

3/25/2015 Geospatial Advisory Council Minutes

State Office Campus, Building 7a, 1st floor training room

**Members Attending in Person**

Craig Cheeseman  
Bill Johnson  
Eric Herman  
Jeff Herter  
Frank Winters  
David Jorgensen  
Matthew Knutzen  
Alex Chaucer  
Austin Fisher  
Doug Freehafer  
Todd Nelson  
Sheri Norton  
Matthew Owen  
Colin Reilly  
Michael Ross  
Julie Tolar  
Jim Daly  
Ann Deakin

**Members via Telephone**

Laura Feitner Calarco  
Glen Cutter

**Others Present**

Bob Gehrler

**Others Present via Telephone**

Lis DeGironimo

**Minutes Approval**

The minutes from the December meeting are up on the Clearinghouse in a draft form. A motion was made and approved to approve the minutes with one noted correction.

Today's agenda was discussed and agreed upon.

**Chair Report:**

Eric provided some follow ups from the December meeting including:

- A marketing email was sent out in late January, to let the GIS community know about the GAC and incoming and outgoing members.
- **We decided to discuss the makeup of the Council at the June meeting.**
- Changes to the Clearinghouse: **Bill is working on a welcome message from the GIO. The history document is also up and ready for more content.**
- The Council mission statement is now being added to the top of every agenda.
- Create mechanisms for stakeholders to provide feedback, and better recognition of members. A group photo was taken at this meeting (and will be at the first meeting of each year). **The photo will be posted to the Clearinghouse, as well as a tool to message the Council.** The emails will go to the Chair and Vice Chair, who can distribute as appropriate.
- Clearinghouse redesign is on hold pending more direction regarding the Data Sharing Cooperative.

## **Council Reports**

### **GIO Update**

Bill gave an update on State activities including the State's Open Data initiative. Andrew Nicklin has been working with us to publish links to the Clearinghouse data on the Open Data site. We started with the most popular Clearinghouse data – the orthoimagery. **Bill continued with a charge for the Council to promote the benefits of open data.** Bill also led a discussion of ITS organization issues. ITS executives have identified GIS as an important area, and are supporting growth in this area. Bill described the plan for the GIS shared services environment (ShareGIS).

**Dave suggested that a GIS tag be added to certain datasets on the Open Data website.**

### **GPO Updates**

Frank gave a presentation of the upcoming imagery and elevation data. Doug provided dates for a lot of the LiDAR program. Franks also gave an update on the Street Address Maintenance (SAM) program. Bob Gehrler led a discussion on the GPO parcel data program. 41 counties have agreed to make their parcel data available in some form. **We agreed that the GPO would lead a NYS GIS Association webinar on the parcel work this spring.**

### **GIS Association Report**

Julie Tolar reported that this year's Association membership, with over 655, is at an all-time high. This year's membership is expected to top 700. New regional Association groups and industry interest groups have started. The New York State GIS conference, referred to as [NYGeoCon](#), will be held in Albany this October. The Association is taking on an effort to identify the areas in the state where GIS is underused. They are describing these communities as "GIS deserts".

### **State Agency Advisory Group Report**

Eric provided an update. The last meeting included a round table on web services hosted by agencies. The group updated the listing of published services on the Clearinghouse Data page. Sam Wear of

Westchester County made a presentation touting the importance and value of web services. The Department of State provided a preview of their Geographic Information Gateway. Minutes of the February 5 meeting are on the Clearinghouse:

[http://gis.ny.gov/coordinationprogram/workgroups/wg\\_7/meetings/stat02-15.html](http://gis.ny.gov/coordinationprogram/workgroups/wg_7/meetings/stat02-15.html)

### **Data Sharing Cooperative:**

The Council engaged in a detailed discussion on the GIS Data Sharing Cooperative. In 1997, the Cooperative was put in place to foster data sharing, and provide consistency in the data sharing agreements. Now, close to twenty years later, questions on the future of the Cooperative have arisen. Is the Cooperative in some ways impeding the open public sharing of data by providing a mechanism for members to limit distribution to an exclusive group? About 50 new members still join each year, and there are 1059 agreements in place, which would need to be accommodated. More than half of these are local governments. There are also some data sets that have very strict access limits. In particular, school district members could be greatly impacted. **The group mentioned that this may be the prime area to focus problem solving efforts.** Only 46 of the current members post all “unlocked” data. Many members do not completely follow the rules, and many are unaware of the rules, or their membership. There were many various ideas discussed. It is clear that more discussion is warranted. In the era of Open Data, it is clear that some changes need to occur. **One major suggestion was that the importance of Open Data needs to be better sold to the counties, cities, and towns, in forums where their leadership can hear the issues. Frank offered to Chair a subcommittee to look at the issues further, and Austin also offered to help. Others should contact Frank, if they are interested, or can assist. It was apparent that both short term and long term solutions are needed. Bill and Frank also took an action to start a conversation with ITS legal counsel to understand the legal implications of the Cooperative agreements.**

### **COGO NSDI Report Card**

Bill Johnson led a discussion about the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The results of the [COGO report](#) are not flattering. The [Warner and Hatch Bill](#) was introduced partly to address the inadequacies of the state of common spatial data. **The Council agreed to include a discussion of the COGO report at the June meeting to start determining what we should evaluate in NYS, then come up with firmer criteria before September for that month’s annual planning session.**

### **Topics from Sectors**

#### **GeoGig**

Colin Reilly presented on the GeoGig platform. Similar to GitHub in concept, GeoGig allows for versioning and forking of spatial data, to allow the crowd to participate in maintenance of spatial data. GeoGig is an open source platform running on PostGIS. Boundless will support GeoGig under contract. NYC is running a one year pilot of GeoGig. Named users participating in the pilot can use a Google or other similar accounts for access.

Doug Freehafer handed out a federal report.

<http://gis.ny.gov/coordinationprogram/workgroups/details/index.cfm?ID=10>

**2015 Meeting Dates** (Jun 11, Sep 16, & Dec 9)

The Council discussed the potential for holding future meetings in NYC at the New York Public Library, or at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany. **Eric will get back to the group concerning options.**

**Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was passed