

NYS Geospatial Advisory Council

December 12, 2017 Meeting

Agriculture and Markets Bldg., 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, Eric Herman, Alex Chaucer, Douglas Freehafer, Ross Baldwin, Todd Nelson, David Jorgensen, David Richardson, Jeff Herter, Chris Rado

Via Phone:

Mickey Dietrich, Sheri Norton, Rick Reichert, Mike Ross, Matthew Owen, Jonathon Mayr

Invited Guest:

Cheryl Benjamin (GPO), Tim Ruhren (GPO), Jason Baum (GPO), Steven Schoenhaus (GPO), Scott Geis (GPO), Beth Nolan (GPO), Jeff Barth (DOT)

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

- Introductions, Corrections to previous minutes
 - Two spelling corrections to minutes
- Approve previous meeting minutes: Eric Herman motions, unanimously approved.

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

- Chair Updates
 - This is the meeting where the Council will generate a slate of candidates for next year's Council Chair and Vice Chair
 - NYSAPLS
 - There have been some emails on potential involvement with someone from NYSAPLS (NYS Association of Professional Land Surveyors)
 - The relationship with NYSAPLS has improved and there has been some discussion of inviting someone from NYSAPLS to come in either as a guest (through the datum and coordinate system workgroup) or as an Ex Officio member on the GAC.
 - Discussion:
 - The work group on coordinate systems may be a nice way to get them in as a guest
 - Todd likes the idea of proceeding incrementally
 - Sheri – interesting to have someone come as a presenter to highlight their activities and possible concerns, plus how this all trickles up to the GIS community and what is going on at the state level
 - Conversation to be continued in the afternoon
- Nominating committee Report (Sheri)
 - There are seven open positions for 2018 (1/3 of committee), 3 of the 7 are current members that can seek another term
 - All three of the current members (Todd Nelson, David and Matt Owen) are interested in going for a second term, and were recommended by the committee.
 - So, the nominating committee focused on the other five positions that are vacant

- More than one candidate was considered for each of these position
- In its review of applicants, the nominating committee was looking for 1) a balance of geographic diversity; 2) people that have been around in the GIS community but somewhat newer voices at the state level (new blood and perspectives); and 3) female candidates.
- Slate of candidates (Resumes were passed around through email for the slate):
 - Heather Weller for Local Government Rep. – she is close enough to be at meetings but has an Adirondack perspective
 - Christina Croll for State Rep. – would be a good representative for the state, from a smaller state shop so different perspective from larger groups already on board
 - Randy Rath for Non-Profit Rep. – Randy is Adirondack focused, is on the Lake George Commission, and is very excited to be on the council
 - Kate Buss for Private Sector Rep. – From Western NY, which is going to be a need for representation in the future
 - Lindi Quackenbush for Academia Rep.
- Alex Chaucer asked for a motion to accept the slate
 - Eric motioned to accept the Nominating Committee’s Slate
 - David Richardson seconded
 - Discussion
 - Frank Winters - mentioned how the ITS consolidation represents various agencies
 - Eric Herman – question on Geographic Diversity... the slate is great but one concern is that 65% of the state population lives in Westchester County south and with full GAC membership (given the new members) we may not be representing the parts of the state where most of the population lives
 - Ross – Long Island brings ideas to a quarterly meeting where he gets broader perspective from the group
 - Frank Winters – Possibly next year look to get representation from the more populated areas of the Hudson Valley
 - This is a separate discussion from the current slate of candidates
 - Vote Results: All in favor/no opposed, motion carries
- The Committee welcomed Todd, David and Matthew back for a second 3-year term
- Additional Discussion:
 - Mickey - it may be a good idea to consider and possible change the GAC governing rules for nominating process. When nominations are put forward it may be good to provide the full GAC with the resumes of all candidates who have shown interest rather than only the ones that are being put forward with the slate.
 - Rick concurred with Mickey’s suggestion – it may be a better process to include more when there are good quality candidates, possibly allow discussion
 - Sheri – nominating committee would have preferred this approach too but the governing rules don’t allow
 - Governing doc would need to be modified so where to go from here?
 - Alex – this is the role of the nominating committee, job of the nominating committee to vet candidates, and present slate. If there are those that are interested in the discussion should they then be on the nominating committee, an election process or survey could result in a skewing of geographic distribution or have other effects. Would like to stay away from a vote because a vote would be anonymous and this is not an election. The survey and vote could take up a whole meeting and there are only four meetings a year.

- David Richardson – perhaps the nominating committee could ask for feedback from the GAC before the slate is proposed, i.e., the nominating committee narrows down the list of interested applicants, and asks the GAC for any comments on this list.
- Dave J – this is what is expressly written in the governing doc but it is limited only the people that will be on the final slate
- Alex and Frank – it Sounds like a general interest in revisiting the guidance docs, so that sounds like the logical next step.
- Jeff Herter volunteered to look at these docs and propose how things could go forward or what the changes would look like.
- Specifically, Jeff will consider what the changed language would be with a process similar to:
 1. Committee recommends people
 2. Committee asks each of the recommendation if they are interested in serving
 3. Committee reviews all applications
 4. Committee presents a small list (if more than one) of candidates for each position along with resumes
 5. The full GAC has an opportunity to comment on this list
 6. Committee reviews comments from GAC and generates the final slate
- An important note is that this change (if any) would be for the nominating process of 2018 and not for the current year's nominations.

11:25 NYSGISA Report (Dietrich)

- The NYS GIS Association is meeting today 12/12, so there isn't a lot to report until after the meeting. Eric asked if, since this is the end of Mickey's time on the committee, Colin Reilly will be attending future GAC meetings. Mickey was unsure, and if this is not the case then the NYS GIS Association will need to appoint someone else.

11:35 Strategic Plan Survey (Schoenhaus)

- Recent efforts have been to slim the document down
- There are still 3 overriding goals, however the implementation of these 3 goals required many smaller objectives, so from the broader goals, and through additional meetings and brainstorming, there were 48 sub bullets and individualized objectives
- Many of these sub bullets have been combined, and the roadmap is to generate a smaller number of goals that can be provided via survey monkey (or similar mechanism) for stakeholder input. The 48 objectives will be reduced to 27, the survey will ask for name and affiliation, and the survey will not be a vote or binding. Instead the survey will take the general pulse of the way things are emerging
- Some items/sub goals on the list are not discretionary (governor mandated) but through the survey we get to gauge if they are in competition with the rest of the priorities of the state.
- Jeff – maybe you do a couple levels of the survey, i.e., rank the 3 overriding goals at the 10,000-foot level, then rank the larger sub categories, etc. Ranking 1-27 is too much in addition to separating them out under broader categories. Discussion:
 - Eric – especially if there is the ability to move items around and reorder
 - Dave J – possibly include arrows to move items up or down, also there needs to be a way to mark something as no opinion rather than no ranking
 - Jeff also ability to add other

- Jeff – alternative idea could be to just rank the 27 goals without larger categories to get a true representation of what the priorities are.
- Steve will take these recommendations into consideration for the next iteration of the survey.
- Frank – The GPO must get back to the GAC on the timeline for the survey being live, but there is still time to make comments and change the document.

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

1:05 Coordinate Systems and Datums Work Group (Chaucer, Ruhren)

- Jeff Barth came in from DOT photogrammetry unit for this discussion
- There is a recommendation by the National Geodetic Survey to in 2022 change the NYS coordinate system and projection. There is some information on line by NGS as to the effect this would have, but the purpose of today’s discussion is to address the question as to what should the GAC’s charge to the Coordinate Systems and Datums workgroup be on this subject?
- Frank – the other part of the story is that there is an existing discussion to this effect as NYS needs to update its standard because it does not recognize Web Mercator.
- Winters – procedurally we have a published standard for the GAC
- Work Group – Tim Ruhren, Jeff Barth, Ross, Dan Martin, Alex Chaucer
 - There is a regional NGS rep. in Montpelier Vermont who could be a resource
 - Eric – possible coordination avenue for our previous discussion with NYSAPLS
- Charge to the Committee
 - Look at what the current NYS standard is;
 - Determine if there is update needed in the short term for the NYS standard (e.g. related to Web Mercator);
 - Look at proposed 2022 language for updates that may be needed to GAC standard
 - Look at “how do we get people to look ahead and plan for 2022?”
 - Message should be that “this is happening, and how do we go about preparing,” not necessarily that the committee is looking for our input on what the standards should be.
 - Work group should discuss the future changes with agencies who may or may not have a requirement to use a specific coordinate system or datum
 - Timing –update needed at the March GAC meeting, also possibly a good time for an educational/informational speaker

1:25 Reports

- **Federal Report (Freehafer) – No Federal Report**
- **State Agency Advisory Group (Herman)**
 - The State Agency Advisory Group last met 3 months ago, on September 21st
 - Had a medium sized group (15) but there were lots of new faces
 - Discussed plans for incorporating latest suite of GIS software products
 - Findings
 1. Agencies don’t tend to change quickly
 2. Several agencies are implementing portal for ArcGIS
 3. ArcGIS Pro is also common and will be the new flagship desktop product throughout the state.

- An impediment to this however is that many agencies are not currently running on a 64-bit environment which is a requirement of ArcGIS Pro
 - 4. Field Data collection
 - Several agencies looking at ESRI Drone to Map
 - Others are using ArcGIS Data Collector
 - 5. There have been some moves to the new ESRI 10.5 environment
 - 6. Use of “other than ESRI” products are still slow
- There was an ortho and elevation products presentation from Tim Ruhren
 - With the completion of the 2018 imagery, all the imagery in the state will be at 1 foot or better
 - There are two ongoing, large federal LiDAR projects and, once completed, LiDAR data will cover approximately 90% of the state
 - Bare Earth DEM service is now available from the GPO which helps to eliminate duplicate storage of massive data sets
 - Agency response to Lake Ontario Water Levels
 - GPO assisted OEM ArcGIS online service
 - DOS collaborated with DEC and USGS to monitor water levels
 - Project ongoing since June; Continuing to the end of this December, but several gauges will be extended and moved possibly closer to the lake
 - Engagement with ACOE to measure resilience in the lake, many state run camp sites were inundated
- Discussed NY GeoCon event in Lake Placid
- NYSERDA did a project with DEC to map out building footprints in the lower Hudson valley.
- Craig Fargione provided an overview of the Geolynx app – program used to update SAM/ street level data
 - Currently 26 counties using the Geolynx app
- Next meeting is scheduled for January 9th
- Jeff Herter – NYS DOS spec’d out machines have been imaged (November) and they are using ArcGIS Pro in their office now
 - Found Windows uses Microsoft Edge instead of IE, which the problem becomes you can’t open ArcGIS Portal in Edge only IE
 - Ross – Microsoft Edge is problematic for several GIS licenses
- **GIO/GPO Report**
 - Orthos (Tim Ruhren)
 - 2017 Orthos nearly done
 - LiDAR project in the SW = only half was flown and the rest was flown this fall.
 - The first part has been completed by USGS with fall portion scheduled to be wrapped up this summer
 - Future Planning
 - Orthos will be a lot of central NY with Warren and Hamilton
 - USGS plans to fund 3 dep projects for Oswego and Cayuga LiDAR (USGS is planning to do Onondaga) – leads into the 90% Eric mentioned earlier;
 - web service publicity
 - LiDAR – in another week or two will have LiDAR point cloud source data for download

- soon statewide NAIP should be available from USDA (available through the USDA gateway)
- **Streets and Address (Cheryl Benjamin)**
 - A Streets web service is being tested by DOT and others
 - Eric – it is a great start; some of the scale triggers could be tweaked and he gave some comments to Beth Nolan
 - SAM points are updated twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Friday
 - Census 2020
 - There is a MOU with National Grid to get all of their customer address records. This marks the first time a utility has shared this information to help build SAM points, but they use our SAM data daily – MOU fine points but possibly looking into LUCA to help with the filling in of gaps in the census data; national grid only covers a part of the state, depending if we get local support to help the office may or may not reach out to more utilities, but dependent on local support
 - There are 430,000 addresses from National Grid that the GPO is not confident exists in our dataset
 - Geolynx - the platformed use by counties to collaborate with the GPO on street and address changes. Proof of concept in the states data center, trying to rebuild on higher performing hardware
 - Statewide Interoperability Emergency Communication group hosted by Homeland – Bob Gerhart looking into this and trying to get out the message that GIS is core. There are enough agencies concerned with GIS that there is agreement that a nextgen 911 GIS committee needs to be stood up.
- **ShareGIS (Jason Baum)**
 - The ShareGIS Team has been installing Splunk on our environment
 - Records indicate that we get 30 million hits /month on our environment
 - Biggest demand is geocoding and orthophotography
 - Majority is state agency but some local and county government hits
 - ShareGIS has an older server on a DHSES domain, and efforts are underway to decommission the old server and transition users to the new server environment at the CNSE.
 - There are lots of dependencies on the old server
 - Decommissioning will require going through a full change control
 - This is a much bigger initiative than calling a few people and turning a server off
 - The Team is also working to change service links on the NYS GIS Clearinghouse website
 - Civil Boundaries has been published and we are moving people over from municipal boundaries on the DHSES server to the new service
 - The ShareGIS Team is also working to support two state apps
 - ACES (More from Beth Nolan on this later)
 - DOT System of Engagement
 - Will be using ShareGIS for the base GIS layers so no longer a concept but now a need and we are making a stronger case for cloud
 - New functionality from boundless Geoserver where open source software can publish ESRI rest services, has some functionality in both map and feature service

- **Parcel update**
 - 2016 assessment data has been all wrapped and put on 2017 parcels together in 59 counties (3 still in process)
 - We are up to 20 counties that have shared permission to publish
 - Outreach continues
 - 39 counties have given their 2017 data

- Steve Campbell has left state service and Colin Brady is now the acting Public Safety CIO

2:10 LUCA/Census update (Cheryl Benjamin)

A PowerPoint presentation is under the 12/12/2017 link on:

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

2:30 Geospatial Data Act, (Winters)

- A cleaned up refined version of the Geospatial Data Act was introduced to both houses in November
- The cleaned-up version removed some of the controversial language
- NYSGIC is strongly behind it
- The Act in its current form Compels federal agencies to coordinate with each other, and with State, local and tribal agencies before investing in geographic data
- NGAC
 - The National Geospatial Advisory Council is set up similarly to NYSGAC
 - The act gives some authority to NGAC and says NGAC sets standards
- Requires a report out to congress
 - The FGDC supports the current version of the bill

2:45 ITS Policy Update (Winters)

- ITS internal Controls manages published policies
- 2 policies Frank is asked to update
 1. the policy that established how the GAC would be established
 - a. should this language be removed since the GAC has been established and the policy is done
 - b. The Council's name has also changed, and the operating procedures have been refined
 2. Policy through executive order that established the NYS GIS data sharing cooperative
 - a. This is done but applicants continuously come in

- Alex – possibly important to get the strategic plan wrapped up and see how it would affect the revision of these policies
- Winters - One action Frank could take is to clean up the language of the two policies and present to the Council

3:00 Tax Assessment tool ACES - aka RPS5 (Nolan)

- ACES is the new acronym for the Real Property Tax Assessment System (RPS Version 5)
- Tyler Technologies was awarded the bid to re-platform the system
- RPS has been in place for 17 years, but has been a locally installed set of tools, so part of the goal for re-platforming is to provide centralized repository for all tax assessment data
- Timeline:
 - ITS, DTF and ORPS started a fit gap analysis in November 2017
 - Hoping to end the design phase by April 2019
 - November 2019 beginning implementation
- GPO goal is to provide webservices for base layers and tie them to assessment data
- The system will use GPO webservices for streets, orthos and the geocoder, and services will be added to the ShareGIS environment for railroads, flood zones, and other datasets.
- The project represents a \$30 million contract for NYS.
- The core functionality of the system is to be available to assessors, but there will also be a public facing component.

3:20 Next year GAC planning/Strategic Directions/Something Fun?

- Next meeting will have lots of new members
- Team photo will be taken
- Possibly something after meeting to welcome the new members and say goodbye to the old

3:30 p.m. Meeting adjourns