

NY State Geospatial Advisory Council
Minutes for December 11th, 2018 Meeting
Pride of NY Room, 10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY



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

Attendance

In person:

Frank Winters, Ross Baldwin, Todd Nelson, David Richardson, Eric Herman, Douglas Freehafer, Richard Reichert, David Jorgensen, Heather Weller, Randy Rath, Lindi Quackenbush, Christina Croll, Chris Rado

Via Phone:

Jonathan Mayr, Kate Buss, Michael Ross, Matt Owen, Sheri Norton, Alex Chaucer

Invited Guests: Tim Ruhren (GPO), Bob Gehrler (GPO), Kate Kiyanitsa (GPO)

Not present:

Colin Reilly, Chris O'Connor

Minutes:

Steve Schoenhaus

10:30 Welcome / Agenda Review / Approval of Minutes (Baldwin)

- Introductions
- The previous meeting minutes were approved after it was pointed out there was a typo. Doug F. motioned to pass with correction, Dave J. seconded, unanimously approved

10:45 2019 Nominations (Nomination Sub-Committee)

Nominating Committee Chair Eric thanked Sheri and Alex. Some committee members have termed out. Eric contacted incumbents for possible new 3-year term. The next nominating committee should consider more representation in western NY. New recommendations give better representation for downstate. The committee recommended re-nomination of Dave, Mickey Dietrich for local gov't. Anna Heraldo-Gomez also recommended for local government. Frank thanked Eric. Eric made motion to accept for 2019-2022 term, Doug seconded, unanimously approved. Frank will contact nominees, Eric will supply contact info.

- **Non-Profit:**

- Incumbent: Dave Richardson, interested in second term
- Nominee: **Dave Richardson, The Nature Conservancy**

- **Local Government:**

- Incumbent: Jonathon Mayr, declined a second term
- Nominee: **Mickey Dietrich, River Area Council of Governments & NYS Tug Hill Commission**

- **Local Government:**
 - Incumbent: Sheri Norton, ineligible for a third term
 - Nominee: **Ana Hiraldo-Gomez, Westchester County**
- **Academia:**
 - Incumbent: Alex Chaucer, ineligible for third term
 - Nominee: **Emily Fogarty, Farmingdale State College**
- **Federal Government:**
 - Incumbent: Doug Freehafer, ineligible for a third term
 - Nominee: **Julia O'Brien, FEMA**

Frank talked about how valuable GAC meetings are, all agreed.

2019 Chairman Vote Ross Baldwin, having just served, declined to serve a second term as chair. Ross surveyed for interest. Richard Reichert and Dave Richardson are interested in Chair. Heather Weller and Todd Nelson not interested in Chair, but are interested in Vice Chair.

Ross will post the final Slate and election process online. Vote will be soon and new chair will be in place by the March meeting. Consider change in process to separately elect Chair and Vice. Frank will take this up. See General Discussion below for continuation of this discussion. Frank presented Ross with Certificate of appreciation for serving as chair.

11:15 Tax Parcel Working Group Update

Kate K. and Bob—working on getting counties to share data publicly. Kate K. stated that immediate goals are to: get a current snapshot on restrictions on data, how much is charged, whether the data is copyrighted, are there agreements that are mandatory, methods of data distribution, advice they (counties) may have, how changes are documented and tracked, and of those counties currently sharing, why and how did they allow sharing, etc. She is working on 1-pager highlighting benefits of sharing, realities of FOIL, etc. She is looking for more ideas to help move the rest of counties to open their data up to the public. She received a call from a Town Council member in Columbia county upset that data was not free. Ross is interested, hopeful to get Suffolk to allow the GPO to share with other state agencies. Lindi asked of those counties not sharing, where is the resistance? NYC DOITT hosts tax map for DOF which is zipped and updated weekly. Multiple uses for data sometimes makes it difficult to satisfy varied needs. For example, NYC wanted parcels to fit with air photos so compromises were made and the results are not always useful for building outlines. Frank asked if anyone could locate a study which concluded that it costs more to handle the money charge for data than the amount charged. Chris Rado will look but thinks the Open Data Law freed up distribution of data. Bob asked about contacting the Suffolk County Open Data Committee to possibly discuss parcels. Suffolk is only county not allowing sharing with state agencies.

3 levels of access:

All the state's counties allow use of their parcel data by state agencies in emergencies

61 counties allowing the GPO to share their data with state agencies for normal use

21 counties allow the GPO to share their data publicly

Heather and Kate K. mentioned several valuable uses of parcel data including solar panel location and cell tower location. Frank mentioned the new tax parcel assessment lookup service, an idea which Dave J. had proposed previously. It accepts coordinates and returns assessment roll data only, no parcel geography. The service will be rolled out in the NYSGISA webinar next week. Bob says all assessment roll data for a given roll year must be submitted to the state after finalized. We don't need permission to release this attribute data. The URL was displayed. Frank demonstrated the service with his own parcel. Can work with ArcGIS tools. Dave J's idea, Frank will send URL out. Dave

J. says hikers and hunters may find it useful. Ross will put Kate on the March agenda for update of the parcel program.

11:45 National Digital Ortho-imagery Program (NDOP) (Ruhren)

- Status of the NAIP – LIDAR and orthos are almost done for this year. NYC and central NY are done. RFP out for next year as contract ends this year. The needs for 2019 are Long Island, from Monroe county and west, and St. Lawrence. However, the RFP was retracted, and Tim continues to work on options.

- Questions the Federal Agencies have for State/ Local Imagery Users

National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) – Tim is the NSGIC rep to National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP) committee and he attended meeting recently – USDA, USGS, BLM, US Forest Service, Census Bureau. NAIP flies every 2-3 years and data is free. Agricultural use mostly 1m or 60cm resolution. No budget for USDA yet. Need other federal agencies to pitch in, but if no one else is chipping in, they can fly but not distribute data for free anymore. In general, the USDA can't rely on state funding as the funds available after the flights and processing are completed. NYS will be flown in 2019 if all goes well. Just a few members of the GAC use NAIP imagery – Ross, Lindi, & Dave Richardson. Dave R. and Lindi see less research and use by non-profits and academia if data is not publicly available. Tim says there are more satellite sources in NDOP now than in the past. Most gov't satellite resolution is 30m, too coarse (Dave R). At Tim's meeting drones were a large discussion topic. One attendee stressed proper handling and documentation and archiving of drone data.

12:00 National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) (Ruhren)

- Future of NYS stewardship in the Hydrography Dataset

Data is well worth pursuing. Tim met with DEC and their resources are limited. Tim wants to update the existing data anyway. Create a web service, register hydro names in GNIS, then include NYS improvements into NHD. Maybe Lidar data will help with first crack at it. Use desktop NHD update tools (Doug talked about these). Several ways to update data, which changes to make, how to make available. Need local and county input on sources. Tim is point person for now. Frank gave history of NYS Hydro and GPO involvement. We used to keep hydro at several scales but not updated. Any GAC members or their constituents that have ideas for needs, maintenance, concerns are welcome to contact Tim.

Ross handed out election results for NYS IT Policies and Guidelines. The electronic vote resulted indicated GAC endorsement.

12:30 Break for Lunch

1:30 ShareGIS Proof of Concept Update (Winters)

ShareGIS is a shared web services platform. Currently answering about 30M hits/month. Frank handed out an architecture diagram. For those on the phone, there is a simplified diagram in the GIS Strategic Plan. Note the proof of concept proprietary and open source components and an API Gateway which will allow the GPO to swap out backend components. Identity access stores like my.ny.gov and other accounts will be integrated. Will test with new version of ACES, the new name for Real Property System. Need IBM to sign agreement, after 1st version was lost in ITS. POC is 90 days in duration. We want to show power of joining business data to geo services. Chris mentioned NYC trying to do same thing as ShareGIS in wanting to set up cloud platform with GIS services. Funding is deciding factor. They are trying Pivotal Cloud Platform which can be moved into any cloud provider. Ross asked if there will be links to local data. We can embed local data URLs although identity access might be an issue. NYS will host much NYC LIDAR data. NYC needs its agencies to search easily for data. NYC orthos currently available as map services.

2:15 NYS GIS Strategic Plan (Winters)

ITS came out with the ITS Strategic Plan so the GPO decided to match the formatting. Several GAC members asked about who is audience? With concerns it is too complicated for the public. Frank explained that the plan is intended to

direct the actions of ITS employees, and gain clear approval from executives. All stakeholders show see that their needs are considered in the plan and their voices heard. We can include supplemental info to help public and non-GISers understand the doc. Rick thought this focus was OK, no negative comments. Lindi will supply comments, esp on Vision statement.

Lots of comments and discussion ensued. Frank noted that GPO will rework and get out to group. Rick motioned to finish edits and conduct online voting. Lindi seconded, all approved.

2:45 Reports

- Federal Report (Freehafer) - FEMA Lidar is available in a few counties, will do much more 15K sq. miles. Available maybe mid-2020. Questionnaires for 3-D study returned. Expect report in 2019. Lake Champlain flood inundation mapping is completed. Will be put out as a USGS site.
- State Agency Advisory Group (Herman) no report, next meeting Jan 8
- GIO/GPO Report (Winters) - Civil boundary data is being used a lot. GPO provides quarterly updates for gdb and web service. The next update will be in January. The GPO is involved in Census 2020 address updates (LUCA) and submitted ~40K address additions. Census determining whether to accept or reject addresses. Bob Gehrler and Rodger Coryell now involved in Streets since Cheryl Benjamin retired. Street service gets 20K hits/month. NSGIC: Cheryl and Bill Johnson are both gone. Frank on Board of Directors now. GIS Podcasts being put out. GPO is likely moving to another office location this summer. The Geospatial Data Act passed. The act formalizes coordination of data, authority of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, more access to Open Data. The state GIS policies edited and approved by the GAC are making their way through approvals.
- NYSGISA Report (Reichert) Webinars are successful, 2 in December. Looking at chances for prof. development for members. Looking for volunteers in GISA committees. Next GeoCon is Sept 23-25, 2019 in Syracuse.

3:00 Open Discussion

Given that different GAC members are interested in the Chair and Vice Chair, we need to change governance doc. if the group decides on having separate votes. A Motion to separate the nomination and voting of the chair and vice chair was made by Heather, seconded by Todd and Doug, and passed.

Frank mentioned for all to think about a March agenda. The New Chair will set up a Doodle Poll for availability.

Need to change GAC Rules so to reflect separating the chair and vice chair, and that the chair and vice chair can be reconsidered for the *same* position after a 2-year hiatus.

Ross motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

3:28 Meeting adjourns

Upcoming Meetings

2019, March