

**NY State Geospatial Advisory Council
Minutes for March 17, 2021 Meeting**

Meeting held via WebEx for all participants

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

Attending: Svetla Borovska, Sylvie Browne, Cattyann Campbell, Christina Croll, Mickey Dietrich, Keith Ducett, Emily Fogarty, Jonathan Garner, Eric Herman, Ana Hiraldo-Gomez, Lindi Quackenbush, Chris Rado, Randy Rath, Richard Reichert, David Richardson, Larry Spraker, Heather Weller, Carrie Wiley, Frank Winters

Absent: Julia O'Brien, Christopher O'Connor

Guests: Ross Baldwin, Jeff Langella, Tim Ruhren

Minutes: David Richardson

9:00 Welcome (Weller)

- Approval of minutes from previous meeting (December 2020)
 - Richardson motioned to accept the minutes, Herman seconded, everyone unanimously approved.
- Introductions and welcome to new members

9:45 State Agency Advisory Group report (Herman)

- Last meeting was Feb 2, 2021
- Meeting notes posted online and recorded.
 - <http://gis.ny.gov/coordinationprogram/workgroups/details/index.cfm?ID=7>
- Summaries of active GIS projects from the different agencies
- Presentation by the GIS Program Office on data and services the GPO is providing and other program updates, including the ortho and lidar program and parcel program, software licensing, and Census issues.
- COVID-19 efforts discussed.
- Presentation on Historic Preservation's CRIS and Trekker Application Suite.

9:55 NYSGISA report (Garner)

- Introduction: Jonathan is the new past-president of the NYS GIS Association, and as such he joins the GAC as its *ex officio* representative.
- Review of structure, governance, and outreach efforts of NYS GIS Association.
- Discussed upcoming outreach and webinar/training topics.
- Planning for GeoCon21 still TBD.

10:00 GIO/GPO/GCO report (Winters)

- Street Address Maintenance (SAM) updates and web traffic
 - With help of local partners, the SAM program completed over 600,000 updates last year.

- Use continues to expand: over 433,000 hits for combined Address Points and Streets in Jan 2021, and over 5.9 million hits on the geocoding service in Feb 2021.
- Civil Boundaries and place points updates
 - Includes minor cleanup and updated Shoreline to be more spatially aligned with orthoimagery.
 - Updated data will be published by the end of April 2021 (geodatabase and shapefile formats along with map and feature services).
- Statewide Parcel Map Program
 - Steuben County added to now 26 counties making parcels fully publicly shareable.
 - A secure web service of all 62 counties' tax parcel data is available for State Agency use.
 - 2019 data and web services are currently available, data standardization of 2020 parcels and assessment data will begin this week.
 - Kate Kiyanita (GPO) has been giving presentations on the Benefits of Open Parcel Data to various associations across the state (including the NYS Association of Counties, and a NYSGISA webinar). A public version of the presentation, and the recorded webinar, is here for further advocacy to Counties. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFitZtlcBLE>
- Orthoimagery program
 - All 2020 data processed and delivered and online (services and downloads)
 - 2021 plans
 - Four western NY counties (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, & Niagara) and fourteen Hudson Valley/Delaware watershed counties (Saratoga, Schenectady, Albany, Rensselaer, Greene, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, Sullivan, and Delaware) will be flown in 2021.
 - Albany, Greene, Ulster, Rockland, and Westchester upgrading to 6-inch resolution (12-inch resolution everywhere else).
 - Draft flight plans currently in review:
 - expect the four western NY counties block to be snow-free first
 - snowpack in the Catskills is well above average, expect delayed flights there.
- Lidar program
 - 2019 GPO 3DEP project (Erie, Livingston, northern half of Genesee) complete and available.
 - 2019 federal projects (covering all or part of 27 NY counties) in various stages of approval pipeline, all estimated to be accepted by mid-May 2021, with availability following (possibly by several months).
 - 2020 GPO 3DEP project (Wayne, Seneca, Yates, Schuyler, and Tompkins) is in the contractor processing / review and correction phase, with the expectation that it will be complete and accepted and delivered to USGS for federal review by mid-April.
 - Delays expected for 2020 USGS-3DEP project (S/W/R/C 4 counties) due to data processing issues. This project included a purchase of off-the-shelf data from L3Harris Technologies, Inc.
- National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) update status
 - delayed any improvements since Sept. 2020, as the focus for last year (same team at GPO) was on the ortho/lidar program.

- Emergency Management Support
 - Continuing to supply GIS support for DHSES
 - Supporting AGOL content for search and rescue, building damage assessment, and ice jam status reporting.
 - Support for CIRIS – password protected (restricted) Critical Infrastructure Response Information System
- NSGIC
 - Frank is now the current president of NSGIC
 - Current efforts include:
 - Pandemic GIS taskforce
 - Ways to provide data to commercial wayfinding companies, as a matter of public safety and for EMS response
- Question: Has GPO worked with DEC/Parks to work on Search & Rescue app?
 - Response: only in so far as DEC/Parks involved in OEM work – maybe closer working together is possible even for events that don't trigger OEM response?
- General note: DOT hazard tree collection app is being adopting for use by DEC (also for rockfalls and scaling/cleaning work)

10:15 Break

10:30 USGS's Elevation Derived Hydrography (EDH) – Jeff Langella (GPO)

- Jeff is technical lead on GPO's lidar program and coordination
- EDH Program... or more of an activity... NYS GPO still evaluating participation.
- Full state-wide coverage of lidar quality level 2 will be achieved by end of 2021.
- HUC8s & Waterbodies are in NHD stewardship by GPO
- Nominal width of 30 m. or greater for stream feature for NHD flowlines for EDH inclusion for 3DEP work.
- GPO had anticipated this being future work
- USGS has lots documentation relating to 3DEP for creation of EDH
- NSGIC currently in cooperative agreement with USGS to share info and input
- Ongoing monthly meetings presented by USGS
- HUC 10s as Areas of Interest (AOIs)
- Discussion regarding the amount of effort needed for hydrologic conditioning of lidar DEM data... hydro-enforcement, burning in culverts and other artifacts, drainage pathway obstructions upslope of NHD lines, relation to floodplain areas (Richardson, Langella)
- Herman notes that the Thruway also has large % of culverts being mapped
- Question: Would this effort help with getting DFIRMs completed by FEMA?

10:55 gis.ny.gov updates – Tim Ruhren (GPO)

- Background:
 - >700 people a day visit Clearinghouse and is a way to push out downloads of GPO data – Clearinghouse is still functional and working...
 - But is faced with limited and decreasing staff at GPO and competing priorities

- Backend platform is also out-of-date.
- There is a technical need to retire the server that Clearinghouse resides on.
- We have a decision to migrate or upgrade/revamp...
- Review of “locked” data not shared publicly but shared between Data Sharing Cooperative member organizations and agencies (including EDU and non-profits but not open to for-profits).
 - Not a lot there anymore that hasn’t been supplanted by more recent and more comprehensive open data... county parcel data being the exception.
- It may not be easy to support “locked data” on new platform
- Review of language in Co-op agreement (1,000 and signed members)
 - Past trends in co-op joining membership... declining as data increasingly shifts to being open (ex. streets and addresses and usage by school districts for bus routing).
 - Legal shudders at unwinding agreements, instead favors work towards making data all public so agreements become irrelevant
 - Members obliged to keep contact info to date and to put up metadata, but agreement doesn’t obligate GPO to share password-protected data (that was bonus as technology and capacity matured).
 - Issues with cyber-security protocols may hamper providing limited-access to “locked” data on future platform.
- “Clearinghouse” is the known and recognized brand name, at least currently.
- GAC had a Working Group working on this topic.
- Frank has called stewards from all state agencies owning locked content- now all that data has been made public and updated or yanked because it is obsolete.
- FOIL requests: when Data Sharing Cooperative members see requests for locked data made to and responded to by NYS (for data hosted by GPO) instead of directed and handled by the data originator, it has chilling effect on data providers.
- Governor’s initiative on open data (and some agencies managing in both places, thus some redundancy currently)... it’s possible we could list dataset and serve out metadata in the Clearinghouse but only maintain a single repository copy of the data in NYS “open data”.
- Updating Clearinghouse backend likely to start within next couple of months

11:30 Use of Creative Commons Zero Licensing (Winters)

- Of interest in streamlining dissemination and uptake of open data, especially in light of needing a streamlined way to publish data in a way that wayfinding GPS companies will ingest.
- Lack of clear licensing agreements/terms currently prevent companies from ingesting data from states.
- Compliance with CC zero (public domain) goes up with uniform terms when in use by everyone across many states.
- 4 conditions for using CC zero (by NYS agency)
 - clear ownership of the data (by agency setting the distribution terms)

- NYS cyber security criteria met
- if cross posted on open data gov, make sure posting notes clearly that the terms and conditions are different on the different sites
- executive/administrative review is OK with decision to use CC zero - chain of command has signed off.
- (Croll) OPRHP's legal will likely parrot what GPO's legal stated, so OPRHP would likely be on board with any decision by GPO to start using CC zero (but noted individual parks may be on both sides of the issue).
- Some participants (some co-op/other agencies) make the decision on what they want to make public domain
- Most dialed in on bridge clearance for public safety (issue)... WZDX is GeoJSON just with very specific schema
- Other parties (Amazon and delivery companies) -> Amazon getting meds delivered= safety issue
- Frank: GAC has ability to make a recommendation – create a Work Group
- The GIS Assoc and or the GAC could make a recommendation to agencies and to GIS community overall regarding the use of CC0 for public data.

12:10 Adjourn for lunch

1:00 NYSGISA Regional Coordination/Local Vaccine Distribution Planning Efforts (Ross Baldwin)

- Currently bi-weekly coordination meetings with open discussions
- Common theme: concern that GIS is not being leveraged enough, and difficulties in using/sharing DOH data in light of HIPAA privacy concerns...
 - tensions in aggregating DOH data to small units like census tracts (or zip code for public, smaller cell sizes for agencies in Rockland Co.)
 - Researchers need finer resolution than zip code
- In August - workshop (recorded on NYSGISA website) - geocoded info use in COVID research and operations/response.
- Alan Leidner (GISMO) is working with OGC for Health SDI/SGM for framework for data system similar to NYC underground infrastructure
- Building/improving relationship with NYS DOH, current interest extends to vaccine distribution planning
- GISA website good resource for COVID & GIS efforts mapping microclusters, how to turn this into a routine process.
- Now Regional Hubs (same as Regional Econ Dev.) for vaccine distribution planning at regional level – are taking local input, empowering local groups (overtime, vaccines handled in “normal way” same as flu)
- GPO, via working with GISA, can help connect folks to increase local GIS capacity for DOHs in regions (where there is high variability in GIS capacity). Connecting state resources, also volunteers, others...

- Interest in local “unofficials” (like twitter and other social media influencers) and what would resonate with different groups for effective outreach.
- Interest in vaccination rate distribution being geocoded and aggregated into anonymized maps.
- National: CDC vaccine finder site -> best for NY
 - Good map interface site
- Where you can go for a vaccine depends on under what conditions you are eligible
- Differences between pharmacy and state distribution sites
- Some counties have vaccine registry and they contact you to tell you where to go
- Strength of regional coordination so far has been in developing relationships that should have been in place all along (all Hazards Approach)
- Testing other detection approaches, including sewersheds.

1:50 Potential Future NYS GAC discussion Topics (not ordered or ranked!)

- Mapping underground infrastructure
- New workgroups (clearinghouse /data co-op locked data)
- Empire State trail/ canal trail status ... general trails and rec topic?
- What are important topics to incorporate for our sectors?
- Environmental /social justice and GIS efforts
- Datum change updates
- Rapid SOS system and 911s starting to incorporate “3 words” coordinates
- Getting snowmobile trails (which currently is not in street files) -they [EMS] need trail/road intersection coordinates
 - Snowmobile trails – data cue: club-> county-> state, each June

2:00 Meeting adjourns

- Motion to adjourn (Richardson), seconded (Campbell), unanimously approved.