



North Carolina
Geographic Information Coordinating Council
• Federal Interagency Committee

MINUTES
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE (FIC) Meeting
Thursday, April 29, 2010

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge
708 N. Hwy 64
Manteo, N.C. 27954
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Doug Newcomb, Vice Chairman at 9:00 AM and introductions were made around the room and with those on the phone. Presentations and discussions followed.

Members in attendance:

Doug Newcomb, USFWS – Vice Chairman
Laura Pickens – NPS
Katy McCurdy – NPS
Chad Ferguson – USDA/NRCS
Steve Strader - USGS/NGPO – Secretary (phone)
Matt Duvall – USDS/NRCS (phone)
Mark Crane – USDA/APHIS (phone)
Silvia Terziotti – USGS/WRD (phone)
Drew Pilant – EPA (phone)
Leah Schwizer – DHS (phone) (presenter)
David Wiggins – Census (phone)
Linda Wayne – FGDC/GeoMaxim (phone)
Holly Hixson - USFS (phone)
David Arnold – USGS/NGTOC (phone)
William Beatty - FHWA (phone)
Robert Newton - NOAA (phone)
John Warner - USGS (phone) (presenter)
David Wyatt – Eastern Band of Cherokee (phone)
Scott Lokken – NOAA/NGS (phone)

Guests:

Tim Johnson – NC CGIA, Raleigh, NC (phone)

CGIA Staff Representative:

Jeff Brown, NC CGIA, Raleigh, NC (phone) *for* Tom Tribble, NC CGIA, Asheville, NC

Program

- a) Presentation by Ms. Leah Schwizer, Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Booz-Allen-Hamilton (BAH) on **“Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) to the Regions: Leveraging the HIFLD Model for Regional Information Sharing Partnerships.”**
 - Ms. Schwizer provided a high level overview of the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) program structure, activities, and direction which began as a Federal response to the events of September 11, 2001 with three (3) organizations within the Department of Defense (DoD). The newly formed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) joined in Phase 2, and many other Federal agencies and private sector companies became partners in Phase 3, joining the HIFLD working group to collaborate on collecting geospatial data holdings in support of homeland defense and making these data part of the Homeland Security Infrastructure Protection (HSIP) database. Geospatial data products of the HSIP database consist of HSIP Gold, a data collection available only to Federal users and HSIP Freedom, a smaller geospatial data subset of HSIP Gold that is available to state and local government users in support of homeland security. HIFLD to the Regions (HTTR) consists of eight (8) regions aligned with the DHS Protective Security Advisors (PSAs) for each region. States in each region are represented by State Protective Security Advisors (SPSAs) who work closely with HTTR staff on data and program priorities. The southeast region includes NC, SC, GA, FL, and TN. HTTR staff in each region includes both Geospatial Analysts (GAs) and Information Exchange Brokers (IEBs). The GA position is more incident and product development oriented with a strong GIS and mapping background while the IEB position is more geospatial data collection, availability and coordination oriented with strong collaboration requirements among federal, state, and local government organizations

DHS has developed a web-based geospatial information sharing system, Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), which includes 1) a knowledge base in law enforcement, emergency management, critical infrastructure, international affairs, and intelligence analysis, 2) information from and for all sectors of federal, state, local, and international government, 3) geospatial data applications and data (HSIP Freedom) in the GIS Community of Interest, and 4) pages for incident reports, common operating picture, information sharing, collaboration, products, and announcements. The geospatial data applications include 1) the Integrated Common analytical Viewer (iCAV), 2) a next generation iCAV with enhanced capabilities, 3) DHS Earth with data from iCAV in the Google Earth environment, 4) tools for infrastructure data taxonomy, baseline elements of information, and a geospatial data model. Access to and information about iCAV Next Generation and DHS Earth can be found at <https://icav.dhs.gov>

Ms. Schwizer's power point presentation is available on the FIC website at <http://www.ncgicc.org/Committees/FederalInteragencyCommitteeFIC/tabid/295/Default.aspx> She can be contacted at Schwizer_Leah@bah.com

ACTION: Approach the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) about Ms Schwizer doing a presentation/demonstration on HIFLD at a future quarterly meeting with a possible presentation to the Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC) to follow. (Strader)

- b) Presentation by Mr. John C. Warner, USGS – Woods Hole, MA on the **“Carolinas Coastal Change Processes (CCCP) Project.”** The project, which is a continuation of earlier research, has four main goals: 1) develop sub-regional and regional scale understanding of coastal change processes, 2) quantify the interactions between the geology and physical processes involved in coastal behavior, 3) improve prediction capabilities for coastal change and hazards vulnerability, and 4) provide a regional perspective of coastal change processes in the Carolinas using observations, modeling and sea floor mapping. An earlier project, the **“USGS North Carolina Coastal Geology Cooperative Project”**, delineated the geologic framework of northeastern North Carolina, taking a holistic look at estuaries, barrier islands, and the continental shelf. Understanding the physical processes driving coastal evolution and predicting coastal response to ocean and climate forces over time were program objectives. The science included mapping a) the inner shelf and nearshore, b) backbarrier areas and c) the barrier islands and studying shoreline change processes using SWASH and other models, LIDAR, and aerial photography. Understanding the underlying and offshore geology, and the processes that interact on top of that geology helps to clarify issues like the variable coastal erosion along the NC Outer Banks such as at Kitty Hawk. In view of sea level rise and the forces in action at the NC coast, thru testable geologic studies and modeling it is possible to predict future scenarios for the NC coastal region. Mr. Warner became closely involved in the follow-on CCCP project when a coastal erosion study was undertaken, looking in particular at the capes and shoals of the NC coastal area, Cape Hatteras and Diamond Shoals in particular. Thru collections of bathymetric data for Diamond Shoals, nearshore field experiments, offshore data collection, photography collection from Cape Hatteras lighthouse, use of radar, dye studies, and beach surveys, the researchers were better able to understand the forces and processes at work in the Cape Hatteras/Diamond Shoals area that produces the coastal and offshore structures evident in that area, effecting coastal change thru sediment transport.

Further information about the project from USGS is available at <http://woodshole.er.usgs.gov/project-pages/cccp/> Mr. Warner can be contacted at jcwarner@usgs.gov

A full power point of this presentation is available on the FIC website at <http://www.ncgicc.org/Committees/FederalInteragencyCommitteeFIC/tabid/295/Default.aspx>

c) Report from Tim Johnson, Director, NC CGIA

NC OneMap – At the direction of the GICC, CGIA is involved in an effort to update the technical infrastructure and to address the vision and characteristics of NC OneMap. Work thus far relative to the vision and characteristics of NC OneMap have largely reaffirmed the attributes associated with the application in 2003. The idea of supplying free data in the public domain, built on standards, and using partnerships to build and implement are still some of the drivers behind the effort. Evaluation of the data layers that are most important to the state today have been reviewed and updated to meet the current needs and requirements along with looking at new requirements for NC OneMap. The at-large geospatial community in the state will be asked to provide input to the additional requirement. Additionally, CGIA has been busy improving download capabilities and improving overall performance, etc. to help NC OneMap operate more efficiently and effectively in the future.

FIC Work Plan Development – To support the GICC mission and its requirement to provide the Governor and General Assembly with an annual report each year, the plan is for committees of the GICC, including the FIC, to develop a yearly work plan that lays out the objectives and goals of the committee in the coming year. The work plan is not expected to be detailed and exhaustive but will reflect objectives that have achievable goals and results. The FIC will be working with CGIA on this work plan development.

FIC Chair Update – two nominees have been submitted to the Governor's Office for consideration as the new Federal representative to the GICC and the Chair of the FIC. Changes to the ethics laws in the state have created some additional requirements in the applications process which have been addressed. It is hoped a selection will be made by the end of May 2010.

FGDC CAP Grant Awards, Categories 5 & 7 – NC received two awards in FY 2010.

The Category 5 CAP Grant award, led by CGIA, is for the development and incorporation of a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis capability to support projects in the state. Multiple state agencies are involved in this grant project. An ILT transportation planning project in Lenoir County, NC is being used to develop this ROI capability. ROI analysis will allow project proponents to go thru a structured project analysis and accurately report on tangible costs and benefits for a project. This capability could become standard procedure for all state GIS projects in the future.

The Category 7 CAP Grant award, led by the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (EC COG), is for the development/implementation of a data transformation tool to allow county and municipal transportation data to be transformed to a state specification that supports a seamless statewide transportation database. The Working Group for Roads and Transportation is working with EC COG on this project, and a parallel effort by the Working Group for Seamless Parcels is also involved because of the parallel needs of their statewide parcels project with EPA.

Statewide Ortho Project – the statewide collection of ortho imagery based on the standard for ortho imagery from the Land Records Management Office was completed during the winter 2010. CGIA is working with the NC Geodetic Survey (NCGS) and the Geospatial Technology Management Office (GTMO), North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) to manage the project. Updates to the CORS sites across the state were undertaken, the imagery AT processing is underway, quality control review will occur later this year with delivery to the state by late Dec 2010 or early Jan 2011. Imagery will be available thru NC OneMap and each county will receive a portable hard drive with imagery for their county on it by April 2011.

2011 NC GIS Conference – the conference will be held on Feb 16-18, 2011 at the Raleigh Convention Center with the Marriott Hotel as the host hotel. Final agreements with the convention center and hotel are nearly complete. Feb 16 will be for workshops and Feb 17-18 will be for conference presentations, exhibits, etc. There will likely be a small increase in the conference registration fee for 2011. The program committee, headed by Tom Tribble (CGIA) and Anne Payne (Wake County GIS), will start meeting on May 7.

Mr. Johnson can be contacted at Tim.Johnson@nc.gov

d) Agency Reports - All

NPS: (Laura Pickens) – a new GIS tech, Katy McCurdy, has joined Laura at NPS and works out of Buxton, NC. This is the first time that NPS Hatteras has had a permanent GIS staff. Currently, an ORV management plan is under public review and a general management plan review will start this winter.

USDA/NRCS: (Chad Ferguson) – Spatial data updates for Warren county have been posted with Mecklenburg, Iredell and Buncombe counties to follow soon. (Matt Duvall) Matt explained that Chad is handling the soils work in NC for NRCS and that he, Matt, is focusing on voluntary natural resource conservation service on private land. Having two GIS specialists for NC now allows this to happen.

The NRCS GPS fleet has been upgraded thru training and is engaged in remote sensing easement monitoring for wetland and grassland reserve programs.

The 2007 NRI data (non spatial) was released in late April. Contact Matt for information.

USDA/APHIS: (Mark Crane) – APHIS is involved in plant protection and quarantine. Marks group provides GIS support in 28 states east of the Mississippi River in providing agriculture with protection from plant pests. They are a data consumer, but produce little to no data for public consumption.

Mark will be asked to do a presentation to the FIC in future so we have a better sense of their activities.

USFWS – (Doug Newcomb) – Funding for NWI classification updates in some coastal counties (Albemarle Peninsula, the Roanoke Refuge, Lake Mattamuskeet, Swan Quarter, and Cedar Island areas. Cape Lookout to the SC border will follow as money is available. Testing the utility of SAR data for NWI updating is ongoing.

The new coordinator for the SE LCC is Ken McDermond from Sacramento, CA, working out of Raleigh, NC.

DHS: (Leah Schwizer) – 2010 HSIP Gold DVD is currently published and the HSIP Freedom DVD should be available in a couple of months for those who work with state and local government in NC.

USGS/WRD: (Silvia Terziotti) – Expanding StreamStats Program in NC this summer. More of the state will be online by December 2010.

USGS/NGPO: (Steve Strader) – on schedule for US Topo in late May 2010. Maps will be available thru <http://store.usgs.gov>

I am asking state and federal agencies to supply input with areas of interest (paragraph and map/shape file), reasons for importance, etc. for a possible LIDAR funding initiative in FY 2012. This is only a possibility at this point but NGPO-Raleigh would like to submit a proposal by late summer/early fall with NC LIDAR interests addressed.

USGS/NGTOC: (Dave Arnold) – NHD POC coordinator for Region 5 which includes NC. NHD and WBD database integration is reaching a conclusion. GNIS integration with the NHD database should happen this year also so that NHD edits will go to GNIS directly.

EPA: (Drew Pilant - Raleigh) – The EPA Ecosystems Services Research Program (ESRP) has a place-based component centered on the Albemarle/Pamlico Watershed. The focus of the Albemarle-Pamlico Watershed Study (APWS) is understanding the impacts of reactive nitrogen on estuarine and aquatic ecosystem services, and the role of wetlands in mitigating nitrogen impacts. A related ESRP project is developing a digital National Atlas of Ecosystem Services.

The EPA Regional Vulnerability Assessment (ReVA) program (<http://epa.gov/rev/>) conducts research on innovative approaches to the evaluation and integration of large and complex datasets and models to assess current conditions and likely outcomes of environmental decisions, including alternative futures. The ReVA team has developed an Environmental Decision Toolkit (EDT) (<http://amethyst.epa.gov/revatoolkit/Welcome.jsp>) to help environmental decision makers analyze and integrate multiple data sets.

EPA is analyzing NASA UAVSAR L-band polarimetric synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data collected over eastern North Carolina (<http://uavsar.jpl.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/data.pl>) to study landcover, wetlands, biomass and soil properties.

USFS: (Holly Hixson - Asheville) – Kansas City is the location for new server farm where NC data will be housed.

The agency would be very interested in a 1 meter LIDAR collection and will provide NGPO with input on 2012 LIDAR needs. Subjects of interest for LIDAR use are endangered species, archaeological sites, vegetation questions, etc. LIDAR would improve capabilities of the traditional methods.

CENSUS: (David Wiggins - Charlotte) – Call 1-866-872-6868 for census questionnaires and questions. Follow-up by census field personnel to census questionnaires for the 28% non-respondents to the 2010 census will begin in May. David is heavily involved in boundaries updates at the moment. State totals are due out Dec 31, 2010. Smaller area data and tiger files to use for redistricting are due in the spring with other data following that.

FGDC/GeoMaxim: (Linda Wayne - Asheville) – comments on the addressing standard can be submitted until mid-June.

A new document, Preparing for International Metadata, gives some background about the development of a North American profile from the ISO Metadata Standard. Document is available at the FGDC Metadata Working Group site and will move under FGDC Metadata Publications in the next couple of weeks.

Metadata and training points of contact (POC) in each state are being updated. Jeff Brown, CGIA is the training POC and David Giordano, CGIA is the metadata POC for NC.

In response to a question about non-proprietary metadata editor tools, the FGDC Metadata Website, under Tools, has a listing of metadata editor tools. TKME is a good one, EPA has a FGDC compliant editor tool, Mermaid from NOAA is another good one.

NOAA/SE Region Habitat Conservation Division: (Robert Newton) – Currently involved in the development of a hydro power relicensing project model for the comprehensive licensing of hydro power dams in the SE Region. Looking at the dams in the SE region thru the National Inventory of Dams (USACE) and other sources, combined with information from the Federal Energy Relicensing Commission (FERC), to set priorities on dams to address first and using other data and info such as NHD/NHDPlus to evaluate dam effects on habitat. It was pointed out the state has a dam inspection database that might be of use in this effort as it has smaller dams not necessarily collected in the national database. Multiple sources for dam information

CGIA: (Jeff Brown) – Check the GIS in NC: Who/What/Where site at NC OneMap. It has local GIS contacts, city list in work, federal could be posted on NC OneMap, etc.

2007 CAP Grant for US National Grid implementation is finished. Information and training hints are available thru NC OneMap.

e) New Business

Tom Tribble, CGIA will be working with the FIC EC meeting on the FIC workplan.

No dates set for next FIC meetings

The FIC meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.