

NY State Geospatial Advisory Council
Notes for June 18, 2025
10 am – 3 pm
Webex open / gather 9:45 am
NYS Harriman Campus, Building 5 Room 204, Albany NY

<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m9d1297dfe7472cc624aa8ba34e6bd758>

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:

Jochen Albrecht Santina Benincasa	Shannon Dolte Keith Ducett	Chris Holewinski Wayne Howard	Karyn Tareen Erin Tylutki
Sylvie Browne Joanna Craigmile	Katie Duncan Roy Garfinkel	Dawn McCall Rebecca Newell	Jiin Wen Alex Wolf
Christina Croll Elisabetta DeGironimo	Dave Genaway Bryan Goodrich	Zach Simek Larry Spraker	

Guests: Alan Leidner (NGAC), Diane Boyd (ITS), Jeff Langella (ITS), Kate Kiyanitsa (ITS- Note Taker)

Absent: Grayed out names above; Toni Goyer (ITS- Note Taker)

10:00 Welcome / Agenda Review / Approval of Minutes (Holewinski → Genaway)

- Chris welcomed everyone and Dave initiated the review of the Agenda and March 2025 minutes
 - Correction of Zach Simek listed twice as attending
 - Christina motioned to approve the minutes, and Karen seconded
 - All in favor of accepting minutes
- Motion to approve the agenda
 - all remaining unanimously approved
- Vote to approve, all

10:10 Introductions –

Who you are, where you come from, what sector do you represent, what sort of GIS work are you engaged in?

Icebreaker –In your opinion, what do you believe the **biggest issue is facing the GIS community** as a whole at the moment?

- Emerging technology- AI, GeoAI, GPS, GIS software changes, drones
- GIS data integrity- Lack of trust in data, standardization, “data supply chain” management
- GIS data accessibility- Counties and Munis releasing data
- Political climate hurdles
- Staffing and budget, Civil Service/GIS Titles
- Knowledge gap- lack of understanding of GIS data, GIS data science
- Siloing of GIS data based on various software incompatibilities (mix of proprietary vs. open source)
- Desktop GIS ending...?

10:30 Chair Announcement (Holewinski, Genaway)

- Chris stepping down as Chair, Dave will be taking over as Chair
- Governance Document- vacant Chair-Elect position, Governance Committee

10:45 Hydrology Ad Hoc Committee Update (Langella, Duncan, Croll)

- Jeff Langella is current NHD Steward for NYS
- Hydro Ad Hoc Committee created- engaged in outreach (federal, state, working groups)
- Goal- to adopt 3DHP
- Data Collaboration Agreement (DCA) Timeline: FY24 → FY26
- Two 3DHP projects in NY currently- Upper Genesee (USGS) and Pennsylvania/Lake Erie
- Proposed Federal Project Areas- Chesapeake Bay Watersheds in NY
- Could create our own solution based on the current NHD → 3DEP Hydro breaklines
- Could be a combination of both our own solution and 3DHP → iterative process with USGS?
- State Outreach- Parks (environmental review, water quality), DEC (regulatory)
- Federal Outreach- Eliza Gross, USGS National Map Liaison; interest in updated 3DHP
- Working Groups-
 - NY State Agency Advisory Group (SAAG)- want most accurate dataset available
 - National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)- 3DHP compliant toolset (CA), interest for a single DCA for 3DEP & 3DHP
 - 3DHP Cross Border Watershed- NSGIC/New England States (NY, MA, CT, VT) and USGS. Good way for NY to get involved in 3DHP, within our portion of the HUCs
- Thoughts/Comments from GAC?
 - More info on buy-ups requested (Genaway)
 - NYS Hydro Program Proposal- until Oct 2025 to define (DeGironimo): \$, program description, use cases (NYC, Nassau County priority), impacts, cost savings, regulatory datasets, etc. Hydro committee will work on this info. What process can be set up without funding?

11:15 NSRS Model Legislation discussion (McCall, Garfinkel)

- NYSAPLS- Dawn and Roy asked to participate in Government Relationship Committee
- Datum change- NGS & NSPS asked each state to amend legislation to supersede the 1995 legislation
- National Spatial Reference System (NSRS)- States and zones; how NYS State Plane System relates
- Legislation is a ratification and acceptance of the new system. Changes from 1995:
 - 1995 refers to the specific 83/88 datums, new legislation will refer to “most recent”
 - Eliminate language about land surveyors and make more inclusive (design professionals)
 - Recognizing the US Foot to the International Foot
- Technical content- acceptable units of measurement, relational coordinates
- Minor word tweaks or happy as-is? Dawn will send an email detailing the two places in the legislation to focus attention on.
- Thoughts/Comments from GAC? → Everyone read and at the September meeting, GAC will finalize input or endorse as-is

11:45 Break for Lunch

12:30 Standing Reports

- **Geospatial Services Report** (DeGironimo)
 - Moved from the Chief Data Office to the Digital Transformation Office
 - Ortho/LiDAR RFP Review

- Governance engagement with Esri- guardrails, best practices, data governance
- Governor’s Office dashboards- Healthcare Impacts by Congressional District and SNAP Benefits by Congressional District
- NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment 2025 (every 2 years)
- Assisting State Agencies in shift to the new Esri named user license model- “Agency GIS” section of the NYS GIS Clearinghouse. Let Lis know about how you use the Esri Price List or any Esri licensing concerns.
- State Board of Elections- app for their data to be made available
- Statewide Zoning- Cornell, HCR, DOS. Monthly meetings to work toward closing the gap.
- Initiatives for 2025- outreach, data governance, GIS architecture modernization, develop service catalog, develop products (NY Spaces, Workplaces, Maps), resource management
- Data Services Programs
 - Orthos- all 2024 counties avail, various ages for all counties
 - Planned LiDAR 2025 collection
 - Data Improvement- 18 updates, workplace locations, building footprints, etc.
 - Parcels- 2025 GIS parcel data collection will begin after July 1
 - Civil Boundaries- new village of Ateres, annexations to the City of Plattsburgh
 - SAM- geocoder all time high use in May 2025, working with DHSES on NG9-11, updated locators are going to be published soon.
 - County Outreach 2025- meet with Counties in person to discuss collaboration and concerns
- **NYC GIS** (Wen)
 - MapPLUTO/ City of YES – broaden ability to build more, address the housing shortage (e.g. zoning changes)
- **NYSGISA report** (McCall)
 - NYGeoCon- Oct 8-10th in Lake Placid
 - Hub website for conference planning
 - Keynote speaker- Andrew Turner- Chief Technology Officer of Hub and AI for Esri
 - Friday Luncheon Speaker- Frank Winters
 - State of the State- Lis DeGironimo (pending travel approval)
 - NYS Digital Public Land Record Access round table
- **Federal report** (Duncan)
 - Program Updates- 3DHP, data collection
 - USDA- NAIP 2024- will announce when ready
- **State Agency Advisory Group report** (Croll)
 - May 2025- GISP Certification Round Table
 - 3 of 23 had GISP
 - early career staff more interested
 - John Marino- DEC GIS user survey, good response rate
 - ~1,000 staff who use GIS
 - Interested in AGOL, training tailored to DEC
 - GIS Teams Group eliminated use of ITSM tickets in many cases
 - Geospatial Services- interest in more info on QA/QC for Orthos and Elevation
 - Hydrography interest
 - State Agency Hub Site (Jenny)- training, licensing, ArcPro transition, etc.

- NEARC and NYGeoCon in Fall 2025
- DHSES- new group- Data and Geospatial Analysis
- Thoughts/Comments from GAC?
 - ArcPro Transition timelines for different Agencies? DEC- Dec 2025
 - Preference for GISP in State hiring? (yes in ITS, as a potential requirement that can be used)
- **NYSAPLS** (Garfinkel)
 - NYSGISA & NYSAPLS attended the NYS Association of County Clerks- help counties up their game on digital access to public records (road map: contacts, grants, etc.)
 - Maureen Reynolds (Tompkins County)
 - Counties skeptical of working with the State, want to continue to do their own thing
 - County Clerks interested but need help with the next steps
 - January 2026 Conference in Saratoga Springs
 - April 2026 Strategic Planning Retreat in Lake George

1:30 **National Map, NSDI, & the NGAC** (Alan Leidner)

- Extreme Heat Study 2024 (Harlem)- heat grid predictive modeling
- R&D Work by GISMO
 - Underground mapping- standards working group, OGC MUDDI Model, relationship between the environment and underground infrastructure, NYU UNUM Project (resilience)
 - Mapping Covid- analyzing accuracy of mapping Covid (Rockland County as an example of good precision mapping)
 - Emergency Location and Language Application (ELLA)- Basil Labs, automatic GPS, language translation, take pictures, upload to central hub and have AI operate on that data (ex: RatApp in NYC)
- National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC)
 - Strategic Plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)
 - people, governance, data & technology
 - Not Federal, but National → State, Tribal, Local, Private, NGO
 - Includes “The National Map”
 - Pilot Projects (FGDC and GeoSpatial World)
 - OGC call for contributions to an NSDI modernization 2025-2026
 - How to conceptualize federal, state, and local data? → interlocking Lego building pieces visual
 - Spatial Data Domains: atmosphere, above/at ground level, surface spatial fabric, underground built features, underground/underwater natural resources, human
 - Surface Spatial Fabric is the starting point of the NSDI and “National Map”
 - Key framework data layers: Imagery, Census boundaries, transportation, water
 - State, Tribal, and Local governments can build their data on the surface fabric with networked features crossing shared borders (NDSI tiled/wireframe data)
 - National data models and model standards
 - Spatial Fabric- Wireframe/Tile Approach advantages: rapid, leverage national framework layers, national and federated, sharing with locals, collaboration, common governance, etc.
 - National Map exists- it just hasn’t been assembled yet! See NSGIC GMA
- Thoughts/Comments from GAC?
 - Atmosphere in D.C.? (DeGironimo) National map may be in a safe area- technological, useful to businesses, hopeful that it will continue to be built
 - Where will the National Map live? Who will oversee it? (Genaway) Each state will have and be responsible for data in the cloud (federated) and in collaboration with the Federal government and with each other.

- Federal data availability? Example of Federal agencies using different data, desire to make more available, infrastructure data may be going away (try to preserve as much as possible), budget but concerns, having state/local data in NSDI may help prompt more federal data as well.

2:15 Open Data NY (Diane Boyd)

- Data.ny.gov – created under executive order; opendata@its.ny.gov
- Most of the data is tabular but some geospatial data and maps
- Can connect to public facing GIS servers and set refresh cadence
- Exploring the website- featured content and set tiles (ex: composting data for a demo app!)
- Must meet criteria for publication to have data hosted
- Tags are not standardized, so be careful with search and use
- Data “Assets”/ “Geo Assets”
- Some local data, offer open but must meet criteria
- Example: NYSERDA- posting data removed need to fulfill FOIL requests, resulting in time/resource saving benefits (~1 FTE)
- Tabular data with addresses, lat/long can have a map created. Geocoder available to create locations.
- Map generation includes an API source
- Layered maps are possible to create from multiple datasets
- Example: HCR “Disadvantaged Regions” maps from US Census blocks- maps are made/published by Open Data NY from HCR data
- Data validity/currency for user should be useful and appropriate
- Advanced user’s guide in the future
- Thoughts/Comments from GAC?
 - Suggestion: promote Geo capability more (Albrecht)
 - Promote Open Data NY on NYS GIS Clearinghouse (DeGironimo)
 - Why go here rather than the Clearinghouse? (Wolf) Different data in the different platforms- there may be geospatial redirects back to the Clearinghouse. Will work toward more collaboration in the future.
 - Commercial vendor? (Simek) Yes- Tyler, used to be Socrata

3:00 Meeting adjourns

Future 2025 Meetings

September 10 - FIELD TRIP?

December 10

Guests

Toni Goyer (ITS- Note Taker)

Brainstorm ideas for future meetings

- NYS Hydro Program proposal
- Richard Tobe – DOL/US Census