

NY State Geospatial Advisory Council
Notes for June 18, 2024 Meeting
NYS Harriman Campus, Building 5 Room 204
And [WebEx](#)

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

The **NYS Geospatial Advisory Council** (formerly called the GIS Coordinating Body), operating under the auspices of the NYS ITS Geospatial Services, coordinates, promotes and facilitates the development, effective use, and sharing of geographic information. It also removes barriers to implementing geographic information technology to improve the delivery of public services, protect the public and the environment, and enhance the business climate for the benefit of the State, its municipalities, businesses, and citizens.

Attending: Sylvie Browne, Christina Croll, Elisabetta DeGironimo, Katie Duncan, Emily Fogarty, Christopher Holewinski, Mary Susan Knauss, Rebecca Newell, Zachary Simek, Karen Tareen, Erin Tylutki, Joanna Craigmile, Karyn Tareen, Jochen Albrecht, Ana Hiraldo Gomez, Keith Ducett, Dave Genaway, Santana Benincasa

Guests: Beth Nolan, Toni Goyer, Joe Lasch, Sean O'Keefe

Absent: Larry Spraker, Alexander Wolf

10:00 Welcome / Agenda Review / Approval of Minutes (Browne)

- Sylvie Browne welcomed everyone and initiated the review of agenda and March 2024 minutes
 - Mary Susan Knauss motioned to approve the minutes, Christina Croll seconds
 - Christina has some changes to the state agency minutes
 - Katie has changes to the federal section
- Mary Susan motion to accept changes to the pending changes to state and federal updates
- Christina Second, Sylvie all in favor
- Motion to approve agenda
 - all remaining unanimously approved
- Vote to approve, all

10:10 Introductions/Discussion

- New member – Joanne Craigmile – introduction
 - Joanna is the GIS coordinator in Wyoming county
 - Since started in the position, she has moved over to ArcGIS Pro, manages ArcGIS online, works with emergency services, Health Department, etc.
 - Local government representative
 - Biggest challenge – sharing data with different municipalities
- Ice Breaker and Introductions

10:40 Governance Committee (Browne)

- Draft update to GAC Governance document – discussion and vote
 - Procedure for amending this document – 2/3rd majority to pass changes to the governance
- Jochen motioned to discuss, Mary Susan seconded
- Addition of a NYSAPLs representation has been added as an Ex-officio, one deputy NYS GIO, a vacancy in NYC or local government rep. Keeping the members at 23.
- Changes to chair and chair elect, previously this took place in the December and March meeting now a new chair would start in January and a new election would happen in the fall.

- Discussion:
 - Mary Susan's comments – Number 6 should just say “Ex officio representative is not eligible for chair or chair elect”. The language should say they are committing to serve 2 terms.
 - Christina is concerned there will not be a person eligible for chair and chair elect. Many people start at all the same time, we are no longer staggered. Is September to November an acceptable time for a nomination committee?
 - Group discussion on nomination committee. No changes were made to the nomination committee.
- Christina motions to approve, Zach seconds
- Everyone in favor, no opposed
- Invite NYSAPLS ex officio to join next meeting – Lis should formally invite

11:20 Standing Reports

- Geospatial Services Report (DeGironimo)
 - Since the March meeting, Geospatial Services turned 1!
 - Several new hires and currently hiring
 - Enterprise EA InProgress - finalizing implementation, 22 agencies are included in the agreement
 - Data Services update:
 - Orthoimagery - Down to 4 years old as the oldest imagery, 6 in and 12 in are being processed now
 - Elevation - we have some in progress from USGS and Champlain valley
 - Data improvement – building location and school layer improved
 - Parcels – working on a new release of parcels
 - SAM - 7,300 edits a week, testing new geocoders, proposal in with Esri to modernize the geocoder, enterprise address validation
 - NSGIC Update:
 - Lis visited Capitol Hill educating on GIS
 - Some discussion about the 988 suicide hotline and its relation to GIS
 - Open Data DC using AI - <https://opendata.dc.gov/pages/compass>

11:30 Break

11:40 Continue Standing Reports

- NYSGISA report (Knauss)
 - Dawn McCall is updating their back-office to the cloud, planning to automate membership renewal
 - Increasing awareness of this being a volunteer organization
 - Sept 23rd Geospatial Summit in Skaneateles, NY
 - 2025 GeoCon in Lake Placid
 - Surveyors are excited to work with us and a joint legislative committee with NYSAPLS, they in particular are focused on parcels
- Federal report (Duncan)
 - NOAA Dan Martin – update of the national spatial reference system, expect a 2026 final release
 - Farm service agencies:
 - NAIP is part of the 2024 data collection. 1-meter resolution, less than 10% cloud cover
 - USGS – 3D national topography model, data collab for August 2024, and 3D hydrography is putting together a plan to replace the 9 national surface water mapping
 - NY Hudson D22 project is currently under review by USGS
 - NY Lake Ontario is currently under review
 - USDA 3DHP project with the Chesapeake watershed for the next budget cycle

- State Agency Advisory Group report (Croll)
 - Last meeting was in June
 - Open-source software was the main discussion. Mostly Esri, some PostGIS, QGIS
 - Beth Nolan (ITS) talked about ITS software
 - Watercraft inspection application – 15 partner organizations plus 200 boats to prevent invasive species. A spider analysis was presented to show all the boats coming to and from Sacandaga.
 - Jeff Langella presented LiDAR tools for building detection

12:00 Break for Lunch

1:00 NYS GIS Enterprise Architecture modernization (Nolan)

- GIS architecture modernization
 - Platform name is GeoHub
- Brief History
 - In 2015 one ArcGIS server hosted several map and geocoding services
 - 2017-2018 ShareGIS was built to support web service requests. More servers were added for elevation and orthoimagery
 - 2024 modernization project began with funding through the Cyber Risk Remediation Program
- Overview
 - Data warehouse – host for NY agencies. Share more data, storage, and data hosting
 - Publication for internal and external hosting options. Ability to collaborate and roll out to local governments.
 - Governance and versioning will ensure changes will have a limited impact.
- Scope in terms of personnel and dollars
 - 4.7 million dollars
 - 4 contractors - Those positions will perform knowledge transfer and hire 2 new ITS positions

1:15 Pathways to Certification for GIS Professionals (Albrecht)

- GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) and GIS Professional (GISP)
- Review of GISP
 - Late 1990s – GIS professionals figured out how to develop a certification to say we are indeed professionals
 - Originally the certification required a portfolio documenting GIS experience
 - In 2015 an exam was developed
 - 3-year certification, to recertify, you update your portfolio and ethics statement
 - Exam fee of \$250 and annual fee
 - Exam development committee is truly GISP and not education professionals
 - Based on 45 knowledge skill areas
- 2 -3 years into career is the best time to take exam. You must complete all steps in 6 years
- Exam blueprint on GISP website
- Exam is administered by PSI, but switching to Pearson Vue
- 100 questions, but answer 140 questions
- 3rd party workshops (TeachMeGIS, URISA), GISCI unofficial exam prep doc
- Review of certification vs. license
- Encourages employers to hire GIS people
- Future direction of GISP
 - Expand internationally – received many complaints that the GISP more US centric
 - Pre GISP exam for newly graduated students and new designation for retired GISP's

- Looking for volunteers for the pre GISP exam advisory board to help build questions

2:00 Utility Events Dashboard (Joe Lasch)

- Live demo of Department of Public Service (DPS) new application (ued.dps.ny.gov)
- App that's used by DPS to track electrical outages for utility companies – NYSEG, National Grid, Con Edison
- Companies wanted the UED to mirror the maps they are giving to the public
- Every house outage is a submission
- App works with live data
- Analytics – Tableau dashboards, alerts powered by Everbridge
- Series of map layers – a variety of incidents that can be viewed (general, critical, or fatal)
 - Outage by municipality
 - Outage by type, by utility company etc.
- Weather related data – UAlbany Mesonet
 - The data is retrieved by using Python to access the API and then the data is pulled in
- The date updated can be found in many spots in the app to see when the data is submitted
- Custom alerts can be created

Discussion:

Ana – Who has access? This would be useful for emergency services. Could be shared with the PSAPS?

Joe – internal to DPS, so DPS does not receive outage questions. DHSES can view parts of the map outages by counties.

2:45 NYS Hubs (DeGironimo)

- ITS GeoHub – inwards, NYS GeoHub – outward
- Working on an external SharePoint for GAC
- GitHub repository to share code
- ArcGIS hub websites using the NYS branding – <https://infrastructure.ny.gov/>

2:55 Brainstorm ideas for future meetings

- Drones in Photogrammetry
- Possible other locations e.g., Thatcher Park, State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany (a few votes for Oriskany), and Keith suggested the new EOC building in Onondaga County

3:00 Meeting adjourns

Motion to adjourn, all in favor

Guests

Toni Goyer (ITS) – minutes taker

Beth Nolan (ITS)

Sean O'Keefe (ITS)

Joe Lasch (ITS)