

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 15-16, 2008

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held its third public meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 15, 2008 and from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on October 16, 2008. 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:

Anne Hale Miglarese (NGAC Chair)
Steven Wallach (NGAC Vice-Chair)
Sean Ahearn
Timothy M. Bull Bennett
Michael Byrne
Allen Carroll
David Cowen
Donald Dittmar
Dennis Goreham
Kass Green
Randy Johnson
Randall Johnson
Jerry Johnston
Barney Krucoff
Timothy Loewenstein
David Maune
Charles Mondello
Zsolt Nagy
Kim Nelson
Matthew O'Connell
John Palatiello
Jay Parrish
Eugene Schiller
Chris Tucker (via teleconference)

Ivan DeLoatch, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the NGAC, was also in attendance.

NGAC Members not present:

Jack Dangermond
Michael Ritchie
David Schell

Other attendees:

In person: Don Buhler (BLM), Bill Burgess (NSGIC), Dan Cotter (DHS), Pat Cummins (ESRI), David Downes (DOI), Lee Fahrner (DOI), Robin Fegeas (USGS), Randy Fusaro (Census), Hank Garie (Grant Thornton), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Butch Lazorchak (LoC), Matt Leopard (EPA), Lisa Levi (DOI), Scott Little (First American), John Mahoney (USGS), David Nale (eMap, First American), Pat Phillips (FGDC), Bob Pierce (DOI), Kevin Pomfret (Cantor Arkema), Mary Kay Rau

(Johnson McLamb), Milo Robinson (FGDC), Dominic Sale (OMB), Karen Siderelis (DOI), Benjamin Simon (DOI), Cy Smith (NSGIC)

Via teleconference: Malcolm Adkins (Michael Baker), Marissa Capriotti (NRCS), Earl Epstein (Ohio State University), Bonnie Gallahan (FGDC), Gita Urban-Mathieux (FGDC)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Call to Order & Welcome

NGAC Chair Anne Hale Miglarese called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., welcomed the committee members and audience to the meeting, and summarized the meeting agenda. Ms. Miglarese noted that the meeting was available for public participation via conference call and web conference. Ms. Miglarese also noted a change in the agenda, with the News and Notes session being moved to Day 1 of the meeting and the Imagery for the Nation session being moved to Day 2. Ms. Miglarese reviewed the minutes from the June 3-4, 2008 NGAC meeting and called for approval.

DECISION: The NGAC adopted the minutes of the June 2008 NGAC meeting.

Remarks from FGDC Staff Director/DFO

Ivan DeLoatch, Staff Director of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, gave a summary of recent FGDC activities and initiatives. He introduced Karen Siderelis in her new position as Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) for the Department of the Interior. This new position was established to coordinate geospatial activities within Interior and assist with interagency activities. Additional announcements:

- Applications for the 2009 FGDC Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) grants will be accepted through January 6, 2009. Additional information about CAP is available at: <http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2009NSDICAP/2009CAP>
- The FY 2008 FGDC Annual Report will be completed by December 2008. Copies of the report will be provided to NGAC members.
- Upcoming 2008 FGDC meetings:
 - FGDC Steering Committee – October 17
 - FGDC Coordination Group – November 4
 - FGDC Coordination Group – December 2
 - FGDC Steering Committee – December 16
- Upcoming 2009 NGAC meeting dates:
 - February 4-5, 2009 Hotel Monaco, Alexandria, VA (confirmed)
 - May 12-13, 2009, George Washington University, Washington D.C. (tentative)
 - September 2009 (tentatively – week of September 21-25)

Changing Landscape White Paper

Dave Cowen provided an overview of the draft NGAC “Changing Landscape” white paper. The Changing Landscape subcommittee (Cowen, Ahearn, Byrne) developed the paper with input and suggestions from other NGAC members. The purpose of the paper is to educate and inform a variety of audiences, including senior agency managers, new political appointees, and key partners and stakeholders, about the significant recent changes in geospatial technology. The NGAC discussed the paper, suggested several revisions and changes, and agreed on the following actions:

DECISION: NGAC approved draft Changing Landscape White Paper in concept.

ACTIONS: Final comments on the draft are due to Dave Cowen by October 24, 2008. Changing Landscape Subcommittee will make final revisions. Allen Carroll (National Geographic) and Jack

Dangermond/Pat Cummins (ESRI) will provide final editorial and layout assistance on the document. The final product, a printable PDF, will be completed by the end of December 2008.

Geospatial Transition Paper

Matt O'Connell provided an overview of the draft NGAC geospatial transition paper. The draft paper was developed by the Transition Subcommittee (O'Connell, Goreham, Miglarese, Mondello, Nelson, Palatiello) with input from other members of the NGAC. The purpose of the paper is to provide recommendations on key geospatial policy and management issues to the next Administration, reflecting a consensus among the various interests represented on the NGAC. The NGAC discussed the draft paper and agreed on several refinements to the recommendations. The NGAC took the following actions on the transition paper:

DECISION: NGAC approved recommendations in draft Transition Paper.

VOTE: The NGAC voted not to add specific information related to the role of the private sector in the recommendation to "Evaluate and clarify the roles and responsibilities of Federal, State, local, regional, and Tribal governments; academia; and the private sector in the creation and maintenance of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure."

ACTIONS: Transition team will revise paper based upon discussion at NGAC meeting and distribute revised version to NGAC members by October 22. Any final editorial comments are due to Matt O'Connell by October 24 (no substantive changes to recommendations). Anne Miglarese will transmit Transition Paper to FGDC Chair on behalf of NGAC.

National Land Parcel Data

Dave Cowen, Chair of the NGAC Parcels Subcommittee, provided an overview of the land parcel data issue and summarized the recommendations in the National Research Council report, "National Land Parcel Data: A Vision for the Future."

Don Buhler of the Bureau of Land Management, who serves as Chair of the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee, provided an overview of the Cadastral Subcommittee's role and activities. Mr. Buhler also provided a summary of a recent Cadastral Subcommittee study, "The Uses and Needs of Cadastral Data by Federal Agencies."

Panel Discussion

The NGAC held a panel discussion to provide reactions and comments on the NRC report recommendations from a variety of perspectives. The following NGAC panelists provided comments on the report:

Don Dittmar – County government
Randall Johnson – Regional government
Charles Mondello – Private sector
Zsolt Nagy – State Government
Kim Nelson – Private sector

Public Comment Period – Parcel Data

The NGAC held a public comment period related to national land parcel data issues. The following individuals provided comment:

Scott Little and David Nale, representing First American Corporation. Mr. Little and Mr. Nale provided information regarding First American's parcel data activities, including a description of the ParcelPoint national land parcel database. The ParcelPoint database currently includes over 100 million parcels. Mr. Little and Mr. Nale expressed First American's willingness to explore the possibility of working with the Federal government, possibly through a public-private partnership, to contribute to the common goal of developing a national parcel database.

Dr. Earl Epstein, Ohio State University (via teleconference). Dr. Epstein provided comments on land parcel data on behalf of himself, Dr. Bernard Niemann of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dr. John McLaughlin of the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Epstein's comments included a perspective on past studies and efforts to develop a national cadastre, and considerations to address in present efforts to implement a comprehensive land records system.

Following the public comment period, the NGAC agreed upon the following decisions and recommendations:

DECISION: NGAC endorsed recommendations in NRC report, and identified a set of comments related to the recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: NGAC recommends that immediate action be taken on Recommendation #1 in the NRC report (review of authorities; designation of land parcel coordinator)

RECOMMENDATION: NGAC recommends that FGDC, through the Cadastral Subcommittee, convene a stakeholder group to address parcel data issues related to the mortgage crisis.

The NGAC also identified a set of comments and observations on each of the nine major recommendations in the NRC report, as follows:

NRC Report Recommendations	Summary of NGAC Comments/Observations
1. Federal and National Parcel Coordinators should be established and a panel should decide whether the BLM should be the lead federal agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to act now on this recommendation • Some NGAC members not familiar with BLM (not saying it is the wrong place) • Not sure any other agency is a better location for this function • Should consider FEMA (although FEMA is a consumer of parcel information, not a producer)
2. The FGDC should consider the parcel as a basic building block for several mandated data themes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcels are a major component, but not the only one
3. A Federal Land Parcel Coordinator should be created and empowered to deal with land parcels owned or managed by the federal government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should consider a distributed database. Why a single database?
4. A National Land Parcel Coordinator should be established to deal with non federal land parcel data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implies top down vs. consensus based process • Should include collaborative processes • Should be implemented with input from stakeholders
5. An Indian Lands Parcel Coordinator should be established by the Office of Special Trustee for Tribal Lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal concerns – need consultation with Tribal governments to determine how best to implement • Tribes relate to federal government directly, not through other agencies

NRC Report Recommendations	Summary of NGAC Comments/Observations
<p>6. Congress and the Census Bureau should explore modifying Title 13 so that building addresses and coordinates can be made public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very supportive of this recommendation overall • Should view addresses and parcels differently. May not be the right place/person. (Lots of consensus here) • This issue is buried in the document • Two different data points. Can support because of last line in recommendation (think of it as phase 2 for parcel sets that don't exist) • "Personal liability" issue (\$250 K) risk because we handle addresses.
<p>7. State land parcel coordinators should be established in each state to develop plans and relationships with local government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many States already do it • Someone plays this role within the coordination structure • Concern about the word "require" in the recommendation – should not be a demand
<p>8. An intergovernmental funding program for the development and maintenance of parcel data, including incentives to participate for those counties with fully-developed systems and financial support for those who do not.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very supportive of this recommendation • Should consider "cross-sector" collaboration, rather than intergovernmental, because it implies a broader set of stakeholders
<p>9. Local government is expected to put into the public domain both parcel geometry and a very limited set of attributes. This should become a minimum requirement to receive federal funds directly associated with property, such as disaster relief.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns raised about this recommendation – some counties are poor • What is the economic value? • Concern that this will be viewed as a mandate. • Public policy question in times of emergency – give them the data. Figure out the other details later. • Unattractive to have a parcel "policeman" role • There is choice built in • Data obtained from county. Still have rights and choice. • Majority of concern with the second sentence of this recommendation

News and Notes Forum

The NGAC held a "News and Notes" forum to provide committee members with an opportunity to share information, report on geospatial community activities, and apprise colleagues of emerging issues. The following committee members provided presentations:

David Maune – Provided a description and summary of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) mapping and Lidar activities in Alaska. The presentation is available at:
<http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/october-2008/dem-data-for-alaska.ppt>

Kass Green – Provided an update on the development of the draft document, “Guidelines for Procurement of Professional Aerial Imagery, Photogrammetry, Lidar and Related Remote Sensor-based Geospatial Mapping Services.” The draft guidelines have been jointly developed by ASPRS, MAPPS, and ACSM. Comments on the draft guidelines are due by January 15, 2009. Information about the draft guidelines is available at:
<http://www.asprs.org/society/divisions/ppd/guidelines/guidelines.htm>

Zsolt Nagy – Provided a description and summary of NSGIC’s proposed criteria for geospatial “For the Nation” initiatives. The NSGIC criteria are available at:
http://www.nsgic.org/resources/criteria_ror_the_nation_Initiatives_030207.pdf

Allen Carroll – Provided an overview and description of LandScope America, a collaborative project of NatureServe and the National Geographic Society. LandScope is a new online resource that brings together maps, data, photos, and stories about America’s natural places and open spaces to help inform and inspire conservation efforts. Additional information is available at: www.landscape.org.

Adjournment for Day 1

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

The Chair convened the second day of the meeting at 8:00 a.m., reviewed the previous day's activities, and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

Imagery for the Nation

Karen Siderelis of the Department of the Interior provided an update on the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative. Since the NGAC reviewed and endorsed the IFTN initiative in June, the partner organizations involved in IFTN have taken substantive action toward implementation. A project manager from USGS has been assigned to the project, an integrated project plan is in development, and the FGDC Executive Committee has taken a leadership role in developing components of the project plan. Ms. Siderelis provided an overview of the project plan, including a review of how the policy and management issues identified by the NGAC are being addressed. Ms. Siderelis also discussed a data requirements survey that was recently conducted to help inform the development of the IFTN technical plan. In addition, Sean Ahearn provided a brief presentation on the history and recent developments in orthoimagery technology.

ACTION: FGDC will distribute IFTN Data Requirements Survey results to NGAC members.

Public Comment Period

The following individuals provided comments during the public comment period:

Cy Smith, Oregon State GIS Coordinator, NSGIC Past President – Provided a description of the NSGIC paper, "The States' Perspective on Advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure."
The NSGIC paper is available at:
http://www.nsgic.org/resources/strategic_framework_NSDI_NSIGIC.pdf

Bill Burgess, NSGIC Washington Liaison – Provided additional comments on the draft geospatial transition recommendations.

Geospatial Line of Business

Ivan DeLoatch provided an update on the Geospatial Line of Business (LoB) initiative. Mr. DeLoatch provided an overview of the activities of the Geospatial LoB working groups, with a particular focus on two activities, the development of Supplemental Guidance for OMB Circular A-16, and the progress of the LoB/GSA SmartBuy initiative. The NGAC took the following actions:

ACTION: FGDC requests feedback from NGAC on OMB Circular A-16 Draft Supplemental Guidance. NGAC Governance/A-16 Subcommittee will meet with Geospatial LoB workgroup and develop draft comments and recommendations on guidance in November/December 2008. NGAC as a whole will review at February 2009 NGAC meeting.

ACTION: NGAC members (and other stakeholders encouraged to respond to Geospatial LoB SmartBuy Request for Information (RFI) and participate in SmartBuy Industry Day information event (October 21).

NGAC Action Plan

Anne Miglarese led a discussion of the NGAC Action Plan, including a summary of committee actions to date and an overview of activities for 2009. Ms. Miglarese also briefly discussed the NGAC communications plan and asked committee members to provide comments.

DECISION: NGAC agreed upon a revised set of subcommittees. Chair/Vice-Chair/DFO will work to finalize subcommittee membership and designate chairs. All subcommittees will develop project plans in consultation with Chair/Vice-Chair/DFO. The revised subcommittees are as follows:

- Vision
- Governance/A-16

- Transition
- Changing Landscape
- Parcel Data
- The National Map
- Partnerships - Public/Private; Public/Public
- Outreach & Communications

ACTION: FGDC staff will provide specific topic background information for subcommittees.

ACTION: NGAC members provide any comments on draft NGAC communications plan to John Mahoney/Tricia Gibbons.

Geospatial Transition Paper

The NGAC concluded its discussion of the geospatial transition paper (see summary on Page 3).

National Land Parcel Data

The NGAC concluded its discussion of land parcel data (see summary beginning on Page 3).

Meeting Summary/Next Steps/Adjournment

Ms. Miglarese led a general discussion of next steps for the NGAC to conclude the meeting. Several items were discussed:

- Ivan DeLoatch announced that Richard Clark, the Chief Information Officer for the State of Montana, has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to serve on the NGAC. Mr. Clark replaces Rizwan Ahmed, who resigned from membership on the committee.
- The next meeting of the NGAC will be on February 4-5, 2009 in Alexandria, VA. Additional details about the meeting will be distributed to the NGAC and posted on the NGAC website prior to the meeting. Potential agenda items for the February meeting include the following:

Major Discussion Topics

- Geospatial Line of Business / A-16
- The National Map

Follow-on Activities

- Transition Strategy
- Vision
- Parcels

Status Reports:

- Partnerships
- Communications

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Certification

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

Anne Hale Miglarese, Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

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 February 4, 2009

October 2008 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 meeting minutes at: http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/october-2008/index_html

Changing Landscape White Paper

- Draft Changing Landscape White Paper 10-6-08
- Changing Landscape Overview (Cowen)
- Geospatial Data Market Model (Krucoff)

NGAC Transition Recommendations

- NGAC Transition Recommendations Paper
- Transition Paper Overview (O'Connell)

National Land Parcel Data

- Parcel Introduction
- National Land Parcel Data Presentation (Cowen)
- FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee Presentation (Buhler)
- Parcel Presentation (Mondello)
- Parcel Presentation (Ahearn)
- Parcel Comments (Johnson)

Imagery for the Nation (IFTN)

- IFTN Update Presentation (Siderelis)
- Imagery PPT (Ahearn)

Geospatial Line of Business (LoB)

- Geospatial Line of Business (LoB) Update Presentation (DeLoatch)

NGAC Action Plan

- NGAC Action Plan Presentation (Migliarese)
- NGAC Communications Plan

News and Notes: Updates from NGAC Members

- Alaska Mapping (Maune)
- Procurement Guidelines Overview
- Draft Procurement Guidelines