how do we define it, is a definition even necessary?

- **Group Discussion – What are your thoughts on the roles the private, non-profit, and academic sectors play in the NSDI?**
 - Create a flow chart for all the roles from data provides to the end users, then use this flow chart to fill in how each sector fits. All sectors want equal roles in this process.
 - Non-profits – could be the go between for private and governmental forums
 - Private – develop technology in alignment with the goals of the NSDI
 - Good use case could be tax data application for all jurisdictions, users would enter their zip code and see all levels of taxation (local, state, Federal etc.).
 - Think about what the role of data sharing is within each sector and the interoperability between each.
 - Academic side wants a seat at the table in order to inform the next generation, set their curriculums, making sure that what the classroom teaches is applicable to what's happening at all levels.
 - Public-private partnerships, including how the NSDI could be ingestible for the public user.
 - NGAC's role should be how to communicate gaps, challenges, and needs and look to the NSDI for how to fill those gaps.
 - States and private sectors partner well together every day. Need to create an NSDI organizational governance structure where everyone has an equal seat at the table fulfilling their own role.

- **General comments –**
 - Would be helpful to hear more about the SDI's on the local level and what level of support they receive (how many FTEs, what does their storage look like etc.)

- The users are missing from these conversations; need user feedback on what they want from core capabilities and what they need from NSDI. How does the user want to consume the data?
- The local governments are curating data, the Federal government should be used to fill the gaps or missing data areas.
 - Important to focus on foundational critical data that not all the states have.

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

ACTION: The current Geospatial Excellence and Innovation Subcommittee may be combined into the new NSDI subcommittee. The subcommittee will also 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 NSDI strategic plan. The target completion date for the summary paper is December 2023.

Adjourn

Mr. Thompson made closing remarks and provided an overview of the Day 2 agenda.

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 NGAC Public Meeting:

Welcome: NGAC Vice Chair Maggie Cawley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and public attendees.

Geospatial Data Act (GDA) Subcommittee Activities:

Mark Meade and Maggie Cawley provided an update on the GDA Subcommittee activities. Highlights included:

- Mark Meade gave an overview of the activities of the GDA Reporting Subcommittee, including the work that culminated in the “NGAC Comments on FY 2022 FGDC Summary of GDA Annual Report” which was approved by the NGAC during the April NGAC meeting.
- Maggie Cawley gave an overview of the activities of the GDA Implementation Subcommittee, including the NGAC paper “Evaluation of Geospatial Data Act Implementation High Level Summary” which was adopted at the April NGAC meeting.
- Feedback from the reporting subcommittee has continued to shape the FGDC self-assessments and agency reporting. The FGDC reviews the NGAC’s comments multiple times from the time of approval to the GDA reporting periods. The FGDC will also be reviewing and providing feedback on the Implementation Subcommittee’s recommendations.

ACTION: The current GDA Reporting Subcommittee and GDA Implementation Subcommittee may be consolidated into the new GDA subcommittee.

ACTION: In 2023/2024, the GDA Subcommittee will review and provide comments on the individual covered agency and National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Data Theme annual reports, as required by the GDA. The subcommittee will also continue to engage with the FGDC on the recommendations in the April 2023 paper, “Evaluation of Geospatial Data Act Implementation.”

Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) Subcommittee:

LAG Vice Chair Vasisht Sagan provided an update on the activities of the LAG. Highlights included:

- The Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) subcommittee has been focusing on their current deliverable, Task 1 – the National Land Imagery Program’s future data products. The paper has an outline and is currently being drafted.
- Greg Snyder (USGS) gave the following update on the National Land Imaging Program:
 - Landsat 8 & 9 are operating well, Landsat 7 is collecting data but in a lower orbit. The program is on track for up to 20 billion accesses of Landsat data this year.
 - Land Cover Next – will incorporate Landsat based coverage change combining the Land Change Monitoring, Assessment and Projection (LCMAP) and National Land Cover Database (NLCD).
 - Landsat Next – is in NASA Development Phase A and will be a super spectral system. It is underlaid with commercial/interagency/international partnerships. It will enable uses to observe climate driven landscape changes. Landsat Next will have improved revisit frequency, high spatial resolutions, additional spectral bands, and a maintained radiometric quality.
 - Landsat is globally accessible, and the team collects stats on who accesses the data.

ACTION: The LAG Subcommittee will continue working on LAG Task 1 for 2023, addressing “Ideas for National Land Imaging (NLI) ‘Next’ Products.” The target date for completion is October 2023.

ACTION: The LAG Subcommittee will also begin working on LAG Task 2 for 2023, which will address interagency coordination and efficiencies. The target date for completion is October 2023.

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.

Public Comment Period:

The following public comments were provided to the NGAC:

- *Mark Reichardt* – discussed the GeoGov Summit, which will be held in September 2023. This event is devoted to advancing NSDI, bringing together industry with government and other stakeholders. The agenda includes topics such as how to deal with non-traditional data needed to solve problems, workforces issues, and NSDI advancement opportunities.
- *Ajay Gupta (HSR Health)* – Healthcare uses broad types of data while also being able to curate data. However, trying to find all the necessary data at the point of clinical care is challenging. Suggests that anything that can be done to further simplify curating and hosting data would be appreciated. For example, having a single platform that shows open beds for various issues rather than calling individual facilities to see if they have open beds.
- *Jill Saligoe-Simmel (ESRI)* – provided an overview of the ESRI User Conference in July and encouraged members to attend.
- *Brian Goldin (Voyager Search)* – Voyager is a COTS for data registry, retrieval, and AI. There is a significant trend in industry with new technologies connecting with geospatial data, not just on the commercial side but all levels of government. There are opportunities in metadata validation and enrichment, the use of data pipelines used in registration processes, and more opportunities to apply AI/ML models for these data pipelines and finetuning models for public use.

Panel Discussion - Impacts and Implications of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) for Geospatial Programs and Policies:

Vasit Sagan facilitated a panel discussion session invited leaders in the AI/ML field to take part in a panel to discuss AI/ML impacts and implications for the Geospatial field. Panel members included Mr. Mark Munsell (NGA), Dr. Yiqun Xie (University of Maryland), Ms. Devaki Raj (CrowdAI), and Dr. Peter Highnam (DOD). Highlights included:

- Mr. Mark Munsell – The US is currently relying on humans to do much of the work analyzing trend patterns and imagery. Automation is necessary to keep up with the amount of data and process and analyze the data faster. NGA has relied on traditional methods and networks with industry partners with regard to automation. NGA uses AI to run faster high quality object identification, geoaccuracy, detection, and running unlimited unknown analytics. One challenge

is labeling data, NGA's labeled data is narrow in scope and they're hoping to expand the amount of data they're labeling. Managing and budgeting for these new capabilities is slower than the technology is being developed.

- Dr. Yiqun Xie – Currently studying the relationships and expectations between modeling and data. You need a large model and large amounts of data to train the models for what you are looking at/for. AI models are not fair by themselves, they need to be trained for fairness and to remove biases. Dr. Xie uses AI for modeling techniques and training the models to use data to make better decisions. One challenge is not having enough data to train the models.
- Ms. Devaki Raj – The concept of AI/ML is broad for all sectors and automation is a major goal. CrowdAI has been primarily working in the natural hazards sector, creating models for mapping wildfires in real time, utilizing NOAA's data after Hurricane Michael to map the city based on FEMA categories showing areas hardest hit by the hurricane, and mapping fire defensible zones in Santa Rosa. Ms. Raj uses AI in software development, the software CrowdAI develops allows users to build their own AI models for their own needs. One challenge is trust and confidence in the models and the data.
- Dr. Peter Highnam – AI has been around in earlier versions since the 1960s. Currently we are exploring AI in three ways - describe, internalize, and explain. To move through each way depends on the hardware we are using. The notion of reliable AI system engineering is something everyone should care deeply about.
- Discussions included:
 - Need AI assurance programs or framework on both the developers and users so that what is being built and used is done so in a responsible manner. Training, testing, evaluation, and data responsibility are key.
 - AI/ML is much more than machine vision. Governance and ethics are needed as well as understanding the biases of these tools and how to apply and use them.
 - A national data training course could be helpful for providing confidence using modeling. Potentially public data that's been annotated for decades past and could be collated under the FGDC for example.
 - One issue in general is that AI/ML is changing the historic workflows, need to develop an ROI for changing the workforce to use AI.
 - Everyone has different AI concerns – AI tourism, fairness and biases, other countries using AI against the U.S., when to update the model to maintain responsible, reliable, trustworthy data, and that you don't need AI for everything, you still need science.

3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Subcommittee:

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

- The Subcommittee is required to publish a n assessment every two years. The current assessment had two working groups that analyzed trends and development, and program management.
- The current assessment has a number of recommendations but reinforces that there is no need to revise or reorganize the 3DEP program and emphasizes that USGS should “stay the course” and complete the goal of 100% national coverage.
- Vicki Lukas and Mike Tischler (USGS) gave an update on the 3DEP program:
 - Mission of the program is complete acquisition of nationwide lidar with an emphasis on FAIR and high quality/consistent data.

- 3DEP is supporting partner needs for specific data requests.
- 3D National Topography Model (3DNTM) – integrates topography and hydrography datasets, could have potential policy impacts in the future. 3DNTM has three components – 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP), Next Gen 3DEP, and future integrated 3D models.
- NexGen 3DEP is building on baseline datasets to include high quality data, an increased scope to include bathymetric data, and an increased frequency for updating coverage.
- Annalise Blum, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, will be leading the new 3DEP committee.

Following discussion of the draft assessment, the NGAC agreed on the following actions:

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the paper, “NGAC Assessment of the 3D Elevation Program”, developed by the 3DEP Subcommittee, pending minor editorial changes.

ACTION: The NGAC Chair will transmit the final report to USGS and the Department of the Interior, as required under the National Landslide Preparedness Act (NLPA). The final report will be transmitted in July 2023.

ACTION: FGDC and NGAC leadership will coordinate with the USGS National Geospatial Program to identify the next set of study topics for the 3DEP Subcommittee, consistent with the subcommittee’s responsibilities under the NLPA.

Partnership Spotlight - Alaska Mapping Executive Committee (AMEC):

Leslie Jones provided an overview of the activities of the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee (AMEC). Highlights included:

- Alaska Mapping Executive Committee (AMEC) was stood up specifically to help fulfill mapping deficiencies in Alaska. In 2010, the datasets being used were from 1950 – 1980 and there were major gaps.
- In 2011 the Alaska Congressional delegation requested Federal support for increased mapping coordination within the State. In 2012 AMEC was formed.
- AMEC meets annually with members from Federal agencies and Alaska state government.
- Alaska Geospatial Council (AGC) – supports AMEC’s vision with regional coordination and working groups.
 - AGC’s guiding principles are: increase efficiencies in data acquisitions and distribution; coordinate funding to meet common needs; identify gaps and priorities; formulate a budget strategy; and advise on national data standards for Alaska.
 - AGC’s membership include representatives from Federal, State, Local and Tribal governments, regional governments and councils, academia, private industry, professional associations, non-profits, and public/private utilities.
 - AGC’s five foundational strategic items are to build coordination, create a shared geospatial framework, establish governance, provide access to self-service tools, and to enhance capabilities and literacy.
- Alaska is learning from more mature state geospatial programs. AMEC, the AGC or other state programs could be a potential model for the NSDI.

NGAC Discussion - Emerging Topics/NGAC Activities:

John Mahoney (FGDC) led a discussion of planning for NGAC 2023 study topics and subcommittee activities. Highlights included:

- **Future of the GeoPlatform**
 - The GDA Implementation Subcommittee was going to analyze the GP as their next project, however NGAC members said this would be too much of a lift and it should be its own study topic.
 - NOAA agreed that GP needs to be one of the 2023/2024 study topics
 - NGAC should focus on how the GP interacts with the external community; the Federal side is being handled by the ExCom and other groups
 - Concern about past pushback from NGAC being involved in an analysis on the GP
 - Working group should focus on a useability survey on GP and develop high/low impact recommendations
- **Combination of Geo Excellence and NSDI**
 - Members expressed concerns with the bandwidth of committee members if they have to tackle both topics. Multiple members advised not to combine.
- **Geospatial Standards**
 - Inventory analysis partnering with ExCom and OGC so that there's not duplicative efforts
- **3DEP**
 - Use cases or deep dives into the potential benefits presented in the 3DEP paper; these would provide value and help tell us story
- **NSDI**
 - Consider a NEAA-like study for the NSDI
 - Need to determine what is NSDI, how do we build it, how to we advocate for it, how do we develop roles/responsibilities for it.
 - Transition from data Management to data use
 - Analyze the core reasons for why the national address databases and parcel databases don't exist and are not focused on the user side. Need to determine how we transition from management to use.
- **GeoAI**
 - Not a subcommittee in the traditional sense but a short quarterly check-in between NGAC members and Feds sharing knowledge and lessons learned
 - Outcome could be short deliverables on ROIs that could have a huge impact on our geospatial ecosystem. Could be a topic for the geospatial excellence committee. There's a national/federal vacuum for GeoAI and NGAC could help broaden these views.
 - As a study topic, it needs to be what's unique about GeoAI to NGAC.
- **Overall subcommittee questions**
 - Why do 3DEP and LAG have external members, but the others don't. External members would help the workload of each committee.
 - If the outputs of subcommittees are reports – who is NGAC's audience. Are reports the best outputs we can make? Can NGAC make a series of recommendations at a meeting and then close the topic and move onto newer ones rather than rehashing them.

- **MAJOR TAKEAWAYS**

1. Overall – study topics should be determined by 1) the NGAC expertise that can be given to each topic, 2) topics should be time limited, and 3) topics should take into consideration existing relationships (for future partnerships) between NGAC members and Federal agencies
2. GDA Subcommittee should be a standing subcommittee like 3DEP and the LAG.
3. Before prioritizing any study topics, NGAC members request a 2-step approach. First, they want to review the full list of suggested topics to potentially add or remove some. Secondly, after seeing a final list, they will prioritize them.
4. The three study topics that were discussed the most were GeoPlatform, NSDI, and GeoAI.

ACTION: NGAC and FGDC leadership will synthesize and refine the proposed NGAC study topics and subcommittee structure for 2023/2024. The leadership will share the proposed subcommittee structure with the NGAC members and ask for first & second choices for assignments. Based on NGAC member responses, the leadership will finalize subcommittee assignments to ensure appropriate balance & representation on all NGAC subcommittees.

Adjourn

Mr. Thompson reviewed the action items and decisions, highlighted the planning for the October 11-12, 2023 NGAC meeting, and made closing remarks.

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, 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 October 11, 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: <https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/june-2023/index.html>

FGDC Report

- FGDC Report

Climate Initiative Session

- Climate Initiative Update

FGDC ExCom Roundtable

- FGDC ExCom Roundtable

NSDI Strategic Planning

- NSDI Strategic Planning Overview
- NSDI Strategic Planning Discussion

GDA Implementation and Reporting

- Update on GDA Subcommittees

Landsat Advisory Group

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

Panel Discussion – Impacts and Implications of AI-ML for Geospatial Programs and Policies

- NGAC AI-ML Panel Devaki Raj Presentation
- NGAC AI-ML Panel Overview
- NGAC AI-ML Panel Yiqun Xie Presentation

3DEP Subcommittee

- 3DEP Subcommittee Report
- USGS 3DEP Program Update

Partnership Spotlight – Alaska Mapping Executive Committee

- Alaska Mapping Executive Committee Overview