



**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 13, 2013
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT**

Location:

South Interior Building
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Room:

Auditorium

Agenda

1:00 – 1:10	Welcome and Introductory Remarks Leadership Update	<i>Anne Castle, DOI</i>
1:10 – 1:25	NSDI Strategic Plan	<i>Dan Cotter, DHS; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS</i>
1:25 – 1:35	A-16 Implementation Plan	<i>Adrian Gardner, NASA; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS</i>
1:35 – 1:50	Geospatial Platform	<i>Jerry Johnston, DOI</i>
1:50 – 2:10	NGAC Meeting Summary	<i>Robert Austin, Chair, NGAC</i>
2:10 – 3:00	Elevation Theme Report	<i>Mark DeMulder, USGS; Jeff Ferguson, NOAA</i>
3:00	Wrap up and Adjourn	



Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee Meeting ACTION ITEMS Through June 13, 2013

In Progress		
Lead:	Stephen Lowe, USDA	Action#: 20130319-01
Action:	A small work group of Steering Committee members will be formed to coordinate with OMB RMOs on budget coordination regarding geospatial data investments. Mr. Stephen Lowe (USDA) will lead this work group, along with participation from Mr. Joe Klimavicz (NOAA) and Mr. Dan Cotter (DHS).	
Contact:	Stephen Lowe, USDA, Stephen.Lowe@ocio.usda.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130319-02
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to contact Mr. Dan Cotter and Mr. Ivan DeLoatch with ideas or assistance regarding the development of the NSDI Strategic Plan.	
Contact:	Dan Cotter, DHS, daniel.cotter@hq.dhs.gov ; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130319-03
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to contact Mr. Adrian Gardner and Mr. Ivan DeLoatch with ideas or assistance regarding the development of the A-16 Implementation Plan.	
Contact:	Adrian Gardner, NASA, adrian.gardner@nasa.gov ; Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130613-01
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to provide their feedback on the first draft of the NSDI Strategic Plan by June 24, 2013.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20130613-02
Action:	Steering Committee members are asked to ensure that responses to the Presidential Management Council memorandum that was distributed to agency Deputy Secretaries are provided by the June 20, 2013 deadline.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:		

In Progress		
Lead:	Robert Austin, NGAC Chair	Action#: 20130613-03
Action:	Robert Austin will have a discussion with Ivan DeLoatch, Jerry Johnston, Dan Cotter and Scott Bernard regarding the next steps to be taken by NGAC on the emergency/first responder issue.	
Contact:	Robert Austin, NGAC Chair, Robert.Austin@tampagov.net	
Resolution/ Response:	The FGDC Executive Committee met with a representative of the FirstNet program. Discussions on how to proceed are ongoing. There will be a follow-up discussion on determining how to incorporate this topic as a potential study question on the FGDC guidance to NGAC.	



Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee Meeting MEETING MINUTES June 13, 2013

*Non-voting members denoted with an asterisk**

*Quorum = 2/3 of voting members. Voting members = 25 **Quorum**
= 16*

√	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization	√	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization
x	Anne Castle	FGDC Chair/ Department of Interior		Dat Tran	Department of Veterans Affairs
x	Scott Bernard	FGDC Vice Chair/ Office of Management and Budget		Harvey Simon	Environmental Protection Agency
x	Stephen Lowe	Department of Agriculture		Julius Knapp*	Federal Communications Commission*
x	Joseph Klimavicz	Department of Commerce		Angela Smith	General Services Administration
	Michele Motsko	Department of Defense		Ralph Ehrenberg	Library of Congress
	James Dalton*	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*	x	Adrian Gardner	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
	Jack Buckley	Department of Education		Paul Wester	National Archives and Records Administration
	TheAnne Gordon	Department of Energy		VACANT*	National Capital Planning Commission*
x	Keith Tucker	Department of Health and Human Services		VACANT	National Science Foundation
x	Dan Cotter	Department of Homeland Security		Darren Ash	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
x	Jean Pao	Department of Housing and Urban Development		VACANT	Office of Personnel Management
x	Jerry Johnston	Department of Interior		Deborah Anderson	Small Business Administration
	Nick Loulou	Department of Justice		VACANT	Smithsonian Institution
	VACANT	Department of Labor	x	Lew Sanford	Social Security Administration
	Cecelia Henderson	Department of State		Roy Teal	Tennessee Valley Authority
x	Patricia Hu	Department of Transportation		Carrie Stokes	U.S. Agency for International Development
	Jimmy Amoaka-Atta	Department of Treasury			

√	Steering Committee Alternate Members	Organization	√	Steering Committee Alternate Members	Organization
	Tony LaVoi	Department of Commerce	x	Steve Lewis	Department of Transportation
x	Jim Bjostad	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency		Pheakdey Lim	Department of Veterans' Affairs
x	Nancy Blyler	Department of Defense/USACE		Stuart Reiter	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
x	Donald Campbell	Federal Communications Commission		David Timmons	Social Security Administration
x	Teddy Dyer	Department of Energy	x	Autumn Wallin	General Services Administration
x	Butch Lazorchak	Library of Congress		Jim Young	Department of Treasury
	Other Attendees	Organization		Other Attendees	Organization
x	Robert Austin	NGAC Member/City of Tampa, FL	x	Arista Maher	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Wendy Blake-Coleman	Environmental Protection Agency	x	John Mahoney	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Ivan DeLoatch	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Jim Mauck	U.S. Geological Survey
x	Mark DeMulder	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Anne O'Connor	Census Bureau
x	Erin Engle	Library of Congress	x	Demien Rybock	U.S. Agency for International Development
x	Jeff Ferguson	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	x	Dave Saghy	U.S. Geological Survey
x	Tricia Gibbons	LEAD Alliance	x	Ken Shaffer	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Shawn Gravatt	FGDC Office of the Secretariat/COMSO	x	Vaishal Sheth	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Roxanne Lamb	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Tony Spicci	NGAC Member/State of Missouri
x	Garrett Lane	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	x	Gene Trobia	NGAC Member/State of Arizona
x	Vicki Lukas	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Bill Wilen	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Welcome and Introductory Remarks/Leadership Update - Anne Castle, DOI, Chair

Ms. Anne Castle, FGDC Chair and Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior (DOI), called the meeting to order and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves. Ms. Castle reviewed the agenda. Ms. Castle thanked Mr. Ivan DeLoatch and Mr. Dan Cotter for their efforts on drafting the NSDI Strategic Plan, a response to one of the recommendations in the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on coordination of Federal geospatial activities that was released last fall [(GAO-13-94): *Geospatial Information – OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication* (November 2012)]. She noted that the Steering Committee members would be hearing about the recent progress on each activity related to the GAO report recommendations (including the NSDI Strategic Plan, A-16 Implementation, and the Geospatial Platform) later on during the meeting.

The FGDC Secretariat met with representatives from the GAO in April 2013 to report on progress to date. Ms. Castle noted that there has been an incredible amount of activity over last five months in implementing the GAO recommendations within the FGDC Secretariat and among the other three agencies to whom recommendations were addressed. There has been real progress on providing better geospatial service to the public. A second GAO

inquiry has recently been requested by the same Senate committee that requested the first evaluation on duplication of effort. GAO has delayed the beginning of this second round of evaluations until possibly the end of calendar year 2013. Ms. Castle stated that she is not sure if this second evaluation will be targeted towards the same Federal agencies as before, or whether new agencies will be subject to scope of the review; that will become clear over the next several months. Ms. Castle told Steering Committee members to be prepared to receive additional inquiries along the same lines.

NSDI Strategic Plan – Dan Cotter, DHS

Mr. Dan Cotter provided an overview of the NSDI Strategic Plan. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to develop a concise, updated strategic plan to guide the Federal government’s activities toward the further development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The drivers affecting the development of the NSDI Strategic Plan include the OMB Circular A-16, the aforementioned GAO report, the NGAC paper: *Toward A National Geospatial Strategy* (December 2012), the digital government strategy, the open government directive, and the open data policy.

GAO’s recommendation relating to the NSDI Strategic Plan stated: *The Secretary of the Interior, as the FGDC Chair, direct the FGDC Steering Committee to establish a time frame for completing a plan to facilitate the implementation of OMB’s portfolio management guidance, and develop and implement the plan within the established time frame.* GAO emphasized that the strategic plan should include a vision statement for the NSDI; outcome-oriented goals and objectives that address all aspects of the NSDI; a description on how to achieve the goals and the resources needed; performance measures for achieving the goals; and external factors that might affect the achievement of the goals. On the last point, Mr. Cotter noted that the FGDC has received excellent insight from the wider geospatial community through dialogues with stakeholders.

The project team and partners were reviewed, including the executive sponsors, the project core team, and various groups both within the FGDC structure and externally that have provided valuable input on the Plan. It was noted that the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) has been very helpful in providing insight as well, most notably at the meeting that occurred on June 11 and 12. The NGAC provides a representative perspective of all aspects of the geospatial community (state government, local government, Federal government, private sector, academia, tribal government, etc.) The FGDC assigned a set of study questions to the NGAC prior to the meeting, and they were asked for feedback and insight. Mr. Cotter next reviewed the NGAC subcommittee assignments, stating that the subcommittees have produced very helpful work products.

The timeline for the completion of the NSDI Strategic Plan was presented. Mr. Cotter noted that much of the activity that has occurred so far has been on coordination with the wider geospatial community in order to obtain feedback on the first iteration of the Plan from a variety of perspectives. The Steering Committee is asked to provide feedback on the first draft of the NSDI Strategic Plan by June 24.

ACTION: Steering Committee members are asked to provide their feedback on the first draft of the NSDI Strategic Plan by June 24, 2013.

The next step is to develop the second draft version from the comments received, which will then be presented for public comment during July and August 2013. The NGAC and Steering Committee will review the second iteration of the document following the public comment period during their September 2013 meetings. The third and final draft version of the Strategic Plan will be subsequently developed and will proceed through final FGDC review in October and November, with a target completion date of December 2013.

The outline of the Strategic Plan was presented. The Plan includes sections on Introduction, Overview, Strategic Goals, and Implementation Strategy. Mr. Cotter noted that input from the Steering Committee is needed on whether the goals and objectives in the plan are appropriate. He reviewed each of the goals, noting that Goal 1 is a departure from past direction, where the FGDC focused on creating datasets; now, the focus of this goal is

creating some type of architecture that would support dataset availability. In partnership with the FGDC, NGA has an ongoing joint effort with the office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE) for reuse of existing architectural artifacts, including FICAM. They expect to have a draft report on the proposed reference architecture by the end of September.

Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan focuses on accountability and effective management of Federal geospatial resources. This is an important goal that requires clear understanding of the definition of national geospatial data assets. OMB Circular A-16, the portfolio management approach, the Federal open data policy, the Geospatial Platform, and other initiatives will be employed as part of the solution for achieving this goal. These tools can help identify duplicative investments and identify opportunities for collaborative investments.

Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan discusses the best approach for convening the right leaders from both the Federal geospatial community and the non-Federal geospatial community to develop shared approaches to data development, data's applications in solving critical national issues, and the development of standards. One of the major questions related to this goal is what the leadership role of the Federal government should be with respect to these efforts. The NGAC discussed this question in detail at the June meeting. They came to the conclusion that the Federal government should do all it can to facilitate and coordinate in order to achieve these goals, and should work in close coordination with State, local, and private partners.

Mr. Cotter noted that the Steering Committee's help is especially needed in terms of comments on the draft NSDI Strategic Plan. He stated that the team has focused on keeping the Plan as succinct as possible. He encouraged Steering Committee members to think in particular about how goals can best be achieved.

Mr. DeLoatch echoed the need for Steering Committee participation in commenting on document, stating that it presents a great opportunity to compile various agency perspectives. He emphasized that the NSDI can help SC members with agency mission responsibilities, and SC members' interests should be represented. The ultimate goal is a high-level document to be supplemented with action plans that will include more specific details on implementation.

Ms. Castle commented that the NSDI Strategic Plan is succinct, well written, and written towards a layperson audience. She strongly encouraged all Steering Committee member agencies to send comments back to improve the next iteration, and provided her thanks to all who worked on the first draft.

A-16 Implementation Plan – Adrian Gardner, NASA

Mr. Adrian Gardner provided an overview of the progress of the A-16 Implementation Plan, which aims to improve coordination and reduce duplication among data themes. Mr. Gardner thanked Ms. Castle and Mr. Bernard for their support, as well as the FGDC Secretariat, the Executive Committee, and Ms. Wendy Blake-Coleman. Mr. Gardner began by describing the recommendation from GAO regarding the implementation of a plan to facilitate the implementation of OMB's portfolio management guidance. Performance measures and annual reporting to OMB are components of this recommendation. The approach taken to address the GAO recommendation thus far is a team-based, phased approach. Phase 1 is to pre-select several early adopters (theme leads) and focus on best practices (e.g., today's presentation by NOAA and USGS on Elevation). Phase 2 is to select additional data themes and disseminate guidance and lessons learned based on best practices from the pilot. Phase 3 focuses on evaluation and review of progress, and Phase 4 is the operations and maintenance mode in which the approach is modified as needed based on evaluations. There is a need to regularly monitor in order to ensure the best implementation practices.

A memorandum was drafted via the President's Management Council (PMC), dated May 27, 2013. The memorandum was distributed to theme leads and Deputy Secretaries. One challenge identified by theme leads in early discussions was that they indicated there was not enough support from executive leadership to implement

guidance at a lower level. By reaching out to Deputy Secretaries, the memo seeks policy-level support for these efforts.

Validation of the portfolio management approach is a significant component of the A-16 Implementation Plan, and it is identified as the second action item. This action consists of identifying and documenting early adopters of portfolio management activities, and closely examining areas of interest regarding datasets. The focus is to make sure communities of interest are heard. The status of this action is a report out from Elevation team, which will occur at today's meeting. Subsequently, the next goal is to publish an implementation plan.

Action item 3, the dissemination of information and coordination of efforts, is ongoing. The Geospatial Platform and NSDI Strategic Plan factor into these efforts. The schedule for creating the implementation plan is aggressive, and Mr. Gardner told the SC members to expect an increase in activity over the next few weeks now that the PMC memo has been released. The updated timeline for the project was presented, including the milestone that the Implementation Plan will be developed and distributed in September 2013, and finalized a month later.

ACTION: Steering Committee members are asked to ensure that responses to the Presidential Management Council memorandum that was distributed to agency Deputy Secretaries are provided by the June 20, 2013 deadline.

Mr. Scott Bernard commented that he believes that in the development of the implementation plan, the team should emphasize the importance of the geospatial reference architecture that is being developed.

Geospatial Platform – Jerry Johnston, DOI

Dr. Jerry Johnston gave an update on recent activities and status of the Geospatial Platform initiative. The team identified a series of goals to facilitate the use of geospatial data and tools. In the past, efforts related to geospatial information focused on discovery, but there is now a need for the geospatial community to come together to leverage data and tools. A lot of progress has been made on the Data.gov catalog, which was recently released, thanks to efforts of the FGDC and others. There were two catalogs prior to this launch—a non-geospatially-enabled catalog and a geospatially-enabled one. The current catalog addresses geospatial requirements, as well as the requirements of those external to the geospatial community. One important measure of success of GeoPlatform.gov is how many people find something and reuse it on their websites, as the efforts have been focused on facilitating a culture of re-use. The team is working hard to organize content by communities and to manage content directly presented on the website. Each A-16 theme will have its own community space on GeoPlatform.gov, and the theme lead will be the lead content manager. An example of a cross-agency collaborative community was demonstrated. The NOAA-branded space on GeoPlatform was discussed.

Dr. Johnston then reviewed the current status of the Geospatial Platform, including recent efforts on content public content registration. The new catalog was released on May 23. It features a single sign-on capability via SAML for Geodata.gov, the Geospatial Platform, and all other related sites. The hosting services for GeoPlatform.gov are through a shared hosting environment. Through the GeoCloud “sandbox” initiative, the team has developed best practices and lessons learned about hosting in cloud environments. They will be using that knowledge to build offerings for geospatial cloud hosting in FY 14, pending availability of the award of the DOI contract. 10 vendors have been selected to build a menu of offerings to FGDC agency members. However, the award has been protested and a lawsuit has been filed. A resolution is expected soon.

The new capabilities of the GeoPlatform site were demonstrated. Dr. Johnston noted that it is a Drupal-based site, with source code being made available to the broader national and international community. The site interface may change, as the team has received some feedback from NGAC. The navigational features of the site were demonstrated, and it was noted that there will also be a developer section available on GeoPlatform.gov.

Dr. Johnston noted that bringing in Federal, state, local records into the Platform presented a policy challenge, and he thanked Mr. Scott Bernard (OMB) for assisting with this. Mr. Sean Zintel (FGDC OS/COMSO) and Ms. Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA) were thanked for their A-16 theme lead community contributions.

The National Blueways Initiative was shown as an example of a community on the GeoPlatform site. The site's marketplace function, where agencies can create "planned acquisition" metadata records, will be organized by theme, and will be searchable. There is potential for turning this into the "Craigslist for data." The July 2013 release will have simple functionality on the marketplace; he noted that the team is looking for further input on the marketplace function later in the fall. He noted that the next release is anticipated to "go live" on July 8.

At the upcoming ESRI User Conference during the week of July 8, there will be a Thursday, July 11 session on the Geospatial Platform at 1 pm. Mr. Butch Lazorchak and his Library of Congress colleagues may do a presentation on the Platform to the digital preservation community as well. Dr. Johnston noted that he is happy to present tailored presentations to specific groups if requested.

NGAC Meeting Summary – Robert Austin, Chair, NGAC

Dr. Robert Austin provided a summary of the NGAC meeting that was held on June 11-12, 2013. He began by noting that local and county governments have high quality geospatially-enabled data that can be used to improve data access around the country.

Dr. Austin reviewed the agenda of the NGAC meeting. The meeting began with a leadership dialogue featuring Chair Anne Castle, Mr. Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC OS), and Mr. Scott Bernard (OMB). FGDC Executive Committee (ExCom) members spoke about their perceptions of the contributions NGAC could make to the FGDC and the geospatial community as a whole.

Dr. Austin noted that the April 2013 meeting—the first meeting with the new group of appointees-- was held as a webinar, due to budget constraints. At both that meeting and the June meeting, the NSDI Strategic Plan was discussed in detail. During the June meeting, the NGAC members broke out into discussion groups to discuss the Strategic Plan, resulting in a set of comments and feedback on the document. Furthermore, there was a report on the current status and recent activities of the Geospatial Platform. The Landsat Advisory Group (LAG), a subcommittee within NGAC, reported out on the successful launch and turnover of Landsat 8 and their recommendations for the future of the Landsat program.

Additionally, the NGAC held several "lightning sessions" throughout their meeting this week, which were quick presentations about significant geospatial efforts in which NGAC members are participating. Transportation for the Nation (TFTN), address data, health GIS, flood mapping models, USDA Indian county land title mapping, and other items were discussed as part of the lightning sessions. Address data for emergency response was a particularly interesting issue that was presented as part of the lightning sessions, and might be an area where the NGAC can provide some additional guidance to FGDC.

ACTION: Robert Austin will have a discussion with Ivan DeLoatch, Jerry Johnston, Dan Cotter and Scott Bernard regarding the next steps to be taken by NGAC on the emergency/first responder issue.

Dr. Austin stated that the next NGAC meeting will take place on September 4-5, 2013 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV.

Elevation Theme Report – Mark DeMulder, USGS; Jeff Ferguson, NOAA

Mr. Mark DeMulder (USGS) and Mr. Jeff Ferguson (NOAA) reported on the Elevation Theme, one of the 16 themes established through the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance. The definition of the theme, theme name, and lead agencies were described. The definition comes from the official OMB Circular A-16

Supplemental Guidance document. The attachment to the recently distributed PMC memo also asks agencies to identify an Executive Champion, theme lead, and NGDA datasets. The theme leads are in the process of evaluating datasets for appropriateness as NGDAs. The national elevation dataset is one of the main focuses of the Elevation theme, and Mr. DeMulder described in great detail the coordination within and external to the Federal government regarding the National Elevation Dataset and 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). He noted that the 3DEP Executive Forum was established to provide leadership of the terrestrial aspects of the theme. There is also an existing working-level coordination group – the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP). Mr. DeMulder stated that he is excited about the opportunity to use the Geospatial Platform in a variety of ways. They are working on developing a community of interest through the NDEP and 3DEP websites, as well as the Geospatial Platform/Marketplace, and the NOAA, FEMA, and USGS inventory sites.

Mr. DeMulder stated that they are evaluating datasets for currency as part of their theme lead responsibilities. The National Elevation Dataset's Terrestrial Elevation map was shown as an example of a thorough dataset evaluation. The various aspects of the theme were defined. 3DEP program data assets have been provided as services for use in the Geospatial Platform. They are moving from an opportunistic acquisition strategy to a more strategic acquisition strategy. The managed workflow for the dataset was reviewed. The various business uses of elevation data were described. He noted that archiving is a big responsibility, and that they must preserve elevation data through both USGS capabilities and NARA capabilities.

Mr. Jeff Ferguson gave an update on the bathymetric component of the elevation data theme. The theme currently has five specific data sets. The executive champion and other leadership and coordination structure for the theme were explained. Mr. Ferguson noted that they are working on leveraging IOCM reporting for A-16 Implementation reporting. Hydrographic surveys in support of nautical charting are a large part of the bathymetric elevation theme; these datasets are strongly represented in the elevation theme. The economic benefits of bathymetric elevation data were discussed based on a 3-month study on the use of archived multi-beam data. There are 7 NGDAs that are currently a part of the Bathymetric Elevation Theme. Making this data available is the highest priority, and both NOAA and USGS have a long history of making data available to Federal and public users. Finally, Mr. Ferguson briefly reviewed the Interagency Elevation Inventory, which is an ongoing collaborative effort between NOAA, USGS, and FEMA on elevation data.

Wrap-Up Discussion – Anne Castle, DOI

Ms. Castle reviewed the major actions and decisions from the meeting, discussed next steps, and adjourned the meeting.

Adjourn