

SGUC Executive Committee

Minutes

January 26, 2012

**New Hope Center, 4101 Capital Blvd, Raleigh NC
Conference Room #132 from 10:30 am until 12:00 pm**

Attending: John Farley, Dianne Enright, Tom Morgan, Dan Madding, Anna Stefanowicz and Kim Sparks (WRC), Sean McGuire, Allan Sandoval, Rob Raegner and Robert Shuler (Office of State Fire Marshall for Mike Hejduk), Jeff Brown and on the phone, Mark Voss.

1. Emergency Response and Geospatial Data

John explained that recent events (tornado and hurricane) have highlighted the value of working on coordination of data. Agencies shared information successfully, but it was after the fact. Planning and being proactive would be valuable.

John added that there were requests from agencies for NCDOT to fly a wider area than the transportation corridor after Hurricane Irene. Planning could enable those requests to be anticipated and approved. DOT's concerns are localized along highway corridors, but capturing more area in a single flight (NCDOT aircraft) would be efficient. Wildlife Resources Commission, for example, had interest in imagery over wildlife locations. While there need not be formal agreements, a plan would be valuable.

John pointed out that NCDOT was able to leverage imagery publication and data access (CGIA and NC OneMap imagery server) quickly to the benefit of many users.

John described lessons learned from the tornado response that were applied to Irene. Publishing imagery within 24 hours is achievable. For NCDOT, the imagery was invaluable for analysis of the road network, response to damage, and debris pick-up operations. NCDOT wishes to leverage data for wider benefit.

Dan explained a requirement from NC Agriculture for post-event aerials for inspection and damage assessment, accessible within 48 hours of an event. Dan would like to submit latitude / longitude locations for inclusion in a flight plan.

More discussion of how to accommodate needs of other agencies led to an outline of an approach:

- Identify a process to inform the flight planning of NCDOT Photogrammetry Unit, including specific information required, who to contact and how to contact;
- Confirm a process for modifying a flight plan within NCDOT;
- Identify costs if any, and source of reimbursement if any (NCEM and declarations are key to this);
- Agree on a standard procedure to apply to imagery acquisition (not scenarios or specific workflows; focus on flight plan modifications)
- Coordination with NCEM is essential

Rob Raegner noted that the Office of the State Fire Marshall was involved in assessing forest resources via flights in Civil Air Patrol planes. He pointed out that imagery is helpful to the people on the ground to get to the problem areas. Some roads were not passable. He took photographs from the plane. Emily Young with NCEM was also on the plane. After an event, OSFM also does engineering assessments (residential and commercial structures) that involve assignments to work teams. Knowing the key areas before they go out in the field (and not having to rely on the very busy county emergency management operations for information) would save time. He explained that street addresses and hardcopy maps are more useful than coordinates and computers in the field.

Dan has a GPS enabled camera that relies on the operator to capture the locations of photos. Dan sends photos to Hope Morgan with coordinates. The Civil Air Patrol has the same capabilities. Also, the State Highway Patrol operates a video camera (without geospatial reference) from aircraft.

Sean added that imagery or information derived from imagery is valuable for coastal management. There was federal imagery acquisition, too, by NOAA. John noted that NOAA flew quickly, shared its imagery quickly, and communicated well.

Dan reminded that group that WebEOC is a tool for communication during an event. Tom emphasized the value of having vital information accessible through a website during response and recovery.

John began a discussion of Cloud resources in the context of emergency response. NCDOT will use ArcGIS online for data (beta testing). This has potential for carving out a portal and granting access to state users for emergency response. Functions would include services and downloadable data. John explained that the difference between this Cloud approach and the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal is that the end user controls the data, there are no servers to tend, and no software to manage. For a specific event, there could be imagery and shapefiles of damage areas; a blog; draft datasets; and map creation on the fly. Data could be consumed on a tablet using iPad or Android. John will explore implications of ArcGIS online for the state's enterprise license.

2. Membership – John Farley nominated Anna Stefanowicz, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, to be a member of the Executive Committee appointed from the general membership. WRC is part of DENR, but has distinct responsibilities, is managing licenses under the Enterprise License Agreement, and has participated in coordination activities over the years. Anna has been with WRC for five years and worked for South Carolina's DOT before that. The vote was unanimous in favor. John welcomed Anna as a member of the Committee.

3. Funding Request from the GICC

John explained the current situation. Lee Mandell and the Management & Operations Committee (M&O) have been looking for stable funding for NC OneMap and CGIA. As part of the GICC Annual Report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology (1/5/12), Lee proposed that 2.5 percent of an excise tax on land conveyance (deed transfer) be assigned to CGIA.

Tom noted that a year ago, Lee proposed an increase in fees associated with land conveyance to the IT Oversight Committee but the concept was not well received.

The group discussed an email from DENR's GICC member, Mary Penny Thompson, who strongly disapproved of the proposed approach, pointing out that the percent going to CGIA/NC OneMap would be taken out of the percent allocated to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund and the State Parks Trust Fund. The overall fees would not increase, but would be divided among three programs instead of two.

SGUC members expressed concern about a proposal on behalf of one state agency that affects another state agency (DENR in this case). With no prospect of new revenue for agencies, someone loses in any reallocation. In this case, in addition to DENR, Dan pointed out that NC Agriculture's Plant Conservation Program benefits from land acquisition funded by the Natural Heritage Trust Fund.

John explained that the M&O agreed that funding is needed and should be proposed to the IT Oversight Committee, but the specific effect on other programs was not apparent to John.

In the latest M&O meeting (1/23), Lee asked John to urge SGUC members to join a group to find a revenue stream for NC OneMap and to join a discussion of possible solutions at the next GICC meeting (Feb. 8). John added that he encourages discussion and analysis of issues and solutions within SGUC.

Dan requested details about NC OneMap and what potential funding would support. He urged consultation with state agencies to find common approaches and common benefits.

4. Seamless Parcels and Road Centerlines

Tom reported that the Working Group for Roads and Transportation (WGRT) has engaged a contractor (the Carbon Project) and the project is underway. Regarding the Working Group for Seamless Parcels (WGSP), the State Chief Information Officer has agreed to take responsibility for the EPA grant that was awarded to DENR if EPA agrees with the transfer. EPA is reviewing if the grant can be transferred to another agency (it was a competitive grant). A proposal to modify the approach to building tools for an EPA exchange node was submitted to EPA, as well as documents to justify a sole source set of contractors (Carbon Project and Nancy von Meyer). John Farley and Tom Morgan are willing to monitor the technical work of the contractors. CGIA is willing to do contract administration on behalf of the SCIO. Software would be managed by the vendor. DENR will need to approve an approach and enable a node.

Regarding cadastral data, Dan has a data dictionary for 90 some counties (the attributes submitted by county, updated annually). He creates a compilation of parcels that is all but statewide and shares it with NCEM and other state GIS users.

Even though some dataset fields change annually, this would be valuable to the WGSP project. This is an example where data content standards would be valuable.

5. Review datasets managed by state agencies that are discoverable in the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal

Jeff explained current work by the NC OneMap Governance Committee to describe the most useful statewide geospatial datasets. There are 31 themes identified by users last year. Descriptors are those listed in the GIS Implementation Study. He will ask some of the state agencies to confirm the information compiled to date and fill in a few blanks. John asked Jeff to share a digital copy of the table and sample descriptions.

Jeff noted that recent additions to discoverable datasets through the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal include gas stations, and NAIP imagery (services from multiple years and in true color and color infrared). Dan added that gas station locations are very useful in emergency response, and his staff is identifying gas stations with power generators.

6. The Cloud

As John noted earlier in the meeting, NC DOT is exploring ArcGIS online for organizations. He will look into ELA issues and pricing.

7. Planning for General Meeting scheduled for February 16, 2012

The following items were suggested for the General Meeting:

- Demonstration of an application of Google Earth Globe to access detailed soils information (Dan Madding).
- An update on the NC base map and a review of data custodians for the layers assembled (John Farley and David Giordano)
- Demonstration of ArcGIS online for organizations (John Farley)
- Managing geospatial data for county boundaries and new Geodetic Survey website functions (Gary Thompson)
- Update and explanation of datum and realizations for geospatial datasets (including imagery) (Gary Thompson)

Regarding the soils online, Dan provided more information after the meeting: NRCS announced the release of a new application (SoilWeb) that combines online soil survey information with the GPS capabilities of smart phones. See <http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/02/03/a-smartphone-app-provides-new-way-to-access-soil-survey-information/>

8. Mid-year Review of the Committee Work Plan

Looking at the 2011-2012 Work Plan for SGUC, the committee accomplished a task of informing members about GISP requirements and opportunities. For the task of making more data discoverable through the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal, NAIP imagery and gas stations were added by NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. Ongoing tasks are being fulfilled.

An additional task related to data sharing during emergencies will be added for this year.

9. Announcements and Closing Remarks

On the topic of the state's Enterprise License Agreement (ELA), Dan pointed out that the Division of Forest Resources moved to the Department of Agriculture, bringing many GIS users along. DHHS will have more licenses now that Environmental Health moved from DENR to DHHS. Commerce now has more users after the addition of NC Broadband Mapping and the Employment Security Commission. DENR will have fewer licenses in the coming year.

Jeff will take this request to ITS (who manages the ELA): Please start the process of obtaining license inventories and estimating agency costs as soon as practical so that departments will know the costs by April 1 for budgeting decisions. For example, Agriculture, given the potential impact on its costs, may opt out of the ELA if costs are unknown. Last year, the process took place in May and June. Earlier is needed.

Mark and Dan pointed out that agencies may have some flexibility in licensing considering that individual laptop licenses are less relevant in the new ArcGIS 10 software. Concurrent license managers come into play. Agencies need to consider who requires single-use Arc Editor and who would be well served by other ArcGIS solutions.

Dianne reminded the group that plenty of ArcGIS virtual training credits are available for version 10. The points of contact are the department GIS coordinators.