



**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2012
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET
(2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Session -
Steering Committee Members Only)**

Location:

American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006

Room:

2nd Floor, Board Room

AGENDA

1:00 – 1:15	Welcome/Introductory Remarks	<i>Anne Castle, DOI, Chair</i>
1:15 – 1:20	OMB Perspectives	<i>Lisa Schlosser, OMB, Vice Chair</i>
1:20 – 1:30	CIO Council – Shared Services Subcommittee	<i>Joe Klimavicz, NOAA</i>
1:30 – 1:40	Geospatial Platform Business Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief Overview	<i>Jerry Johnston, EPA</i>
1:40 – 2:00	NGAC Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on the Results of the April 17-18 NGAC Meeting	<i>Anne Miglarese, NGAC Past Chair</i>
2:00 – 2:20	National Enhanced Elevation Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report on Results and Next Steps	<i>Kevin Gallagher, USGS</i>
2:20 – 2:30	FGDC Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard• OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance	<i>Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS</i>
2:30 – 2:45	BREAK	

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS-ONLY
SESSION BEGINS**

2:45 – 3:30

Geospatial Platform Business Plan

- **Governance Strategy**
- **Shared Funding Strategy**
- **Next Steps**

*Anne Castle, DOI,
Chair; Jerry Johnston,
DOI*

3:30

Adjourn



Federal Geographic Data Committee Steering Committee Meeting ACTION ITEMS Through April 19, 2012

Steering Committee Action Items		
Complete		
Lead:	Tim Trainor, Census Bureau	Action#: 20111006-02
Action:	Tim Trainor (Census) will send out an email to Steering Committee members to solicit membership for the newly formed working group on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM).	
Contact:	Tim Trainor, Census, timothy.f.trainor@census.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Ivan DeLoatch forwarded the information from Tim Trainor to the Steering Committee regarding the membership request for the GGIM work group in an email dated 3/9/12.	
Complete		
Lead:	FGDC Secretariat	Action#: 20120131-01
Action:	The supplemental information in the Geospatial Platform Business Plan regarding the Geospatial Platform cost table will be sent to FGDC Steering Committee members by the FGDC Secretariat.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	This information was shared with Steering Committee members via email.	
Complete		
Lead:	FGDC Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20120131-02
Action:	FGDC Steering Committee members are asked to review the Geospatial Platform Business Plan document and provide their comments to the FGDC Secretariat by February 10, 2012.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Comments were received and incorporated into v3 of the Business Plan.	
Complete		
Lead:	FGDC Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20120131-03
Action:	FGDC Steering Committee members are encouraged to complete the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) survey on requirements and use of commercial imagery by February 15, 2012. Members may contact Mr. Jim Kwolek (james.l.kwolek@nga.mil) for more information on this survey.	
Contact:	Jim Kwolek, NGA, james.l.kwolek@nga.mil	
Resolution/ Response:	Survey due date was 2/15/12.	
Complete		
Lead:	FGDC Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20120131-04

Action:	FGDC Steering Committee members will provide feedback and suggestions on potential NGAC study topics for 2012 by February 10, 2012. These items may be provided to Mr. John Mahoney (jmahoney@fgdc.gov).	
Contact:	John Mahoney, FGDC OS, jmahoney@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Suggestions were received and incorporated into the NGAC guidance documents.	
Complete		
Lead:	FGDC Secretariat	Action#: 20120419-01
Action:	A link to the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA) study will be shared with Steering Committee members by the FGDC Secretariat staff.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	This information was shared with Steering Committee members via email.	
Complete		
Lead:	FGDC Secretariat	Action#: 20120419-02
Action:	The FGDC Secretariat will send a notice for an electronic vote on the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard to Steering Committee members for their response.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Notice for electronic vote was distributed to Steering Committee.	
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20120419-03
Action:	Steering Committee Members should contact FGDC Chair Anne Castle and Vice Chair Lisa Schlosser (with a copy to Ivan DeLoatch) with any concerns about the funding allocations for their agency by April 30, 2012.	
Contact:	Anne Castle, DOI, anne_castle@ios.doi.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Several agencies provided feedback	
Complete		
Lead:	Steering Committee Members	Action#: 20120419-04
Action:	Steering Committee members' comments on the Geospatial Platform Business Plan are due to the FGDC Secretariat by COB Friday, April 20.	
Contact:	Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC OS, ideloatch@fgdc.gov	
Resolution/ Response:	Several agencies provided feedback.	

Steering Committee Record of Decisions	
ID (yyyymmdd-#)	Decision/Description Decisions provide a position/foundation on which actions are taken.
20111006-01	The Steering Committee recommends the establishment of a business case and funding strategy for the Geospatial Platform so Steering Committee members can incorporate these items into their respective agencies' budget requests.
20111006-02	The Steering Committee recommends that a new FGDC working group on UN Global Geospatial Information Management be formed.
20120131-01	The FGDC Steering Committee approved and adopted the October 2011 Steering Committee meeting minutes.
20120131-02	The FGDC Steering Committee requested the FGDC Executive Committee members to develop the algorithm to support a shared funding strategy for the Geospatial Platform to make a recommendation on the Managing Partner. The Executive Committee will submit the results by the end of February.
20120419-01	<p>The Steering Committee agreed on the following points regarding the Geospatial Platform Business Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Steering Committee concurred with the proposed governance model. The governance model includes a new Geospatial Platform Oversight Body, which will have representatives from the FGDC Executive Committee, Agency Geospatial Information Officers, the CIO Council, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The Oversight Body will also include involvement from State/Local/Regional/Tribal Governments. 2) The Steering Committee recommended that the Department of Interior (DOI) serve as the Geospatial Platform managing partner. 3) The Steering Committee concurred that a tiered, shared funding strategy should be used to fund the Geospatial Platform operations and Program Management Office (PMO) activities, starting in FY 2014. The Steering Committee agreed with a suggestion that the funding allocations include both a primary contribution and a potential reserve contribution to cover unforeseen contingencies.



**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Steering Committee Meeting
MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2012**

*Non-voting members denoted with an asterisk**

Quorum = 2/3 of voting members. Voting members = 28

Quorum = 19

√	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization	√	Steering Committee Primary Members	Organization
x	Anne Castle	Chair, FGDC; Department of Interior	x	Dat Tran	Department of Veterans Affairs
x	Lisa Schlosser	Vice Chair, FGDC; Office of Management and Budget		VACANT	Environmental Protection Agency
x	Stephen Lowe	Department of Agriculture		Julius Knapp*	Federal Communications Commission*
x	Joseph Klimavicz	Department of Commerce	x	Angela Smith	General Services Administration
x	James Kwolek	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*
	John Teeter	Department of Health and Human Services		VACANT	National Science Foundation
x	Dan Cotter	Department of Homeland Security		Darren Ash	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
	Raphael Bostic	Department of Housing and Urban Development		VACANT	Office of Personnel Management
x	Jerry Johnston	Department of Interior		Deborah Anderson	Small Business Administration
x	Nick Loulou	Department of Justice		VACANT	Smithsonian Institution
	VACANT	Department of Labor	x	Linda Maxfield	Social Security Administration

x	Roy Standing	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
x	Jim Bjostad	Department of Defense		Steve Lewis	Department of Transportation
	Nancy Blyler	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers		Desryn Duncan	Department of the Treasury
	Tai Phan	Department of Education	x	Autumn Wallin	General Services Administration
x	Cuttie Bacon	Department of Energy	x	Butch Lazorchak	Library of Congress
x	Steven King	Department of Homeland Security	x	Stuart Reiter	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
	Jean Pao	Department of Housing and Urban Development		David Timmons	Social Security Administration
	Other Attendees	Organization		Other Attendees	Organization
x	Cuttie Bacon	Department of Energy	x	Julie Maitra	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Wendy Blake-Coleman	Environmental Protection Agency	x	Anne Miglarese	NGAC Member
x	Jim Bjostad	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency	x	Michelle Motska	
x	Dick Clark	NGAC Member	x	Stuart Reiter	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
x	Ivan DeLoatch	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Gene Schiller	NGAC Member
x	Kevin Gallagher	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Ken Shaffer	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Bert Granberg	NGAC Member	x	Vaishal Sheth	FGDC Office of the Secretariat
x	Kaelin Kuhn	Government Accountability Office	x	Jon Sperling	Department of Housing and Urban Development
x	Laurie Kurilla	NGAC Member	x	Tony Spicci	NGAC Member
x	Lynda Liptrap	Census Bureau	x	Melanie Stansbury	Office of Management and Budget
x	Vicki Lukas	U.S. Geological Survey	x	Gene Trobia	NGAC Member
x	John Mahoney	FGDC Office of the Secretariat	x	Ken Wagner	Department of Veterans Affairs
x	Arista Maher	FGDC Office of the Secretariat			

Welcome and Introductions - Anne Castle, DOI, Chair; Lisa Schlosser, OMB, Vice Chair

Ms. Anne Castle, Chair of the FGDC Steering Committee, called the meeting to order and asked participants to introduce themselves. Ms. Castle introduced Ms. Lisa Schlosser, OMB Deputy Administrator for IT and E-Government, as the new Vice Chair of the FGDC. Ms. Castle then provided an overview of the meeting's agenda. She noted that since the January Steering Committee meeting, the FGDC Executive Committee (ExCom) has been active in refining the Geospatial Platform Business Plan, including developing recommendations on a governance structure and funding strategy. Ms. Castle indicated that the Steering Committee will be discussing these topics during the meeting. With respect to the Managing Partner, that has been an evolving discussion, with various entities considered for this role. The ExCom recommended the FGDC Secretariat serving as the Managing Partner. Since the Geospatial Platform is an interagency activity, this would capitalize on FGDC's interagency role. With respect to the investment strategy for the Platform, ExCom has recommended a funding strategy that requires contributions from multiple agencies based on an algorithm that considers the depth and breadth of geospatial activities within those agencies, among other factors.

Ms. Castle then gave a brief update on the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of the FGDC and Federal geospatial activities. She explained that the GAO is currently concentrating on three areas (listed with the lead agency): Hydrography (Department of Interior/U.S. Geological Survey); Transportation (Department of Transportation/Bureau of Transportation Statistics); and Geodetic Control (Department of Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). GAO set up interviews and sent questions to each of those organizations; this part of the inquiry is ongoing. Additional questions have been directed to each of the agencies and are in the process of being answered. Steering Committee members will be updated as the review progresses.

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) has formed a Landsat Advisory Group (LAG), which will focus on Landsat activities; in particular, the group will examine two issues for a short-term turn-around. The first issue is regarding analysis and provision of recommendations on the possibility of charging for Landsat data. There is Congressional interest in charging for Landsat data. Secondly, the LAG will synthesize and compile the existing information on the value of the Landsat program. This is arising out of the fact that satellite programs are large and expensive. USGS is in the process of gathering information on less expensive alternatives to the existing Landsat program. At the same time, it is incumbent upon government agencies and Landsat user communities to demonstrate the value Landsat has to communities outside of the geospatial community.

OMB Perspectives – Lisa Schlosser, OMB, Vice Chair

Ms. Schlosser provided brief remarks on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and its role in relation to FGDC activities. OMB Circular A-16 calls for the Deputy Director of OMB or a designee to be Vice Chair of the FGDC Steering Committee. This responsibility has been assigned to Ms. Schlosser, and she indicated that by serving permanently in this role, she hopes to ensure stability in this position.

Ms. Schlosser also spoke about recent initiatives of the Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO) and the OMB. The Federal CIO has established a "share first" philosophy. Part of this strategy

constitutes continuing to build geospatial systems collectively and using the Geospatial Platform to better share information and support mission-critical activities. Linked into the “share first” strategy is continuing the evolution of Data.gov to better serve policymakers’ needs through collaboration. The second strategy being promoted is to build a digital government for the 21st century. This includes taking advantage of emerging technologies to build better systems. Members of the geospatial community will see a digital strategy coming out within the next month that calls for more effective sharing of data across government, with external stakeholders, etc. The third concept being promoted is the newly-released Portfolio Stat initiative (OMB Memorandum 1210), which calls on CIOs of cabinet-level agencies to inventory all systems with an eye toward identifying duplicative systems and to develop plans to consolidate those systems where it makes business sense to do so.

CIO Council – Shared Services Subcommittee – Joe Klimavicz, NOAA

Mr. Joe Klimavicz, the Chief Information Officer of NOAA, gave an overview of the activities of the Shared Services Subcommittee of the Federal CIO Council. As described in the 25-point plan developed by OMB, a draft shared services strategy is required to be developed. The draft shared services strategy was released in December 2011 and a final version is due out soon. The document aims to identify methods to increase return on investment, eliminate waste and duplication, and improve technology services and solutions while reducing costs. Mr. Klimavicz noted that the “share first” strategy described earlier in the meeting by Ms. Schlosser is a foundational component for all Shared Services Subcommittee policy and guidance documents. The document’s primary focus is consolidating commodity IT services. The Subcommittee will continue to develop strategies for realizing improvements in efficiency and service delivery.

The Shared Services Subcommittee governance structure was outlined. Mr. Scott Bernard, Federal Chief Architect (OMB), provides guidance to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee’s focus is on finding ways to gain efficiencies from shared services by trying to improve shared IT commodities. Furthermore, the Subcommittee is divided into Inter-Agency Shared Services, which includes managing partners and lines of business, and Intra-Agency Shared Services, which includes shared services efforts within an agency.

The “share first” approach will leverage the current lines of business and managing partners through existing services. Managing partners are required to create and implement roadmaps for improvement of these services. The current strategy expands the line of business and accelerates the adoption of interagency shared services across the Federal government. Managing partners develop, implement, and maintain financial service models and contracts with suppliers.

NGAC Report – Anne Miglarese, Chair, NGAC Geospatial Platform Subcommittee; Past Chair, NGAC

Ms. Anne Miglarese, the past-Chair of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC), provided a report on the results of NGAC meeting that took place earlier in the week (April 17-18, 2012). Ms. Miglarese stated that the meeting was very productive. She indicated that the NGAC members have appreciated Ms. Castle’s active engagement with the Committee in her role as FGDC Chair.

Ms. Miglarese reviewed the agenda from the NGAC meeting, including the 2012 guidance to the NGAC from the FGDC. The guidance includes the following topics: the Geospatial Platform, Landsat, National Enhanced Elevation Assessment, National Address Database, National Hydrology Database, and A-16/Portfolio Management. The meeting included sessions on each of the topic areas in the guidance.

The meeting also included an extended discussion of the Geospatial Platform. The NGAC provided initial comments on the Business Plan for the Platform. The NGAC members felt that the FGDC has made significant progress on the Business Plan since the last NGAC meeting. Many of the initial concerns about the document have been addressed in most recent version of the document. She indicated that the NGAC looks forward to reviewing the plan in greater detail and offering additional comments. Ms. Miglarese encouraged the FGDC to keep in mind the following as the Business Plan continues to evolve: 1.) Need to “sell it,” by describing the business value of the Platform to potential users; 2.) Need to “build it” – the technology is there, so this should be relatively simple; and 3.) Need to “get paid for it.” There are many innovative methods for funding the Geospatial Platform.

Ms. Miglarese indicated that the NGAC is very supportive of the idea of a broad-based oversight body for the Geospatial Platform. They are concerned about the capacity for the FGDC Secretariat to take on the Geospatial Platform task within its limited resources. Ms. Miglarese suggested that FGDC consider an evaluation of FGDC Secretariat responsibilities and activities to determine which activities are critical in order to better allocate resources and “lighten the load.”

Ms. Miglarese also discussed the NGAC white paper on *Innovative Strategies for Geospatial Programs and Partnerships*, which was adopted by the committee. The paper includes recommendations on three topic areas: strategically leveraging technologies, policies, and trends; fostering a data integration environment; and utilizing public-private partnerships.

Ms. Miglarese provided brief summaries of NGAC’s discussions of the topic areas in the 2012 guidance from FGDC, including proposed next steps for the NGAC subcommittees. The summary included the following issues:

- NGAC Landsat Advisory Group (LAG). This new NGAC subcommittee includes NGAC members as well as additional remote sensing experts. The initial meeting of this NGAC subcommittee was held on April 16, 2012. The LAG will initially address questions about the economic value of Landsat data and the issue of charging fees for Landsat data.
- National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA). The NGAC was supportive of the proposed national elevation program and approved a resolution in support of the proposed elevation initiative (3D Elevation Program, or 3DEP).
- National Hydrography Dataset. The NGAC guidance topics include assessing barriers to greater standardized use of the NHD and improving stewardship of the NHD.
- OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance. The NGAC will provide feedback on the revisions to the A-16 data themes and data sets.

NGAC Subcommittees are continuing to meet and will keep the Steering Committee updated on their progress.

Ms. Schlosser asked whether the NGAC will provide feedback on the governance structure for the Geospatial Platform, suggesting this would be helpful. Ms. Miglarese responded that the NGAC Geospatial Platform Subcommittee will provide suggestions/models for the FGDC to consider.

National Enhanced Elevation Assessment – Mr. Kevin Gallagher, USGS

Mr. Kevin Gallagher, USGS Associate Director for Core Science Systems, presented on the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA). The NEEA was sponsored by the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) and funded by USGS, NGA, FEMA, NRCS, and NOAA. The goals of the NEEA were to document national requirements for improved elevation data from technologies such as LiDAR and IfSAR; estimate the benefits and costs of meeting these requirements; and evaluate multiple national enhanced program scenarios. In the assessment, 602 mission-critical activities that require enhanced elevation data were identified by 34 Federal agencies, 50 states, and select non-profit, industry, local governments, and Tribal governments. These activities were then placed into 27 business use categories. The assessment, which is over 800 pages long, will be shared with Steering Committee members, along with an executive summary which summarizes the results.

ACTION: A link to the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment study will be shared with Steering Committee members by the FGDC Secretariat staff.

An example of an agency requirement for quality-level 1 LiDAR data was shown. The example deals with geologic resource assessment and hazard mitigation. The expected benefits of this quality-level 1 LiDAR are \$31.25 million per year. Some of the example applications for this data are to identify faults/landslides under thick vegetation; enhance infrastructure engineering design; estimate size, speed and effects of landslides; create loss mitigation strategies; and provide maps and models to agency planners.

The functional activity benefits were aggregated into 27 business uses. A slide showing the top business uses ranked by the total benefits identified by assessment participants was shown. The conservative annual estimate of all benefits is \$1.2 billion; the total potential benefits are estimated at \$13 billion.

The various quality levels of LiDAR and IfSAR data were described, including the horizontal point spacing and vertical accuracy for each level. Quality Level 1 (QL1) is the highest in accuracy and resolution, and represents the range of specifications used to collect data in areas like the Pacific Northwest where dense tree canopy requires tighter point spacing. By contrast, Quality Level 5 represents the lowest accuracy and resolution in the study. As part of the NEEA, a comprehensive inventory of the nation's existing, publicly available LiDAR has taken place. States recognize that this is a valuable dataset. Interesting patterns on the map representing this inventory demonstrate some elevation coverage related to flood-prone areas. This data was collected at Quality Level 2 (medium resolution by today's standards). These areas could benefit from QL1 coverage for hazard prevention and mitigation. The recommended program would

collect LiDAR data at Quality Level 2 for 49 states (one level above the level of current data quality), and at Quality Level 5 (IfSAR) in Alaska on an 8-year acquisition schedule. The program recommendation includes “buy up” options for partner organizations to fund higher quality data. The average annual costs would be around \$146 million, with an average annual benefit of \$690 million.

“3DEP” or the 3D Elevation Program is the proposed initiative being introduced. The benefits to various Federal agencies were shown. The proposed funding strategy is a cooperatively funded program executed by USGS, NRCS, USACE, DISDI, USGS, NOAA, FEMA, EPA, USFS, FAA, and NGA. States and other partner agencies will also be invited to participate. Notional funding levels were summarized.

A major next step in the development and funding of a national program is defining the governance process for managing the requirements and planning for the partnership. Communications are ongoing with potential partners and other stakeholders. NGAC will review the program recommendations and provide feedback. Lessons learned from the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) will be utilized. USGS, in cooperation with the State of Alaska, plans to co-host a roundtable meeting in June regarding the need to complete the collection of improved elevation data for Alaska.

FGDC Report – Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC

Mr. Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC Executive Director, gave a report on the recent activities and initiatives of the FGDC. He gave an overview of two topics the Coordination Group will send to the Steering Committee for approval: the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) and the National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) theme lead agency recommendations within the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance.

CMECS has utility for classifying ecological units in a simple, standard format using common terminology. The standard assures consistent names and descriptions for ecological features and accommodates biological, geological, chemical, and physical data in a single structure. CMECS applies to all waters, substrates, and organisms. It is a standard that fits with other FGDC standards. During the review of the CMECS, there was wide participation from a number of organizations, including Federal agencies, state agencies, academia, NGOs, and the international community. Over 800 comments were addressed during the review of the standard. The FGDC Coordination Group recently voted to recommend that the FGDC Steering Committee adopt the CMECS as an FGDC standard.

ACTION: The FGDC Secretariat will send a notice for an electronic vote on the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard to Steering Committee members for their response.

Mr. DeLoatch next spoke about the data themes and data sets as set out in the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance. He noted that there is a sense of urgency to move the data themes through the FGDC approval process. For portfolio management purposes, it has been helpful to organize around data sets. The data themes were consolidated from 34 themes to 17 in August 2011 (this was approved by the Steering Committee). The next step is to identify the theme lead

agencies for each data theme. The FGDC looked at best practices (ISO community work, GOS, etc.) It took significant coordination to develop consensus on the data themes. Currently, 230 data sets are associated with data themes. This list of data themes is being refined. The theme lead agency recommendations were described to the Steering Committee members. The FGDC Executive Committee (ExCom) will review these recommendations. Following the ExCom's endorsement, the Steering Committee will be asked to examine and endorse the list of theme leads. Finally, the theme leads list will be submitted to OMB for concurrence, as outlined in OMB Circular A-16.

Ms. Castle thanked the non-Federal attendees for participating, and adjourned the public session of the meeting.

***** STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS-ONLY SESSION BEGINS *****