

NY State Geospatial Advisory Council
September 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, Matt Owen, Eric Herman, Douglas Freehafer, Richard Reichert, David Jorgensen, Heather Weller, Randy Rath, Lindi Quackenbush, Kate Buss, Sheri Norton, Alex Chaucer, Christina Croll

Via Phone:

Jonathan Mayr, Mike Ross

Guest: Jim Held (ESD), Meme Zin (ESD), Erin Casullo (ESD), Bob Gehrler (GPO),

Not present:

Chris Rado, Colin Reilly

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

- Introductions, corrections to previous minutes
 - Change GAC to GPO on page 3, 1st bullet under “discussion ensued”
- Approve previous meeting minutes:
 - Eric Herman motions to approve the minutes from the June meeting, David Jorgensen seconds the motion, unanimously approved.
- Nominating Committee Selection
 - Nominating Committee: Volunteers
 - Jonathan Mayr and David Richardson have possible 2nd terms, open are Federal (Doug), academic (Alex) and local government (Sheri).
 - Sheri asks about NYS GISA communications. Rick’s emails have gone out and a few names are in (GISA ballot/positions finalized) also helps that Geo Summit is 3 weeks early.
 - **Nominating Committee:** Alex Chaucer, Eric Herman, Heather Weller, Sheri Norton, (Eric Herman as Chair)

10:40

- Introductions

11:00 Open Data as an Economic Driver of Development (Jim Held, Kate Buss)

- Availability of parcel data impacting site selection
 - Site selection assistance (Companies comes to state) – ESD helps in a sales pitch to site and invest within state.
 - LOSTAR – real estate app. Includes square footage in commercial buildings.
 - Partner with SUNY a private higher ed ex. Excelsior “opportunity zones” at Census Tract Level based on distressed sites from last year’s tax change bill.
 - Kate-Eng. Arch firm – 1) landowners to develop site, 2) developer looking for site selection, 3) national chains looking for locations in desired areas that meet criteria.
 - Pull up any available data for areas, county parcels, Online Real Property system, orthos and pictometry most valuable, 1) Owner information, 2) Sales history, 3) land use and zoning also needed.
 - Example: Monroe has info online, in other counties you have to go and sit and look through their files on computers and competing against other regions.
 - Is data current (even better than annual)?
 - (commercial products not as current and without local detail)
 - What are encumbrances (wetlands, setbacks, road frontage)
 - With only 2 weeks to come up with competitive and accurate list – no online data loses out.
 - Final Assessment Data due July 1st, in September reach out to counties for GIS shapes to match the assessment data. Not everything comes into RPS until December, so data standardization and a master table are not released by the GPO until March 1st.
 - GAC identified need back in 2008 for parcels.
 - Maybe Regional council’s relationships can be used to open parcel data
 - Todd-What about a survey of those who download state data what they use it for instead of guessing.
 - Randy-standardize fields first 15 or 20 – issue if the schemas are different and of counties aren’t consistent.
 - City of Rochester and Suffolk County use their own Real Assessment.
 - ACES-option to be able to look at parcels in the software (only public available version).
 - back to Regional Economic Councils...how to assist businesses to add jobs
 - One pager for where GAC is coming from and how we think we (GAC) could help.
 - Float after this year’s submissions.
 - Need numbers for quantifying – talk to local econ. dev. Alliance for

number of jobs/taxes come in because data for site selection was available and easy and otherwise might have gone elsewhere, ex. Amazon distribution center – Rensselaer County after county made parcel public.

- Erin-go to all alliances to ask what companies have located there recently and what helped or hindered.
- Ross-food for GAC workgroup?
- Bob (GPO) how to move the dial on opening parcel data for public.
- Eric-have the insiders (of the 20 with public data) tell the alliances/councils the benefits.
- 2015-about \$10-12k/year in GIS revenue (but missed dev. Opportunities).
- Maybe also talking to State Association of Counties (again).
- Heather-need numbers for how much more money they could make instead of charging.
- David J.- FOIL law – parcels not exempt and only includes cost of media and “labor” reasonable (Rick)
- Sheri’s 2015 map of what counties charge can be redistributed to GAC.
- Kate-why is the GIS data treated as a different commodity than other county data and more “sellable” in bulk.

A Workgroup was created to work on improving the availability of parcel data

- Matt Owen (GAC), Erin (EDS), Kate (GPO), and Mike Ross (GAC), Heather (GAC), David J. (GAC)

12:00 NYS GIS Organization Changes – GIS Client Office (Winters)

- For state support of GIS to state agencies (clusters – Portfolios)
- Organization slides shown by Frank.
- Operate as a center of excellence.
- Existing resources and existing backfills of open staff positions.
- Charter document (draft) for GCO charter shared.
- ShareGIS web services will list data expert/knowledge expert

12:30 Break for Lunch

1:35 NYS GIS Policy Opportunity Discussion (Winters)

- IT Policy – Authority to establish Enterprise Information Technology Policies, Standards, and Guidelines.
 - (update or rescind existing 2 policies and authority to set metadata standards
- Draft IT Guideline – GAC
 - GAC as guidelines – could take place of GAC guidance doc.
- Draft IT Guideline – GIS Data Sharing Cooperative

- Questions about balance between state representation and ex. Officio and other sector representation.
- Where/If how sector representation numbers work.
- State CIO's approval for future policies and amendments would start with legal counsel review.
- GAC bylaws and wording discussed
- GCO or report from GPO/GCO on regular meetings – as non-voting ex. Officio.
- Ex officios proposed, 4 voting and 2 non-voting

- **MOTION**

- Rick made, Todd seconded a motion for GPO and GCO to be included but now non-voting.

- **ACTION**

- Create new version of the draft guidance with changes discussed – send edits and email for an on-line vote to approve edits.

2:30 ShareGIS Proof of Concept (Winters)

- Status-still to start soon: 90-day test.
- Sheri-Roll out for DEC rare plant and animals – into ShareGIS, no plan for such roll out, because don't have production environment.

2:50 Reports

- Federal Report (Freehafer)
 - No report
- State Agency Advisory Group (Herman)
 - Discusses minutes from September 5th meeting.
 - Minutes are posted online on Coordination Program page for everyone's review:
http://gis.ny.gov/coordinationprogram/workgroups/wg_7/meetings/2018-09-meeting-minutes.pdf
 - Topic: Discussion covering Mobile Data Collection software used by Agencies.
 - The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th from 9:30 am – 12:00 pm at the NYS Thruway Authority offices.
- GIO/GPO Report (Winters)
 - Parcels – Rockland (soon Putnam) to share with state agencies.
 - 3DEP – partly funded LiDAR collection all in ortho collections in review now or soon.
 - Discover GIS NY – you can add user data (as webservice).
 - Streets and Addresses (Cheryl retired, Bob to take over higher level responsibilities) ...30 counties trained for online editing 1 million edit have been made to the address collection.

- NYSGIS Report (Reichert)
 - GeoSummit in 2 weeks
 - Election documents going out this week.
 - Expanding webinars program (shift from 100 to 500 participation cap)

3:03 Web Mapping Services

- Legislation passed in both houses which would consider information obtained from online mapping and web map services to be admitted under “judicial notice”. Frank was asked to comment on the legislation when it was with the Governor for signature.
 - Frank proposed wording changes and highlighted technical concerns
 - The bill has not been signed.
- Web Mercator Projection and Measurements (Herman)
 - Web Mercator is a conformal projection that preserves direction and the shape but distorts distance and area.
 - In NY measurements may be off by a factor of 2.
 - Thruway Authority uses Web Mercator base maps in API’s, but uses other widgets to make measurements based on UTM.
- FOIL implications of web services
 - The existence of public web services has reduced foil inquiries on those data sets

3:15 Open Discussion

- Recorded webinars for GIS regional user groups.
 - NYSGIS stores videos on YouTube.
- National Hydrography Dataset
 - DEC/USGS as hydro stewards, but no longer actively making edits.
 - NYS GPO has more complete feature names – GNIS names.
 - DEC stream classification (circa 1970’s) used in Washington County.
 - Help pushing “up” info from localities.
 - Set as agenda item next time.
- Workforce and Civil Service titles - state & local has no relations in terms of names & title, no standardization of meanings & classifications.

3:25 Meeting adjourns

- A motion to adjourn was passed

Upcoming Meetings

December 11th