

**NY State Geospatial Advisory Council**  
**Draft Minutes for September 10, 2019 Meeting**

The New York Field Office of The Nature Conservancy, 195 New Karner Road, Albany, NY  
(upstairs from the Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center)



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

*In person:* Christina Croll, Mickey Dietrich, Ana Hiraldo-Gomez, Eric Herman, David Jorgensen, Todd Nelson, Julie O'Brien, Matthew Owen, Christopher O'Connor, Lindi Quackenbush, Chris Rado, Richard Reichert, David Richardson, Michael Ross, Heather Weller, Frank Winters

*Via phone:* Emily Fogarty, Randy Rath, **Ross Baldwin**

*Minutes:* Christopher O'Connor

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

- Approve previous meeting minutes
  - There were no suggested edits to the June 4, 2019 draft meeting minutes.
  - Eric Herman motioned to accept the minutes, Frank Winters seconded, everyone unanimously approved.

**10:45 Nominating Committee formation for 2020 open seats on GAC** (Richardson)

(Moved to after lunch)

**11:00 Reports**

- State Agency Advisory Group report (Herman)
  - There had not been a meeting since last held on May 7
  - Next meeting is on September 17
    - Eric Herman is in the process of developing an agenda that would tentatively include:
      - Dan Martin from NGS on Datum Changes
      - Orthoimagery and LiDAR contract updates
      - Updates to GIS.ny.gov (Clearinghouse)
- NYSGISA report (Reichert)
  - 2019 NYGeoCon will be held September 23-25, 2019 at the Marriott Syracuse, Downtown, Syracuse, NY.
  - The association is encouraging members and professionals to participate on committees and/or the board.
  - Memberships are now free for higher education students affiliated with GIS studies.
- Federal report (O'Brien)
  - Defer report out on LiDAR to Frank Winters

- Reviewed (handout) FEMA Activities
  - Provided a detailed summary of updates on flood studies
    - Conducting basic level engineering in several counties across New York
    - There has been a lot of work on levee studies
    - One Letter of Map Revision active
    - Many ongoing studies that are in the process of getting preliminary maps made
    - Julie O'Brien provided a high-level overview of the map modernization process:
      - starts with discovery
      - goes to engineering
      - engineering results in a preliminary product
      - counties have 3 years for comment / revisions
        - sometimes FEMA may release pre- preliminary Base Flood Elevations,
      - publish final flood insurance rate map (FIRM),
      - potential letters of map revision following published map
    - Most of the nation was mapped in the 1970's and began map modernization in late 1990's. Coastal areas have taken the priority in NYS.

### **11:30 GIS in Westchester County (Hiraldo-Gomez)**

- (Presentation)
- Westchester County uses ESRI technology
- 192 attended their annual GIS meeting in 2018
- Last photography flown for the county was in 2018 (and very beginning of 2019)
- Oblique photography is used by local government emergency services included police and fire departments
  - The county integrated oblique photography with their Municipal Tax Parcel Viewer, which allows for measurements to be made from the photography (measurement capability given to emergency response and assessors)
- Recently integrated Resiliency and Stability (looking at impact of climate change and sea level rise on county assets)
- GIS team maintains a mix of internal and public viewers
  - County Real Estate One Stop is a popular application
  - Local Business Viewer – retrieves data from InfoGroup (six-month update of all businesses in Westchester County)
- Story Maps are used to promote the services provided by local government
- GIS team maintains an Intranet site for training local government
- There is no countywide tax mapping coordination – they have 26 tax map jurisdictions, and use the statewide coordination effort to bring the information together
- GIS team produces paper maps as a service to local government
- GIS team provides specific training on mobile data capture

- GIS team supports Non-for Profits as well
  - Westchester Community Foundation provides access to health information on their main website
- GIS team is working on Westchester County GeoHub, which includes open data and applications
  - Working on ADA-compliance
  - Using Google Lighthouse and A-Designer
- *Question and Answer:* Westchester orthoimagery is separate from the state orthoimagery program
- *Question and Answer:* ADA compliance approach – Response – best practice is working with Esri templates because they typically meet most of the requirements
- *Question:* Is there a service catalog for local government? *Answer:* There is not a specific catalog, but services are communicated based on existing network with municipalities. Westchester County CIO is working on a Shared Services Portal (not limited to GIS) for the county.
- There is a desire to capture LiDAR. Chris Rado shared that the NYC Department of Finance made a justification for LiDAR and change assessment services because it is revenue generating.
- Chris shared information on NYC contracting with CycloMedia for terrestrial LiDAR (building façades). Data has revealed buildings that have been built without following permitting or registration requirements. This data is being collected twice a year. DOITT is taking over management of the contract and ensures the licensed data is available to all city agencies.

**11:45 NYS DEC's UAV program and issues surrounding UAV programs and data** (Scott McDonnell, NYSDEC)

- (Presentation)
- The Department of Environmental Conservation has 30 pilots and 40 aircraft (starting to age out, ~ 5 years old)
- Uses include Unmanned Aerial Survey (UAS) and Remote Sensing, among others
- Provided early history of the program
- Developed a Standard Operating Procedure in 2015, working with the FAA
- Worked on waiver (COA) with FAA that allows an organization to operate outside certain regulations
- Provide training and support for DHS, State Police, and NYPA
- There is a State Agency Workgroup that meets monthly
- Adopted a Center of Excellence / Shared Services Model
- Performed 1,000s of flights with over 200 missions flown
- Diverse range of applications and program areas within DEC have used the services, including Fish & Wildlife, Lands & Forests, Mineral Resources, and Operations
  - Range of choices on platforms, including cost (from \$1,000 to \$40,000)
- Provided overview of regulations
  - Recreational/Hobby (Section 349) – mirrors commercial use (Part 107)
    - No flights in controlled air space without permission
  - Section 333

- COA – gives night operations
- ECOA – includes emergencies
- Provided detailed overview of applications
- DEC is open to partnerships – most partnerships have been emergency management focused, but if there's a shared interest it could be an opportunity
- Scott McDonnell wants to bring mapping standards into GIS groups working within the state
- Training is provided to state agencies
  - NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services training program geared toward public safety response
    - UAS courses are available – intro, basic, advanced; includes training equipment

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**12:30 Break for lunch**  
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**1:30 Update on status of the ortho imagery/LiDAR RFP** (Tim Ruhren, GIS Program Office)

(Presentation)

- Current orthoimagery procurement is in the restricted period
  - Mostly 1 ft, ½ on LI, NYC, Westchester, Rockland
  - 4 Band imagery
  - Lidar as well
  - Looking at potential partnerships for cost sharing that could modify the planned collection, depending on opportunities
  - Flying early spring – leaf off condition
- 2019 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) 60 cm, 4 band (USDA) – could be available by the end of the year
- GAC Shared Comment - The Orthoimagery Program is a crucial building block for everyone's GIS

**1:45 GIO/GPO/GCO report** (Winters)

- 2020 Census
  - Governors Priority
  - GPO participation is focused on spatial needs, less of a role on other aspects
  - Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program is in its final stage right now
    - State submitted 800K+ addresses
    - Census accepted 300K as valid addresses, and will either:
      1. improve address
      2. add geolocation, or
      3. Use it as a second validation of the address
    - State provided 80K more addresses
    - 322K address in total have been accepted.
      - 226K were actual adds for both state and local government, and 20k were returned as appealable (they didn't accept them, but NY could

send more information and have OMB make the decision) – of the 20k, GPO thinks ½ are dismissible, so now Dept. Of Labor will confirm if the others are business vs. residential, and that the address is valid. Then they will send documentation of the sources used.

- Street and Address Maintenance (SAM)
  - 25 counties are using the online address editing environment
  - 62 counties provided address this quarter
  - Suffolk wants to provide updates by zip code
- Parcel
  - All 2018 except Suffolk is rolled together, 21 are available publicly
  - State owned parcels and centroids are also available
  - Web services will be out in September
  - GPO restarted negotiations with Suffolk on access for state agencies
- ShareGIS / Web Services
  - 30 million hits during summer
  - 40 million during non-summer

#### **2:00 Revised Data Sharing Cooperative Agreements (Winters)**

- Motivation and issues propelling the need for revised language and mechanisms
  - Over the past few years, discussed marginalizing the importance of the cooperative... much of the data is more appropriately shared publicly
  - As more data is available, the need for the cooperative diminishes
  - In meantime, minor tweaks are needed to the terms of the agreement – ex. physical sign-off that sourced through four different agencies at different times
  - ITS legal has drafted online terms
- Review of proposed new language for the agreements
  - Challenge – some agencies can't click-through online terms, but this could be worked around
  - Outstanding issues
    - Not open to the private sector
    - In FOIL, there is no concept of primary and secondary custodian
  - Suggestion – Establish a Working Group
    - David Jorgensen
    - Mickey Dietrich
    - Heather Weller
    - Christina Croll

#### **2:30 Revamping of the NYS GIS Clearinghouse and download vs services approach (Winters)**

- Needed/planned updates to the back-end system hosting the Clearinghouse
  - GIS.ny.gov (the brand)
  - Improve data discovery, get web services up front and more prominent; look at interactive mapper & implications to other online mapping applications
  - Cold Fusion environment needs to be deprecated
  - Suggestion – Establish a Work Group

- David Jorgensen
- Chris Rado
- Eric Herman
- Chris Rado suggested SpatialReserves Blog as a resource
- Continued discussion surrounding data sharing policy and legislative approaches

**3:00 GAC Messages for NY GeoCon (Richardson)**

- What messages would the GAC like to convey to the Association's membership about what we've been up to and what important things we're working on? Group to follow-up post meeting.

**3:30 Meeting adjourns**

*Upcoming 2019 Meetings:*      Dec. 11 (Wed)