

NYS Geospatial Advisory Council

September 19, 2017 Meeting

New York State Thruway Authority, Bldg. 10, Albany, NY

Mission: Advise the State on effective use of geospatial technology resulting in tangible benefits to NYS.



David Richardson's recording minutes

Attendance

In person:

Frank Winters, Eric Herman, Alex Chaucer, Douglas Freehafer, Ross Baldwin, Matt Owen, Mickey Dietrich, Todd Nelson, Tim Morrissey, David Jorgensen, David Richardson, Sheri Norton, Jonathon Mayr, Jeff Herter

Via Phone:

Richard Reichert

Invited Guest:

Cheryl Benjamin (GPO)

10:40 a.m. Welcome / Agenda Review / Approval of Minutes (Alex Chaucer)

- Introductions, Corrections to previous minutes
- Approved previous meeting minutes: Alex Chaucer motions, Frank Winters seconds, unanimously approved.

10:55 a.m. Chair report (Alex Chaucer)

- Nominating committee
 - Seven open positions for 2018 (1/3 of committee), 4 to 7 open, 3 of the 7 are current members that can seek another term
 - Review of rules and guidelines for seeking nominations
 - Seek and review nominations between September and December meetings
 - Request potential nominees from NYSGISA (loose deadline is Oct 15 for association to get back to GAC).
 - Committee identifies others if needed
 - Get resumes from candidates that the nominating committee endorses to distribute to the GAC prior to Dec meeting
 - Vote at Dec meeting
 - (Jorgensen) renewed recommendation for GAC members to network at NYSGISA GeoSummit in Oct to help GAC feed potential candidates to the nominating committee
 - (Winters) Opportunity to strengthen GAC member roles in reaching out to their sectors
 - Nominating committee members (proposed)
 - Alex Chaucer, Jeff Herter, Jonathon Mayr, Sheri Norton (Chair)
 - Motion to approve membership in and chair of the nominating committee as put forth, Chaucer motions, Herman seconds, passes unanimously (11:25am)

11:32 a.m. Crowd-sourcing efforts at NYS DOS (Jeff Herter)

- No update for Crowd-sourcing Working Group yet

- Activities of DOS Office of Planning and Development (OPD) related to crowd-sourcing and NYS recreation data
- Background:
 - Oceans and Great Lakes Program: (ECA article 14) report to the Governor called for the creation of an Oceans and Coastal Atlas. This is what also authorized the DOS Geographic Information Gateway. Atlas initial release July 2008.
 - In creating the atlas DOS collected information about recreational use of offshore areas through stakeholder engagement meetings – data was useful but could be very much improved.
 - This planted a number of ideas about the possibility to use crowd-sourcing to collect data on recreation plus other things like tracking marine debris and tracking real-time events like inundation.
- Why Crowd-sourcing
 - Nothing spatial exists about extent and magnitude of recreation in NY
 - Discussion of rec activities/conditions occurs online. Example: Aspiring Adirondack 46ers has public posts on well-used long-running rec "bulletin boards"
 - Over the long-term such data could be used also to see trends in recreational use.
- Benefits/usefulness to rec users
 - Ways to explore new places, select alternate locations instead of high/overused areas
 - State: (State Parks vetting DOS apps): feedback on parks use, another avenue for feedback, not just feedback to local park unit
 - Can be used for planning
- Stone Environmental was contracted, working with a web app developer
- Tested quick/short survey about how folks use social media (what for, how often, etc.) to see if data would be useful for what DOS would want to collect
 - 125 responders, survey sent to Aspiring 46ers group
 - Facebook and Instagram used primarily (small number on Twitter or SnapChat) with daily posts – about 1/2 public on Facebook, 1/3 public on Instagram
 - Lots of different kinds of recreation (skewed a bit toward hiking, expected given nature of Aspiring Adirondack 46ers)
 - Posted mostly about likes (places/activities)
 - Only a few posts about places they don't like, so might not get lots of info for negative experiences
 - Almost everyone (91%) posts pictures, 41% post videos
 - Do they geotag locations? Mostly yes, do so using the social media app
 - Would they download and use a NY rec app if available? 1/2 to 2/3 say yes
 - All willing to use app for about 5 minute duration, declines for longer use
- Based on survey results, likely to pursue crowd-sourcing first using Facebook and next Instagram
 - Use public Facebook posts
 - To use Instagram, have to meet 1 of 3 criteria plus have a complete self-profile before someone can get location data
- Active participant collection
 - "App" style icon (just URL link) to open survey on mobile device – not real app because of fees to be included on Apple/Google store
 - Asks series of questions, option to attach photo
 - DOS can later get more info from photos (like species of fish displayed)
- Opportunistic collection

- Passive harvest of tags and location on Facebook for activities and rec locations
- Assign "mood" tags based on words in post that reflect mood/like/dislike
- Both methods (active and opportunistic) will be used to produce a NYS recreational use point dataset: statewide, with attribute field to distinguish method by which it was collected.
- End of presentation
- (Winters) This gets to a business case for investing in recreation facilities, other economic activity indicators, so could be a powerful metric for justifying investment
- Contextual questions to respond to based on surveys/input from texts (respond with more info), example of text bots and text exchanges
- DOS believes they will have a beta version by Oct 17 and will be looking for beta testers

Break for lunch, resume at 1:00 p.m.

1:05 p.m. Geospatial Data Act of 2017, briefing for GAC (Cheryl Benjamin)

- Intent to build the national SDI - more robust, less duplication of effort, improve use
- Codifying existing federal executive orders, FGDC gets authority
- Provide congressional oversight, and add up how much federal \$ spent on GIS - annual reporting required
- Data organized by themes, governance, federal agencies made responsible for leads on each
- Elevate national advisory committee role for more clout
- Bills in 2005 and 2006 all referred to and died in committee
- 2017 – S.1253 – May 25 in Senate, referred to committee
- 2017 – HR.3522 – July 27 in House (only minor wording changes), referred to committee
- Background, 2015 NDSI report card: framework data status = C, infrastructure to support data = C-
- Concerns raised that Sections 2 and 11 may add restrictions to federal procurement, including anything that uses federal funds
- Bill sponsors state that there is no intent to change professional licensing requirements and no intent to expand the Brooks Act
- Congressional Research Service issued an opinion that the opposite could be interpreted based on current language in the bills (so weighing in that the concerns of opposed groups and associations are valid)
- Where it is now = in committee, differences of opinion remain
- Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) tapped to recommend modifications by Oct 1, especially to language in Sections 2 and 11
- COGO includes many groups, both for and opposed, including CAGIS, AAG, MAPPs, NSPS, surveyor groups, NSGIC, URISA, ASCE, ASPRS, GLIS, UCGIS, others.
- End of presentation
- GAC not in position to advice on this, but NYSGISA and members can contact and talk to their representatives in congress to express opinions if they have concerns.

1:50 p.m. Reports

- No federal report (Freehafer) except there will be a LiDAR panel at the GeoSummit
- State Agency Advisory Group (Herman) next meeting this coming Thursday so no meeting and no report since last GAC meeting
- NYSGISA report (Dietrich)
 - GeoSummit coming up on Oct 17-19 and agenda is out
 - Awards committee (Lead by Ross) received lots of submissions

- Lots of submissions of abstracts for presentations at conference
 - Website being fixed for registration
 - Speculation on upswing in attendance, wide range of topics, 2-year vs. annual lag
- Rick and Mickey participated in recent NYSAPLS meeting (New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors)
 - NYSGISA workshops now accredited for professional credit for participating
 - NYSAPLS presenting at GeoSummit
 - NYSGISA accreditation lasts a whole year
 - Some talk about sponsoring/getting local groups and state GIS and others together for cross-training and also info sessions on what is/is not surveying
- Legislative Map Day will be on May 8, 2018, sponsored by Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush

2:10 p.m. GIO/GPO Report (Winters)

- Background/updates on GPO services, lead-in to new GIS strategic plan
 - Two halves of GPO
 - Data programs & Framework Data layers
 - Core Services team (web services and ShareGIS)
 - Note, State is currently posting for a G29 GIS Platforms Team lead (NY-Alert - public and government and emergency mass notification) within the Core Services team. Also responsible for ShareGIS - GIS web services platform
 - Quarterly publishing of civil boundary changes
 - New civil boundary web service; old municipal boundary web service being retired
 - Local address update – GPO aiding to get a more complete Census in 2020
 - So everyone is counted – "NY Counts Everyone Because Everyone Counts"
 - even the hard to reach ones at hard to reach addresses plus outreach so more are willing to participate
 - Can social media be used to identify what languages are spoken in different geographic areas (like Twitter)?
 - Can outreach efforts be retweeted by unofficial community leaders to increase impact?
 - Data with potential (and issues): cell phone tracks and long stops
 - Providing more services at shelters could generate more participation from shelter users on day of the Census
 - All SAM points now up on NYS GIS Clearinghouse, all in the NENA standard
 - Working with localities to get data to work in non-compliant local government systems (built that way by previous vendors)
 - Lots of sub-address points being added
 - Refreshing vintage of state-wide parcel data (57 counties available to state agencies, 19 counties available publicly)
 - Orthos and elevation
 - All 2016 orthos are up online on the clearinghouse
 - 2016 LiDAR still in review at USGS
 - 2017 flights – fewer snow-/cloud-/leaf-free days than expected, so not as comprehensive as hoped
 - 2 meter elevation webservice surface available (renders on the client side, can also download)
 - 2018 plan for orthos and LiDAR:
 - Orthos - focus on where missed in 2017 plus regularly scheduled areas

- LiDAR in Southern Tier plus some other gaps
- NY's interstate and international charter of Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) - state sponsored mutual aid - is just getting back from assisting emergency response efforts
 - 40 people to Houston, also people to Haiti and Virgin Islands, plus additional people helping with maps (those folks not embedded)
 - Similar tech used as with Lake Ontario surveys and flooding response this spring
- Continued mapping support for Governor's Chamber
 - 46 separate press event related mapping requests since last year
- NYS open competitive testing for information technology specialists open to higher grades beyond entry-level for first time, tests on Oct 14
- ShareGIS
 - ShareGIS to improve efficiency and remove duplication
 - GPO Framework Data and Business Layer data will be included
 - Lumpy demand for web services, 30 million map requests per month, but 8% are erroring out so at capacity for handling requests
 - Error/waste comparing matching cloud services (self-adjusting) to traditional ITS of stair-stepped adding of computing levels
 - Need to innovate and use more open mix of tools to keep costs down
 - Open Sensor Hub – potential to include live drone feeds

GIS Strategic Plan (Winters)

- Started with clusters of ITS agencies
- Solicited input from number of other stakeholder groups
- Right now somewhat GPO-centric, want to expand further
- Mission and vision statements – ask GAC and sectors to provide feedback
- 3 categories of what it wants to accomplish (goals)
- Different stakeholders: those driven by plan, those who benefit from it
- Operational data store:
 - join at client level (live) of tables to generic web service (ex. expenditures to county), so GeoJSON to JSON table in API or client
 - marry web services and transactional data
- The GAC asked to advise and comment on the draft document
 - To be distributed to GAC from GPO (Frank) on Oct 2
 - Gather feedback over next month or so, so by end of Nov/early Dec
 - Another opportunity for GAC to plug into sector constituent groups
- (Herter) For discussion, does GAC want to have groups that focus on different parts of the strategic plan? Also, does GAC need to have an official response?
- (Norton) Discuss plan in "lunch sessions" at GeoCon for feedback? Some bullet points, specific targeted audience reach out then
- Week after Oct 2: GAC to look at plan early to get ready for broader distribution
 - Call soon after to discuss if ready for presenting/posting before conference
- There are 2 published ITS policies relating to GIS
 - Technology policy from late 1990s (started GAC)
 - GIS data sharing cooperative policy (GIS clearinghouse)
 - Take time to update these policies but also to develop new policies
 - Question: are there things in the Strategic Plan that would make good policy?

3:10 p.m. Next GAC meeting planning

- Potential issues GAC wants to raise
 - (Norton): What are projected plans for RPS (real parcel services? Centralized assessment data housed at the state level?) – as a next topic for meeting
 - (Baldwin): LUCA? Sharing points with Census
 - state makes a submission, localities also get to make submissions
 - USPS already also provides data: any address mail successfully delivered to
 - Residential addresses from DMV: supervisor override when supplied addresses rejected by automated USPS check – good candidates to consider adding for Census
 - Cornell through state and LUCA to compare Census block and parcel data (with numbers of sights and housing units per site data in parcel data)
 - (Jorgensen): Is GPO's tracking the time services down for maintenance?
 - Answer: yes, and will improve during updates in a cloud environment

3:25 p.m. Meeting adjourns