

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 15-16, 2008

Minutes

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) held its first public meeting from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on April 15, 2008 and from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on April 16, 2008. The meeting was held at the American Institute of Architects building in Washington, D.C.

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
Jack Dangermond
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
G. Michael Ritchie
David Schell
Eugene Schiller
Chris Tucker

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

Other attendees:

Sergei Andronikov (GMU), Jeanette Archetto (Grant Thornton), Don Buhler (BLM), Jim Cason (DOI), David Chase (HUD), Pat Cummins (ESRI), John D'Alessandro (GSA), Mark DeMulder (NGA), Sandra Downie (GSA), Pedro Flores (NACo), Randy Fusaro (Census), Mike Gabaldon (DOI), Tricia Gibbons (Lead Alliance), Josh Kriger (Grant Thornton), Roxanne Lamb (FGDC), Vicki Lukas (USGS), John Mahoney (USGS), Carrie Moore (DOI), Tim Petty (DOI), Bob Pierce (DOI), Milo Robinson (FGDC), Vaishal Sheth (FGDC), Karen Siderelis (USGS), Ben Simon (DOI), Laurence Socci (ACSM), Mike Thieme (Census), Gita Urban-Mathieux (FGDC)

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Call to Order & Welcome

NGAC Chair Anne Hale Miglarese called the meeting to order and welcomed the committee members and audience to the initial meeting of the NGAC. Ms. Miglarese introduced James E. Cason, who serves as Associate Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior and also serves as Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC).

Opening Remarks from FGDC Chair

Mr. Cason thanked the committee members for serving on the NGAC and noted that the committee will play an important role in providing advice and recommendations on issues critical to the advancement and success of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Mr. Cason indicated that he had sent a letter in his capacity as Chair of the FGDC to Ms. Miglarese in her capacity as Chair of the NGAC providing overall guidance for the operation of the NGAC and outlining an initial set of issues for the NGAC to review and consider. He also stressed that he viewed the relationship between the FGDC and the NGAC as a partnership, and that he expected that the set of issues to be reviewed and examined would be supplemented over time based on discussion and ongoing coordination.

The guidance letter from Mr. Cason identified the following areas of focus for the NGAC:

1. Advancing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

- **National Spatial Data Infrastructure.** Recommendations on the future roles and responsibilities of the key players (federal, state/local, private sector, academia, etc.) in developing and sustaining the next generation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. This review may include examination of public domain vs. restricted information, and the future role and evolution of the National Applications Office in coordination and declassification of geospatial data and information.

Given the complexity of this focus area, the full development of recommendations on this topic area may not be completed in 2008. However, the committee should strive to develop initial observations and recommendations by October 2008.

2. Public-Private Partnerships

- **Investment Strategy.** Recommendations on minimizing/removing investment barriers that impede public-private partnerships in advancing the collection, use, and dissemination of geospatial data, products, and technology. This review may include recommendations on developing stable and sustainable financing of geospatial products and services.

3. Management of Federal Geospatial Resources

- **OMB Circular A-16.** Comments/recommendations on geospatial lifecycle management strategies and revisions to OMB Circular A-16 data themes being developed and coordinated through the Geospatial Line of Business initiative.

4. Data Initiatives

- Review and recommendations, including recommendations on prioritization, on specific programmatic or data initiatives, which include the following:
 - Imagery for the Nation
 - *The National Map*
 - National Land Parcel Data

Note: A copy of Mr. Cason's guidance letter is posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

Remarks from NGAC Chair/Vice-Chair, Overview of Agenda, NGAC Member Introductions

Ms. Miglarese and Steve Wallach, the NGAC Vice-Chair, thanked Mr. Cason, provided brief opening remarks noting the importance of the NGAC's efforts, and provided an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

Ms. Miglarese introduced Tricia Gibbons, who served as facilitator for the meeting. Ms. Gibbons led a round of introductions from the NGAC members. The members identified themselves, their organizations and the interests they will represent on the committee, and provided brief descriptions of their primary areas of interest for the committee.

Informational Briefings on Federal Geospatial Activities

Ivan DeLoatch (FGDC), John Mahoney (USGS), and Karen Siderelis (USGS) provided a series of briefings on current Federal geospatial activities and initiatives.

Mr. DeLoatch provided an overview of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, including history and purpose, organizational design, staffing, and governance structure. Mr. DeLoatch also provided an overview of the Geospatial Line of Business (LoB) initiative, including background, mission and vision; common solutions framework; organization of LoB workgroups; and goals, objectives, and milestones.

Mr. Mahoney provided an overview of OMB Circular A-16 and the activities of the Geospatial LoB Lifecycle Management work group, including A-16 issues of concern; organization, goals and objectives; and potential areas for NGAC feedback.

Ms. Siderelis provided an overview of the Imagery for the Nation (IFTN) initiative and other current federal geospatial data initiatives, including *The National Map*, the National Land Parcel initiative, Lidar/Elevation for the Nation, and the National Land Imaging Program.

The NGAC requested additional information and briefings on OMB Circular A-16, the Geospatial LoB, and the IFTN initiative at subsequent meetings.

Note: A copy of the presentation on Federal Geospatial Activities is posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

NGAC Roundtable

Ms. Miglarese and Ms. Gibbons led a roundtable discussion among the NGAC members to gather initial feedback from the committee on the priorities described by Mr. Cason, the status of current Federal geospatial initiatives, and proposals and concepts for NGAC focus areas and subcommittees. Ms. Miglarese indicated that a primary goal for the second day of the meeting would be to develop agreement on a set of short-term and longer-term goals and action items for the NGAC to pursue.

Adjournment for Day 1

The Chair adjourned the meeting for the day at 5:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Welcome, Summary of Day 1, Overview of Agenda

The Chair convened the second day of the meeting at 8:30 am, reviewed the previous day's activities, and provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Gibbons described the process and ground rules for the public comment period of the NGAC meeting.

Comment was offered by Lawrence Socci, representing the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) and the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS). Mr. Socci expressed concern that, although several NGAC members were members of ACSM or NSPS, a representative of ACSM or NSPS is not currently on the NGAC. Mr. Socci asked that a representative of NSPS (as opposed to a member of NSPS) be appointed to the committee.

The Chair thanked Mr. Socci for his comments.

Summary of Feedback on Geospatial Issues

John Mahoney (USGS) provided a summary of responses to a questionnaire on prioritization of geospatial issues that was provided to NGAC members and FGDC agencies prior to the meeting. The responses to the questionnaire were used to help frame the presentations for the NGAC meeting and to initiate the process of identifying potential focus areas for NGAC review.

Note: A copy of the presentation on the Summary of Feedback on Geospatial Issues is posted on the NGAC website (www.fgdc.gov/ngac) along with the meeting minutes.

Review and Discussion of Focus Areas and Subcommittees

The NGAC held a facilitated discussion to develop and refine a set of focus areas and review topics for the remainder of 2008 and for the longer 12-18 month timeframe. The NGAC also identified preliminary subcommittee assignments for the agreed-upon focus areas. The Chair indicated that she would work with the Vice-Chair to identify leaders within the NGAC for the subcommittees and report back to the committee.

The committee members agreed upon the following initial action plan for the NGAC:

Action Plan

1. Develop an NGAC Mission Statement (June 4 – Barney Krucoff, Steve Wallach, Kass Green)
2. Write and publish “Changing Landscape” White Paper (June 4 Outline; July 30 First Draft - Dave Cowen, Sean Ahearn, Mike Byrne)
3. Review data initiatives and develop recommendations for efficient rationalization, prioritization, and implementation
 - Need briefing on initiatives and discussion (June – background information and full briefing on IFTN)
4. Review FGDC Annual Report – Goals (all to review and send comments to John Mahoney)
 - E-mail goals outlined in Annual Report to NGAC (John Mahoney)
 - Communications tool – Quickplace or Wiki (Vaishal Sheth, John Mahoney)
5. Develop a Transition Plan with Recommendations (November 2008 – Matt O’Connell, Anne Miglarese, John Palatiello, Kim Nelson, Dennis Goreham, Charles Mondello to draft)
6. Design a National Geospatial Strategy (June 4 Outline/draft – Chris Tucker, Jack Dangermond, David Schell, Jay Parrish, John Palatiello, Jerry Johnston, Zsolt Nagy, Bull Bennett, Randall Johnson, Gene Schiller, Dave Cowen, David Maune)
 - Vision, description, functional requirements of the system (the why and the what). (Outline/draft June 4 – Jerry Johnston, Chris Tucker, Zsolt Nagy)

- Identify participants, organizational framework, define roles and responsibilities for governance, implementation and operational management. (Date TBD - John Palatiello, Jerry Johnston, David Schell, Randall Johnson, Dennis Goreham)
 - A-16
 - Statewide / Tribal / Local / Regional Council Strategies
- Develop a Dedicated (Lifecycle) Investment Strategy - Leveraging Public/Private/Stakeholder partnerships, appropriations, funding sources, incentives and ROI
- Create a services framework and begin to identify and design critical services
- Review current data initiatives and logical ways to make it happen (TNM, IFTN, National Land Parcel Data)
- Review data content standards
- Review enabling technology and architecture
- Review models that work
- Develop a schedule for NGAC activities
- Review National Land Imaging Program Plan as a resource

Summary, Discussion of Next Steps

The group also identified a set of action items and next steps over the course of the meeting:

Action Items

WHAT	HOW	WHO	WHEN
Distribute Action Items and NGAC Plan of Action Outline	By email to members	John Mahoney, Tricia Gibbons	4/18/08
Finalize June meeting plans to include extending meeting and options for subcommittees to meet 6/3/08	Check AIA & DOI availability	John Mahoney	4/25/08
Distribute meeting minutes for review	E-mail to NGAC, Post on FGDC Web site	FGDC staff	4/25/08
Designate Chairs for subcommittees		Chair & Vice Chair	5/1/08
Set up QuickPlace or WIKI		FGDC Staff	5/1/08
Finalize date & location for October Meeting	Look at options for informal location	Chair with FGDC staff	5/15/08
Develop bylaws options for telecommunication participation for extraordinary cases		Chair/Vice-Chair, FGDC staff	6/1/08
Develop bylaws options for proxy voting		Chair/Vice-Chair, FGDC staff	6/1/08
Send background materials and/or links to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NLIP Plan • FGDC Goals (from '07 Annual Report) • Future Directions Vision • A-16 Document • LoB Common Solutions/ Target Architecture 		FGDC staff	TBD - Prior to June meeting
LoB Workgroups Update – data calls, goals, tasks as appropriate	Subcommittee briefings before so meeting focuses on clarifications & discussion	FGDC	June Meeting

WHAT	HOW	WHO	WHEN
Briefing on A-16 changes	Subcommittee briefings before so meeting focuses on clarifications & discussion	LOB Work Group, Ivan DeLoatch or designee	June Meeting
Briefing on IFTN		Karen Siderelis or designee	June Meeting
Briefing on TNM		USGS	October Meeting
Briefing on history of FGDC and Federal geospatial management		FGDC (Milo Robinson)	Hold for future date
Propose Mission Statement		FGDC & Chair/Vice Chair	6/4/08
Develop Outreach & Communications Strategy	Communicate high-level NGAC activities	Geo Industry Newsletters, Tribal Newsletters, FGDC & federal agency newsletters, etc.	TBD

Wrap-up, Adjournment

Mr. Cason engaged in a closing discussion with the NGAC members. Ms. Miglarese provided a review of the NGAC action plan and next steps agreed to by the committee. Mr. Cason indicated that the action plan was consistent with the FGDC guidance and represented an ambitious and useful program of work for the NGAC. Mr. Cason and Ms. Miglarese thanked the committee members for their positive contributions to the meeting and to the work of the NGAC.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

List of Handouts/Presentations:

- Meeting Agenda
- List of NGAC Members
- April 15, 2008 Letter from James Cason
- Presentation: "Briefing on Federal Geospatial Activities"
- Presentation: "Summary of NGAC/FGDC Feedback on Geospatial Issues"
- Public Comments – Lawrence Socci

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 June 3, 2008