



**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Coordination Group Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST
FED ONLY: 1:10 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

9:00 – 9:10	Welcome and Introductions	<i>Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC; Bill Mullen, NGA</i>
9:10 – 9:15	Previous Meeting Action Item Review	<i>Arista Maher, FGDC</i>
9:15 – 10:00	FGDC Business and Secretariat Report	<i>Ken Shaffer, FGDC</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Executive Committee Liaison Update	<i>Jerry Johnston, EPA</i>
10:20 – 11:10	Data.gov	<i>Jerry Johnston, EPA</i>
11:10 – 11:25	Wetlands Subcommittee Report	<i>Bill Wilen, FWS</i>
11:25 – 11:45	Standards Survey Discussion	<i>Ken Shaffer, FGDC</i>
11:45 – 11:55	National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) Overview	<i>Doug Nebert, FGDC</i>
11:55 – 12:10	myUSGS Web Tutorial	<i>Vaishal Sheth, FGDC</i>
12:10 – 1:10	Lunch	
	FED ONLY SESSION BEGINS AT 1:10 P.M. (Dial-In Information Provided via Email)	
1:10 – 1:40	Geospatial Platform Presentation	<i>Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC</i>
1:40 – 2:00	Place-Based Policy	<i>Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC</i>
2:00 – 2:20	Imagery for the Nation	<i>Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC</i>
2:20 – 2:50	A-16 Supplemental Guidance Update	<i>Lew Sanford, FGDC</i>
2:50 – 3:00	Action Item Review & Next Meeting Agenda	<i>Arista Maher, FGDC</i>
3:00	Adjourn	

<p>*Read-ahead Documents</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A-16 Supplemental Guidance Update 042010 - Lew Sanford.ppt 2. FGDC Business Report CG 20100413 v1.ppt 3. FGDC Standards Process Survey Summary v1.ppt 4. FGDC_process_Review_Survey_Results Draft v1.doc 5. Geo LoB Monthly Status Report March 2010.pdf 6. GeoLoB At a Glance - March 2010 7. Geospatial Platform PPT v_0_2.pptx 8. NIEM Request - Doug Nebert.ppt 9. Wetlands Mapping Standard Implementation Plan v1 2-4-2010.doc 10. Wetlands Subcommittee - 2010 Work Plan 11. Wetlands Subcommittee - Public version of classification maintenance proposal.doc 12. Wetlands Subcommittee Wilen April 13 2010.ppt
<p>Other Relevant documents</p>	

* Read-ahead documents are located at the my.usgs.gov site for member access.

CG Meeting Planning

<p>Coordination Group Meetings Topics (in addition to the following standing items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome and Introductions; - Previous Meeting Action Item Review; - FGDC Business Update; - FGDC Secretariat Report; - Summary of Action Items / Next Meeting Agenda; - Adjourn - All meetings are scheduled from 9am to 3pm EST at NCPC in D.C., unless otherwise noted
<p>May 11, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from: Marine and Coastal Spatial Data (Tony LaVoi) and Cadastral SC (Don Buhler).
<p>June 8, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from: LoB Lifecycle Management WG (Wendy Blake-Coleman) and Vegetation SC (Ralph Crawford).
<p>July 13, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from: LoB Common Services WG (WG Chair) and LoB Grants and Contracts WG (Lew Sanford).
<p>August 10, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from: LoB Geo-Enabled Business WG (Sharon Shin) and Geodetic Control SC (Eric Linzey).
<p>September 14, 2010</p>
<p>October 12, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from: Homeland Security WG (Jonathan Hasse)
<p>November 9, 2010</p>
<p>December 14, 2010</p>
<p>Pending Topics (date topic was identified)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the NSDI (20090602-02). • Define/recommend how programs, like <i>The National Map</i> and the National Atlas, are identified, included, tracked, and involved in the CG efforts. (20090602-05). • Harvesting issue with GOS and geodata.gov. Doug Nebert, FGDC. (20090707-02). • Common Services Survey Results (20090901-01).

- The National Map as an FGDC Work Group.
- Transportation for the Nation update.

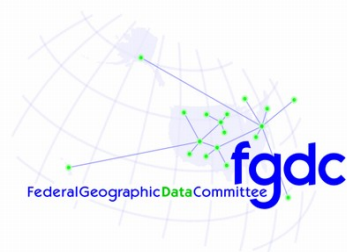


Federal Geographic Data Committee Coordination Group Meeting ACTION ITEMS Through March 16, 2010

Pending		
Lead:	Department of Homeland Security	Action #: 20091013-03
Action:	The Homeland Security Work Group will meet to revise the WG charter and report back to the CG for consensus and approval.	
Contact:	DHS Jeff Booth and Jon Hassee, Jeffrey.booth@dhs.gov, Jonathan.hassee@dhs.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Pending		
Lead:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC	Action#: 20100112-04
Action:	The Secretariat will follow up with OMB to see if the place-based policy proposals can be released for review by the CG, either before or after their evaluation, to determine the types of projects the Federal agencies proposed and see if there is a way to leverage some of these in the future.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response	Coordination Group members are asked to contact their budget offices for guidance.	
Complete		
Lead:	CG Members	Action#: 20100316-02
Action:	CG Members are asked to submit their priorities for the Data.gov work plan to Karen Siderelis.	
Contact:	Karen Siderelis, DOI, karen_siderelis@doi.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Action due date was 4/7/10.	
Complete		
Lead:	CG Members	Action#: 20100316-03
Action:	CG Members are asked to contact Randy Fusaro if they are interested in participating in work on the Cultural Resources Standard.	
Contact:	Randy Fusaro, Census, randy.j.fusaro@census.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Arista Maher, FGDC	Action#: 20100413-01
Action:	The FGDC Secretariat will send out the URL for the ESRI article about the value proposition for geo-enabling government.	
Contact:	Arista Maher, FGDC, amaher@fgdc.gov	

Resolution/ Response:	Link was sent out to CG on 4/13.	
Complete		
Lead:	Arista Maher, FGDC	Action#: 20100413-02
Action:	The FGDC Secretariat will ensure that the most updated version of the Data.gov guidance document provided by Jerry Johnston and Rob Dollison will be posted to the myUSGS site.	
Contact:	Arista Maher, FGDC, amaher@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Document was posted to myUSGS under the folder for the April 13 th CG meeting.	
Complete		
Lead:	Rob Dollison, USGS	Action#: 20100413-03
Action:	Rob Dollison will set up a WebEx discussion for CG members and others about Data.gov guidance for later this week.	
Contact:	Rob Dollison, USGS, rdollison@usgs.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Rob set up a WebEx on Thursday, April 15 and provided participation details to members.	
Pending		
Lead:	Wendy Blake-Coleman, EPA	Action#: 20100413-04
Action:	Wendy Blake-Coleman will send out the Quickr link for the Lifecycle WG to CG members.	
Contact:	Wendy Blake-Coleman, EPA, blake-coleman.wendy@epa.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		

ID (yyyymmdd-#)	Decision/Description
	Decisions provide a position/foundation on which actions are taken.



**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Coordination Group Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2010**

√	Coordination Group Attendees	Organization	√	Attendee	Organization
x	Ivan DeLoatch – Chair	FGDC		Christina Lett	DOI
x	Bill Mullen – Co-Chair	DoD		Pheakdey Lim	VA
x	Ken Shaffer	FGDC		Jonathan Mann	GSA
	Brett Abrams	NARA		Scott McAfee	FEMA
	Rani Balasubramanyam	DOJ		Ray Milefsky	State
	Deidre Bishop	Census		John Merrill	DHS
x	Wendy Blake-Coleman	EPA	x	David Morehouse	DoE
x	Jeff Booth	DHS		Jacquie Nolan	LoC
	Mark Bradford	DOT	x	Anne O’Connor	DoC
	Colleen Cahill	LoC		Tai Phan	DoE
	Trisha Christian	SBA		Robert Pierce	DOI
	Sandra Downie	GSA		Stu Reiter	NRC
	Randy Fusaro	DoC	x	Daniel Sandhaus	DOI
x	Shirley Hall	USDA	x	Antoinette Sebastian	HUD
	Jon Hasse	DHS	x	Charles Smart	TVA
	William Henriques	DHS		Jon Sperling	HUD
	Edward Hulger	DoL		David Timmons	SSA
x	Carol Giffin	USGS		Dat Tran	VA
x	David LaBranche	DoD		Adrienne Walker	OMB
x	Tony LaVoi	DoC			
	Other Attendees	Organization		Attendee	Organization
x	Roxanne Lamb	FGDC	x	Jeanette Archetto	GT
x	Arista Maher	FGDC		Juliana Blackwell	NGS
	Julie Binder Maitra	FGDC	x	Bill Burgess	NSGIC
x	John Mahoney	FGDC	x	Donald Campbell	FCC
x	Doug Nebert	FGDC	x	Marisa Capriotti	USDA
x	Milo Robinson	FGDC		Mike Cooley	USGS
x	Lew Sanford	FGDC	x	Rob Dollison	USGS
x	Vaishal Sheth	FGDC		George Deryckere	GSA
	Sharon Shin	FGDC		Lee Fahrner	NSGIC
x	Gita Urban-Mathieux	FGDC		Tricia Gibbons	LEAD Alliance
	Lorri Peltz-Lewis	FS		Charles Hickman	USGS
	Dave Soller	USGS		Lynda Liptrap	Census
	Renee Shields	NOAA		Stephen Lowe	USDA
x	Bill Wilen	FWS		Vicki Lukas	USGS

	Jean Parcher	USGS		Hank Garie	GT
	Steve Schwartz	MMS		Karen Siderelis	DOI
	Jim Rolfes	DOI		Larry Sugarbaker	USGS
	Martha McCart Wells	URISA		Tod Dabolt	EPA
	Alex Hume	GT		Mark Lemon	GT
x	Mike Therway	GSA	x	Nancy Blyler	USACE
x	Travis Hardy		x	Linda Zellmer	
x	Kevin Kirby	EPA	x	Justin Steckervetz	EPA
	Sheri Farrell			Charlie Adler	FAA
x	Jerry Johnston	EPA			

1) [CG Members in blue text](#) 2) Check box for meeting attendance.

Welcome and Introductions – *Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC*

Ivan welcomed the CG members and asked members to introduce themselves. He gave an overview of the agenda for the meeting and the presenters.

Previous Meeting Action Item Review – *Arista Maher, FGDC*

Actions were read out to the CG members.

FGDC Business and Secretariat Report – *Ken Shaffer, FGDC*

[\[Presentation\]](#)

An overview of the topics to be discussed in the Business Report was given.

It was announced at the National Geospatial Advisory Committee meeting in March that Secretary Ken Salazar will serve as the FGDC Chair.

Geospatial Line of Business – Lew Sanford (FGDC) gave an overview of the status on the Geospatial Line of Business, including the activities of the work groups.

The Grants and Contracts Work Group has been engaged at the Grants Policy Committee (GPC), and Lew is working with Mark Herbst and Ellen Angus at GPC to formulate requirements for grants policy. We are making progress in that area. Mark has promised to personally be involved in the process at this point.

Common Services Work Group – The WG has been working through multi-agency enterprise agreement requirements. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) were identified as a primary agency need in the survey and due to the breadth of the technology and options, requirements development is taking longer than anticipated. Requirements are continuing to be developed in concert with agencies.

Preliminary Analysis of Metadata Editors and Common Geocoding Services – The WG has worked through some options under metadata editors; the best way is to provide users updates and access to metadata editors that are already available, many for free.. It appears that there are a number of good quality products out there; the FGDC website will be updated, working through Sharon Shin (FGDC OS) to reflect this. The WG has communicated to some individuals

who had indicated that metadata editors were relevant to them, but they didn't realize FGDC maintained a list. Furthermore, the WG are beginning to work with HUD defining requirements for a common geocoding service. "Geocommons" is a cloud-based approach for common geocoding. The long-term approach being considered is to collect requirements for GPS servers. The WG recognizes that GPS devices fall into three categories around agency need: the need to get from Point A to Point B; scientific precision requirements; and military and/or intelligence capabilities. We are continuing to collect requirements and evaluate options to determine whether we can support acquisitions in this area. The WG have just started discussions with GSA leads to see if it will be productive to establish a BPA for GPS equipment and software. Anyone with expertise in GPS is encouraged to contact David Morehouse or Lew Sanford to help in this area. There was a cross-agency survey that served as the driver for this effort. The highest priority on the list related to GPS receivers, after metadata editors.. The FCC and FAA have an especially great need for GPS receivers.

The status of the GEB is that they have completed their development of the geo-enabling curriculum for agencies.

ACTION: The FGDC Secretariat will send out the URL for the ESRI article about the value proposition for geo-enabling government.

The Lifecycle Work Group efforts are putting forward a proposal for a reduction in the number of themes included in OMB Circular A-16 Appendix E. The WG is realizing that themes need to be better integrated than those currently listed in Circular A-16. The WG is recognizing that reducing the total number of themes in alignment with the total associated datasets is important. If the recommendation is that we want to reconfigure these data themes, it needs to be done in the near-term as part of the A-16 Supplemental Guidance revision. A slide showing the proposed OMB Circular A-16 themes and their associated NGDA datasets was shown.

It was proposed that the discussion around the Circular A-16 themes and associated datasets be continued at the May Coordination Group meeting.

National Geospatial Forum

The second National Geospatial Virtual Forum will be held sometime in May. It will be conducted virtually via the web and be open to anyone who wishes to participate. The focus will primarily be on place-based policy, but as the geospatial platform develops, it may be added as a topic of discussion as well. More information is forthcoming.

National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)

The NIEM Evaluation Request will be discussed in detail his afternoon.

National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)

The NGAC met at the end of March in Washington, DC. The newly-appointed members were welcomed to the Committee. Much of the meeting dealt with the new guidance that was provided to the NGAC outlining their areas of focus for the year. At the NGAC meeting, it was announced that DOI Secretary Ken Salazar will serve as the Chair of the FGDC. Andrew Jackson (DOI) presented at the NGAC meeting on the Secretary's priorities, especially with

regard to how they tie into geospatial policy. Adrienne Walker (OMB) and Kshemendra Paul (OMB) presented at the NGAC meeting on investment management concepts (portfolio management and segment architecture). The NGAC members discussed the Geospatial Platform as well; there was support and interest in the Platform. FGDC will be asking the NGAC for feedback on different aspects of the Platform as it moves forward.

Meeting materials from the March NGAC meeting are posted on the FGDC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac). The next meeting will take place at the end of June at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV.

FGDC Executive Committee

A recap of the Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting on March 18 will be given by Jerry Johnston (EPA), who is the Executive Committee Liaison to Coordination Group for today's meeting.

Tomorrow (April 14), there will be an Executive Committee Special Session on the Geospatial Platform, which will be held at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Washington, DC. During today's Federal Only session of the Coordination Group meeting, Ivan DeLoatch will give a presentation that has been put together as an overview of the Geospatial Platform paper – the same presentation which will be given at the Executive Committee session tomorrow. Tomorrow's afternoon session will be a joint session between Coordination Group and the Executive Committee. However, the morning session will be ExCom members only, and will focus on potential paths forward with the Platform. The discussion will be recapped in the afternoon for CG members, and CG members will be asked for their feedback on the Geospatial Platform.

myUSGS Web Tutorial – *Vaishal Sheth, FGDC*

[Presentation]

Vaishal Sheth (FGDC) gave an overview of the myUSGS site. This presentation is a follow-up to an action item that arose out of the last Coordination Group meeting for a tutorial on how to use myUSGS. This presentation was designed to address any questions that CG members might have on using the site.

myUSGS is an internal USGS collaborative site, based on open-source technologies. The site is capable of hosting various “communities”. There is an FGDC community on the site, but the overall site is maintained by the USGS Help Desk team. The FGDC community (consisting of Coordination Group, Executive Committee, and Steering Committee sites) is intended for federal members only; non-feds will need to be nominated by their Federal agency representative in order to receive access. Documents for meetings are posted to the myUSGS site prior to each meeting, and they are posted as soon as they are received. However, the myUSGS site is not a long-term repository for documents. Only materials from the latest few meetings are kept on the site.

The site is accessed via the URL my.usgs.gov. If you do not have an email address or password to access the site, please contact Vaishal Sheth (vsheth@fgdc.gov), and he will set up access through the USGS Help Desk.

A short tutorial of how to access the site and the various parts of the site was demonstrated via Power Point presentation. An overview of the navigation bar and the home page was given. Members were shown how to upload files to the space. There was an opportunity for CG participants to ask questions about different aspects of the site.

Vaishal noted that the myUSGS team hosts a WebEx tutorial session every Thursday for anyone interested in learning more about myUSGS. To get more information on how to participate, go to the myUSGS homepage and follow the link to the WebEx training.

Executive Committee Liaison Update – Jerry Johnston, EPA

Jerry Johnston (EPA) is representing the Executive Committee today as the Liaison to the Coordination Group. This is a new segment on the Coordination Group agenda that we have recently added, where a different representative from Executive Committee briefs the Coordination Group on activities the ExCom is currently working on. Jerry began the discussion by noting that this discussion's primary purpose is to facilitate better collaboration between the two groups and to take questions from the Coordination Group back to the ExCom.

- Jerry gave a recap of the March 18 ExCom Meeting. A good portion of the meeting was devoted to a talk given by Karen Siderelis (DOI, ExCom Chair) on plans for moving forward with the Geospatial Platform. The Platform was described as a portfolio of geospatial applications. There is a broad mandate for the Geospatial Platform. The slides from the Platform presentation will be shared with CG this afternoon.
- Steve Wallach (NGA) gave an update on Imagery for the Nation (IFTN), including a business case update and discussions on imagery licensing in relation to the Clear30 proposal.
- Stephen Lowe (USDA) discussed the business case meeting results, including the use of the NDOP to help provide input on the business case.
- There was also a Data.gov follow up discussion.
- Revisions to CFO Council document (A-16 Supplemental Guidance materials) were also discussed in the ExCom meeting. The intent of the white paper to the CFO Council is to be used as a tool to let them know what the FGDC would like to accomplish with the A-16 Supplemental Guidance. There was feedback from OMB in an informal review. There are plans in the works for a joint meeting between the CFOC and ExCom.
- There was a discussion about National Land Cover Change, an effort led by Dan Cotter (DHS). DHS is moving forward with an agency license. Jerry noted that EPA also has a strong need for this type of data, as well as other agencies. There was some discussion about using land cover change data sets as a model for A-16 Supplemental Guidance revisions.
- Stephen Lowe gave an update on the plans for the next FGDC Virtual Forum. They have been working on getting commitment from participants, including potentially high-level officials. The date for the Forum has been moved to May 2010. Bill Mullen (NGA) commented that the ExCom seems to be moving faster than the CG and sometimes without CG input. He asked how we can provide the CG better awareness of ExCom timelines and main issues. Jerry acknowledged that syncing activities is something we need to be better at, and that the ExCom Liaison discussion is a step forward. As far as tasking into actionable

items, Jerry noted that we are having the Data.gov discussion today in order to engage CG in this activity. The Liaison role is critical in maintaining that conversation, and we need to continue to keep this coordination in mind. The joint meeting that we are scheduling tomorrow to discuss plans for the Geospatial Platform is also a way to continue to build on coordination. Linda Zellmer commented that she is against the proposal to acquire land change data and not make it available to the general public. Jerry responded that DHS has an immediate operational need for this data, which is why they're moving forward on the license at this point. However, he noted that there are other options being explored for full federal licensing of land cover change data, as well as other public licensing options. It will cost money to make it happen.

Data.gov – Jerry Johnston, EPA

Jerry updated the CG on the recent activities of the Data.gov team. One of the tasks we have ahead of us is to get a large number of additional records registered into Data.gov. A metric of Data.gov is number of records in the catalog and isn't always the most useful from the users' perspective; however, the Administration has set thresholds for numbers of records that it wants. The geospatial community came through with data sets in a spectacular way, providing the target number of records. 165,000 of the records that have been provided to Data.gov are from the geospatial community. TIGER data from Census has been registered and has helped greatly in bolstering the number of datasets. OMB has been driving us to get the number of datasets up before the pending 1 year anniversary. Many in the geospatial community have been confused about how to upload their datasets. Rob Dollison and Jerry put together a guidance document for getting datasets registered into GOS and therefore into Data.gov. Rob walked through that document, which was made available on the myUSGS site, and was also sent around to members.

Jerry announced that there will likely be a "Geospatial Corner" on the Data.gov page, which will be used to discuss geospatial data and what users would like to see in relation to capabilities. This is currently being vetted through OMB.

The Data.gov team is working on releasing a prototype of a data visualization capability. There will be a request to CG membership to see whether there are suggestions on map-able/mash-able data on Data.gov. There are some last-minute issues being worked through on this to make it happen. If there are data sets that can be stood up with these capabilities, this is a good opportunity for agencies to submit them. This is a first step towards shared infrastructure. There is nothing ready to send out yet about how to get engaged, but something will be sent out shortly, so members are encouraged to look for that guidance.

Data.gov is still working toward increasing the number of data records before the one-year anniversary of Data.gov in May. The goal is to increase the number of records to an overall target total of 250,000.

Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA) noted that of the 153,000 datasets, only about 75,000 of them were in GOS, and only 35,000 were in Data.gov. She stated that we need to try to get more of these into Data.gov. Jerry added that a good best practice for geospatial datasets is to put in

keywords into datasets that include “NGDA (National Geospatial Data Assets),” which would provide an immediate way to support a search capability. Data.gov has now included site mapping, which links to Google searches. The team is working to optimize how we want our geospatially-enabled search results to come back.

Wendy said that we need to start thinking about naming conventions, including the possibility of tagging datasets with a variety of keywords to make them more easily searchable. Jerry agreed that guidance with respect to dataset naming conventions needs to be sent to the geospatial community, and will be done soon.

Doug Nebert (FGDC) commented that we need to solve the problems of granularity. In the Concept of Operations document, there are a number of metrics called out. He stressed that we need to start encouraging the registration of a data dictionary.

Bill Wilen (FWS) said that the Wetlands data is “all over the place;” is there a reason our data doesn’t show up in Data.gov? Jerry responded that, for better or for worse, right now, Data.gov is primarily about downloadable data. We are trying to make this data much more easily available to consumers, especially through services. As Doug pointed out, we need to break out of this mold and continue to make more services.

Tony LaVoi (NOAA) asked about file formats. He said that when Data.gov was originally released, it was limited in file formats, especially in relation to geodata. He asked whether the Data.gov team has tried to address this. Jerry replied that there has been a lot of progress away from the four or five initial file formats. The door is wide open. If someone has data in a file format that is useful to the geodata community, Jerry and Rob ask that they submit it to them and they will make sure it is added, to the extent to which they can be called open file formats. The only data allowed in the Data.gov catalog are those that are available for free download.

The updated guidance document on uploading went out last Thursday to all CG members. It will be re-posted to myUSGS as well. Rob Dollison offered to host a more detailed discussion on the guidance sometime later this week.

ACTION: The FGDC Secretariat will ensure that the most updated version of the Data.gov guidance document provided by Jerry Johnston and Rob Dollison will be posted to the myUSGS site.

ACTION: Rob Dollison will set up a WebEx discussion for CG members and others about Data.gov guidance for later this week.

Wetlands Subcommittee Report – *Bill Wilen, FWS*

[Presentation](#)

Bill Wilen gave a presentation on the Wetlands Subcommittee efforts. The Wetlands Mapping Standard was published recently. There was a news release published in conjunction with this, which included a quote from Secretary Ken Salazar.

The data standard developed data collection requirements. The state of Georgia was the first to adopt the Wetlands Mapping Standard to update all the wetlands in their 6 coastal counties. We need to ensure that those who are using federal dollars are using our standard.

The Implementation Plan is the umbrella under which the Wetlands Subcommittee will complete their annual work plan, which is dedicated to training. The National Wetlands Inventory Annual Report gave an overview of the uses of the NWI data in 2009 from all of their regions. The examples in the document are far-ranging and very important; we will continue to update with examples from other agencies on the Wetlands Subcommittee.

The objective of the Maintenance of the National Wetland Classification Standard effort is to put together a newly edited version of the standard. The Maintenance Report's next iteration is due out later this year.

There have been recent DOI Secretarial orders on climate change, and wetlands are particularly vulnerable to climate change. DOI is setting up landscape conservation cooperatives.

The www.fws.gov/wetlands website has an entire section on National Wetlands Infrastructure, which includes many documents. CG members are encouraged to visit this website.

Standards Survey Discussion – Ken Shaffer, FGDC

[Presentation](#)

Ken Shaffer (FGDC) gave a presentation on the Standards Survey results. A couple of months ago, the FGDC Standards Work Group asked for input on a survey regarding the standards process. This presentation reviews the results of that survey and the next steps necessary for improving the process. Two documents were presented as read-aheads: the presentation summarizing the survey results and the preliminary draft report. The status of the report is that it will need to go back to the Standards Work Group, for them to go ahead and make further recommendations. Julie Maitra (FGDC) has put together the preliminary analysis of the survey results in this presentation.

Ken explained the purpose and goal, background, and recommendations, all of which are available in the slides posted on the myUSGS site. The purpose of the undertaking was to make the FGDC standards process more effective and efficient, without compromising the validity of the process. The goal is to recommend where we want to be able to improve the process and revalidate some of the existing processes. The survey was implemented in December 2009; it mainly focused on CG members and FGDC Standards Work Group. There were approximately 70 responses to the survey; 37 responses were incomplete. A complete break-down of responses is available in the slide presentation. A snapshot of the survey responses by agency was presented to show the breadth of participation.

Some of the preliminary recommendations out of the survey findings included: setting guidance for target dates for completion of documents by standards development groups; taking an active role in project management and tracking; continue promoting public review through the Federal Register and other media; identifying coordinators/facilitators for projects; providing funding to

support resolution of public review comments; refer proposals for FGDC standards projects to the CG to determine whether a project is within scope; and revise FGDC standards directives to require a 14-day concurrent review by both the FGDC Standards WG and the Coordination Group.

The groups who are developing the standards need to step up in pushing their schedules to identify requirements, line up subject matter expertise, seek multiple agency sponsors or sponsorships for a proposed standard, and identify and document the business areas that will be impacted by a proposed standard. Organizations should also coordinate with the CG and Standards Work Group during all phases of the project. They should also seek dedicated project support such as facilitators/contractors; obtain agency commitment for standards development; promote public review within their Community of Interest (COI); and identify SMEs and dedicate FTEs for resolution of public review comments.

The FGDC member agencies should: participate in the FGDC standards review and approval process, if only to be aware of a project; participate in technical reviews if a standard affects their business area; perform an editorial review to maintain the highest administrative and processing quality of the standard; continue to promote awareness of FGDC standards among their agencies and their COIs.

Some of the snapshot views of each question response were presented via pie chart. Those were each discussed. The other summary results from the survey were included in the presentation and members were encouraged to visit the myUSGS site to view them in further detail.

ACTION: Wendy Blake-Coleman will send out the Quickr link for Lifecycle WG to CG members.

***** AFTERNOON: FED-ONLY SESSION *****