

**National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**September 27-28, 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held a public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on September 27 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on September 28, 2016. The meeting was held at the National Conservation Training Center, in Shepherdstown, WV. In accordance with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the meeting was open to the public.

**NGAC Members present:**

Julie Sweetkind-Singer, NGAC Chair  
Keith Masback, NGAC Vice-Chair  
David Alexander  
Frank Avila  
Sarah Battersby  
Talbot Brooks  
Patricia Cummins  
Matthew Gentile  
Bert Granberg  
Frank Harjo  
Jack Hild  
Xavier Irias  
Roger Mitchell  
Rebecca Moore  
Laxmi Ramasubramanian  
Major General William N. Reddel III  
Carl Reed  
Amber Reynolds  
Douglas Richardson  
Anthony Spicci  
Gary Thompson  
Harvey Thorleifson  
Molly Vogt  
Jason Warzinik  
May Yuan  
David Wyatt

Ivan DeLoatch, 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:**

Joanne Gabrynowicz  
Kevin Pomfret  
Jeff Lovin

### **Other Attendees:**

David Beddoe (Intergraph Governmental Solutions), John Byrd (MAPPS), Ashley Chappell (NOAA), Peter Doucette (USGS), Suzanne Foss (ESRI), Lucia Foulkes (USGS), Tricia Gibbons (LEAD Alliance), Aaron Gussman (Human Geo), Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Steve Lewis (DOT), Patty Mims (Esri), Ken Shaffer (USGS), David Tohn (BTS Software Solutions), Camille Touton (DOI), Tim Trainor (U.S. Census Bureau).

### **Tuesday, September 27, 2016 NGAC Public Meeting**

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Julie Sweetkind-Singer, NGAC Chair called the public meeting at 8:30 a.m. EDT and welcomed members and attendees. Members and attendees introductions were made. The chair provided an overview of the agenda and discussed meeting goals and objectives.

#### **Review and Adoption of April 2016 Minutes**

The draft minutes of the June NGAC meeting were reviewed and the chair called for approval.

**DECISION:** The NGAC adopted the minutes of the June 14-15, 2016 NGAC meeting.

#### **Leadership Dialogue**

Camille Touton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at DOI and FGDC Chair, provided an update on FGDC activities and transition planning. Ms. Touton briefly reported on Geospatial Platform enhancements and noted that Tod Dabolt will lead geospatial platform development activities. Ms. Touton reported that there has been significant progress in the 2016 FGDC priority areas and briefly discussed the Open Water Data Initiative, Geospatial Platform, National Address Database, and 3D Elevation Program. FGDC is currently working on developing the next version of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan Framework. Ms. Touton also noted that the next set of NGAC appointments will be completed in early January.

Ms. Touton spoke about transition activities and discussed the transition process. She noted that FGDC is preparing an annual report and transition recommendations that will be shared with the transition team. Ms. Touton expressed her gratitude to NGAC members for their contributions and advice.

#### **NGAC Recognition of Service**

Camille Touton and Ivan DeLoatch recognized the NGAC members who are completing their current terms on the committee and thanked them for their service. The NGAC members completing terms in December 2016 are as follows:

- Pat Cummins
- Joanne Gabrynowicz\*
- Bert Granberg\*
- Jack Hild
- Jeff Lovin
- Keith Masback
- Kevin Pomfret
- Gen. William Reddel
- Tony Spicci\*
- Julie Sweetkind-Singer

- Gary Thompson\*
- Harvey Thorleifson
- Molly Vogt\*
- Jason Warzinik
- David Wyatt\*

*\*Completing second term on NGAC*

### **Transition Strategy Discussion**

Julie Sweetkind-Singer reported that the NGAC leadership has begun working with FGDC staff on a transition recommendations paper. Ms. Sweetkind-Singer noted that the objectives of the transition recommendations are to:

- Raise awareness of the importance of geospatial technology and its current applications and impacts.
- Define the role of the federal community and demonstrate how federal agencies have provided leadership and served as a catalyst to the field through major initiatives.
- Identify key areas where federal leadership can provide opportunities for economic growth, cost savings, and strength of the nation's infrastructure.

The NGAC members broke into discussion groups to discuss the transition paper and conceptual framework, and reported on the results of their discussions:

#### **Group 1:**

- Use powerful examples and analogies, for example, the interstate highway system
- Geospatial helps provide the foundation of world's greatest economy through:
  - Education
  - Partnership
  - Standards
  - Funding
- Transition paper should go beyond DOI & focus on government-wide issues

#### **Group 2:**

- Communicate in simple, easy-to-understand terms
- Missing from the document: connecting the value of the outcomes to citizens to save money, save lives, ensure security
- Contrast what organizations would look like without technology
- Use digital media more effectively as a community
- Include compelling use cases to support geospatial initiatives, every area of the government can be made more efficient if geospatial technology is used
- Find recent geospatial examples that can tell a good story
- Find use cases that demonstrate value
- Use visual examples to show the importance of geospatial information
- Consider use cases featuring infrastructure, agriculture, environment

#### **Group 3:**

- Identify interests of incoming administration and draft a paper to speak to these interests with examples (economy, security and safety, global competitiveness, quality of life, etc.)
- Benefits of using geospatial, what do we lose if we don't use technology?

- Make case to invest in satellite imagery
- Leverage what we have available in government
- If successful it will be read by many people and have bipartisan appeal
- Message should be broad and should reflect linkages among federal, state, local, and tribal governments
- Bring resources to make things better and things that can get connected globally or nationally.
- Reserve space for the “ask.” From NGAC’s perspective, what is the ask?
  - Investment in GIS
  - Engagement with public – be citizen focused
  - Invest in partnerships beyond federal government
  - Leverage existing investments
  - Invest in workforce development

**ACTION:** NGAC leadership will develop a first draft of the NGAC transition recommendations paper based on NGAC member input, by October 28, 2016.

### **FGDC Report**

Ivan DeLoatch reported on recent FGDC activities, including the following:

FGDC 2016 Annual Report: The theme for 2016 Annual Report is “Recognizing Successes and Planning for the Future.” The intent is to highlight accomplishments for the new administration. The plan is to have a PDF version by mid-December and printed copies by January 2017.

Doug D. Nebert NSDI Champion of the Year Award: During the FGDC Steering Committee meeting on September 29, FGDC will present its initial Doug D. Nebert NSDI Champion of the Year Award to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Distributed Active Archive Center MODIS team. They will be recognized for their innovation, persistence, and creativity in the development of the MODIS tools.

2017 NGAC Appointments: Final decisions will be made by the Secretary of the Interior’s office. Current appointments expire December 31, 2016. New appointments take effect in early January 2017.

2016 Geospatial Platform Workshop: A Geospatial Platform workshop is scheduled for December 7-8 at the South Interior Auditorium. The workshop is sponsored by the GeoPlatform Managing Partner in conjunction with FGDC and NGA. The purpose of the workshop is to present Geospatial Platform enhancements and share GeoPlatform.gov functional capabilities to data stewards.

3DEP Current Activities Update: USGS will provide a more detailed report at upcoming meetings addressing the following topics:

- The US Interagency Elevation Inventory
- FY16 3DEP Data Acquisition
- Multiyear acquisition plan
- Broad Agency Announcement
- Emerging Lidar Technology

Federal Parcel Data Workshop: The parcel data workshop was held on September 20 at the Homeland Security Acquisition Institute. Federal user cases for a National Parcel Data were examined. There were also discussions about touchpoints with other NSDI initiatives such as the National Address Database (NAD).

National Parcel Data Summit Summary: David Alexander (DHS) reported on the outcomes of the National Parcel Data Summit. The overall feedback was very positive. Topics that emerged during the summit included:

- Parcel data starts with local jurisdictions
- There remains a demonstrated need for an aggregated national parcel dataset
- Federal leadership, coordination, and resource investment is needed
- Barriers appear are more cultural and institutional, rather than technical
- Still need strong data standards
- Consider leveraging and licensing private sector investments in normalizing and aggregating national parcel data

Actions from the summit:

- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is proceeding with a limited procurement for National-level parcel data to service immediate HLS/HLD requirements
- HIFLD Executive Secretariat has been tasked to host a follow up requirements workshop with the broader Federal Depts/Agencies to enumerate Federal requirements for parcel data.

Address Theme Update: Steve Lewis (DOT) and Tim Trainor (U.S. Census) reported on the National Address Database (NAD) and Address Theme activities. In August 2016, the FGDC Steering Committee approved the establishment of a new Address Theme. The Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Commerce (DOC) are the Co-Leads of the Address Theme. A subcommittee is being established and will be co-chaired by DOT and the U.S. Census Bureau. The Address Theme leads and subcommittee chairs are being identified. The first draft of the theme definitions is in development. The subcommittee membership proposal is under review and will include federal agencies, partners, and non-federal organizations.

Steve Lewis (DOT) reported on the status of National Address Database (NAD). The NAD pilot Version 1.0 is complete, and it includes Arizona, Arkansas, and Boone County, Missouri. The NAD pilot final report is now available. To assist states and counties without address data, a Crowdsourced App Challenge will be launched to collect address data. Information about the App Developers challenge can be found here: <https://www.transportation.gov/nad/challenge/registration>.

**ACTION:** FGDC leadership and staff will work with the Office of the Secretary of the Interior to complete the next round of appointments to the NGAC. The appointments are expected to be completed in January 2017.

### **Emerging Technologies Spotlight Session**

Keith Masback moderated a panel discussion exploring applications and policy implications of new and emerging technologies. Brief presentations from technology leaders on key emerging technologies and impacts were provided and discussed. The topics discussed included the following:

- Data Visualization – Sarah Battersby (Tableau Software)
- Realtime Data Analytics and Integration – David Tohn (BTS Software Solutions)
- Social Media and Location Analytics – Aaron Gussman (Human Geo)
- Real-time Data and Services – Suzanne Foss (ESRI)

### **Subcommittee Meetings**

Julie Sweetkind-Singer discussed the next steps for the NGAC subcommittees and reviewed the following schedule and assignments.

**ACTION:** The NGAC agreed on the following next steps regarding the draft papers developed by the Policy Framework Subcommittee, the Emerging Technologies Subcommittee, and the Standards Coordination Subcommittee:

- 10/7/16: NGAC members provide comments on current drafts to Subcommittee Chairs.
- Week of 10/10/16 or 10/17/16: Subcommittees hold meetings to review comments and revise papers.
- 11/9/16: Revised draft papers distributed for Subcommittee review (responses due by 11/16/16).
- 12/2/16: Final draft papers submitted by Subcommittee Chairs to John Mahoney.
- 12/7/16: Final draft papers distributed to NGAC for consideration at December NGAC webinar meeting.

### **Emerging Technologies Subcommittee Report**

Doug Richardson provided an update on the subcommittee's activities. Dr. Richardson provided an overview of the subcommittee's draft paper, and encouraged NGAC members to provide feedback and comment. He noted that a revised version of the paper would be provided to the NGAC members.

### **Lightning Session 1**

An opportunity for brief announcements was provided to NGAC members.

#### Talbot Brooks – Creating Geospatial Professionals

Mr. Brooks discussed curriculum models for a geospatial degree and spoke about the many challenges to creating geospatial professionals in this field.

#### Bert Granberg – Utah 2016 High Resolution Imagery Survey

Mr. Granberg reported on the preliminary results of Utah's enterprise license for Google imagery and base map services. He described how the aerial photography services are being used and what the benefits are to the organizations using the license, and discussed plans for future updates and enhancements.

#### Harvey Thorleifson – Geologic Map Standards

Dr. Thorleifson spoke about development of geologic map standards.

#### Gary Thompson – North Carolina/South Carolina Boundary

Mr. Thompson shared a Youtube video that explained the history of how the North Carolina and South Carolina boundary was established.

### **Wrap-up & Adjourn**

The chair summarized key outcomes of the day and adjourned Day 1 of the meeting.

### **Wednesday, September 28, 2016 NGAC Public Meeting**

Julie Sweetkind-Singer welcomed NGAC members to the second day of the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

### **Lightning Session 2**

An opportunity for brief announcements was provided to NGAC members.

#### David Alexander – National Geospatial Preparedness Summit

Dr. Alexander reported on the preliminary results of the National Geospatial Preparedness Summit held on September 22. The purpose of the summit was to prepare agencies with the knowledge and skills necessary to advance the use of geospatial decision support technology and data. Some of the feedback indicated that participants gained valuable knowledge and skills; they built connections, and will recommend the summit to their colleagues.

#### Xavier Irias – How Good is Good Enough?

Mr. Irias spoke about the use of geospatial data at East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). He discussed geospatial data issues, challenges, and potential solutions to obtaining geographic accuracy.

#### Matt Gentile – DataUSA

Mr. Gentile discussed the DataUSA project, an open data initiative that provides comprehensive visualization of U.S. public data. Additional information is available at <https://datausa.io>.

#### May Yuan – Water and Addresses Database

Dr. Yuan spoke about a testbed for the National Flood Interoperability Experiment in Texas.

### **Policy Framework Subcommittee Report**

Molly Vogt provided an update on the subcommittee's activities in evaluating potential revisions to OMB Circular A-16 and the NSDI policy framework. Ms. Vogt provided an overview of the subcommittee's draft paper, and encouraged NGAC members to provide feedback and comment. She noted that a revised version of the paper would be provided to the NGAC members.

### **Landsat Advisory Group Report**

Peter Doucette (USGS) provided an update on the activities of the Land Remote Sensing Program. Mr. Doucette discussed a new vision for Landsat; the "Sustainable Land Imaging (SLI) Program, which is a USGS-NASA joint vision mission. Mr. Doucette reported on the Landsat operational satellite status of Landsat 7 and 8 and highlighted the features for Landsat 9 and Landsat 10. He also spoke about Landsat's critical role on climate change related impacts.

Frank Avila (NGAC) reported on the activities of the Landsat Advisory Group (LAG). Mr. Avila reported that the group had met to discuss the study questions and make team assignments. Mr. Avila briefly discussed and summarized the following LAG tasks:

- Task #1: Revisit Smallsat Investigation. This is a follow-up from 2015 study question. This year USGS asked that the LAG focus on smallsats and to look at the requirements for future Landsat missions.
- Task #2: Temporal Data Cube Study. Analyze the feasibility to implement temporal cubes and the marketability of these products to support projection or forecast models of land change trends.

- Task 3: Data Continuity Mission Enhancements. To what extent could significant sensor enhancements be made in future Landsat missions, while maintaining acceptable backward compatibility?

**ACTION:** The Landsat Advisory Group (LAG) will schedule team meetings to address the revised guidance to the LAG from the USGS. The proposed due dates to provide responses to the study questions are as follows:

- LAG Task #1 – Revisit Smallsat Investigation (Proposed report due date – March 31, 2017)
- LAG Task #2 – Temporal Data Cube Study (Proposed report due date – June 30, 2017)
- LAG Task #3 – Data Continuity Mission Enhancements (Proposed report due date – September 30, 2017)

### **NSDI Strategic Plan**

Ivan DeLoatch provided an overview of the NSDI strategic planning process. The FGDC is developing a framework that includes priorities that can be utilized as a foundation to develop the next version of the strategic plan. John Mahoney provided a summary of the feedback that has received through a variety of outreach activities to obtain input from different sources. The NGAC members engaged in a facilitated discussion of the NSDI planning process.

Comments and discussion topics included the following:

- NSDI enables access to data and information
- Consider rebranding the NSDI
- Connecting with the public is a missing element. Interaction with the private sector is important; they can be a powerful force to advocate for the NSDI
- The NSDI needs to be relevant. Outreach efforts should be inclusive, reach out the non GIS community, reach out to consumers
- Celebrate successes (e.g. geospatial platform)
- Where does or where should FGDC belong?
- The NSDI could be set up as an operational utility piece rather than policy.
- NSDI needs a mechanism to have a workflow for all types of organizations beyond the federal sector. The NSDI should serve and benefit all communities

Common Themes:

- What is the role of the FGDC?
- Clear vision or set of outcomes that government and partners can embrace
- Value statement
- Who is in the NSDI community? Encourage broader awareness
- Inclusion (all types of organizations)
- Think of consumers (or citizens)
- Build trust
- What are three types of services that are critical to society?
- Broaden the understanding of the geospatial network
- What are the things that could go into the strategic plan and the framework
- Rebrand of the NSDI
- Interact with professional organizations



**ACTION:** The FGDC will provide a draft version of the NSDI Strategic Plan Framework to the NGAC for comment by November 30, 2016.

### **Public Comment Period**

An opportunity was given to members of the public to provide comments to the NGAC. There were no public comments offered.

### **Standards Subcommittee Report**

Carl Reed provided an update on the subcommittee activities. He noted that standards are good at the state level, however, there at the local and private sector levels is not the case. Dr. Reed spoke about FGDC's role and noted that perhaps the focus should be on education about the existing standards, rather than creating new ones. The subcommittee asked for feedback on the draft paper by October 7.

### **Lightning Session 3**

An opportunity for brief announcements was provided to NGAC members.

#### Pat Cummins – Arctic Elevation

Ms. Cummins spoke about an initiative to make Arctic elevation data more available. This project is a collaborative effort with Esri, the National Intelligence Agency (NGA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the University of Minnesota's Polar Geospatial Center.

#### Molly Vogt – GIS in Government ... Where to from here?

Ms. Vogt discussed GIS data and its value to improve people's lives.

#### Xavier Irias – A Case for the National Grid

Mr. Irias spoke about the need for a national grid and discussed use cases for emergency planning and response that express the benefits of having a standard national grid.

#### Doug Richardson – GIS&T Advanced Placement Program

Dr. Richardson discussed an initiative of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) to develop and implement a new Advanced Placement (AP) program for students in the field of Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIS&T).

#### Laxmi Ramasubramanian – Outreach and Engagement: Beginning A Dialog

Dr. Ramasubramanian spoke about outreach and engagement processes. NGAC members engaged in a discussion about models utilized for engaging different sectors, examples of best practices, and challenges and opportunities for engagement.

### **NGAC Assessment and Suggestions for Improvements**

NGAC members engaged in a discussion to provide suggestions to improve the NGAC meetings and processes. Discussion questions included the following:

1. What was the most valuable component of the NGAC public meetings?
2. What are the most important things we can do to improve the next set of meetings?

Comments:

- Have a better tool support for document with management
  - Lighting talks should be shorter and relevant NGAC business. Limit the time and number of slides. Capture talks on video
3. Members actively participated in subcommittee activities and subcommittees provided valuable input and feedback.

4. What can leadership do engage you more with the subcommittee work?

Comments:

- Learning the culture of NGAC
- The sooner we can have the first meeting of the year the better to start subcommittee work
- It helps to work with appropriate staff on the projects. Create a formal structure to support subcommittee work
- Establish onboarding process
- Set meeting dates as soon as possible
- Do some subcommittee work via web

5. What are the most important things members can do to improve the effectiveness of the NGAC?

Comments:

- Will it be helpful to provide information on roles of FGDC and FGDC OS?

6. In what way might the leadership and staff do to support and improve the effectiveness of the NGAC?

### **Meeting Wrap-up**

Julie Sweetkind-Singer reviewed actions and next steps. The next NGAC meeting will be a webinar planned for December 14, 2016. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

### **Certification**

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

Ms. Julie Sweetkind-Singer, Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Mr. Ivan DeLoatch, 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 December 14, 2016***

## **September 27-28, 2016 NGAC Meeting 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/september-2016/index\\_html](https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/september-2016/index_html)

### **FGDC Report**

- FGDC Update
- FGDC Address Theme Update
- National Parcel Data Update

### **Landsat Advisory Group**

- Landsat Advisory Group Status Report
- Landsat Program Update
- LAG Guidance- Revised September 2016

### **NSDI Strategic Plan**

- NSDI Strategic Plan Update

### **Lightning Sessions**

- Talbot Brooks – Creating Geospatial Professionals
- Bert Granberg – Utah 2016 High Resolution Imagery Survey
- Harvey Thorleifson – Geologic Map Standards
- Gary Thompson North Carolina/South Carolina Boundary - (Youtube)
- David Alexander – National Geospatial Preparedness Summit
- Xavier Irias – A Case for the National Grid
- May Yuan – Texas Flood Forecasting
- Pat Cummins – Exploring Arctic Elevation
- Molly Vogt – GIS in Government - Where to from Here?
- Doug Richardson – GIS & Advanced Placement Program
- Laxmi Ramasubramanian – Outreach & Engagement