

MEMORANDUM

TO: GIS Advisory Committee
FROM: Ken Gallagher, Principal Planner
DATE: May 18, 2012
RE: February 15 Meeting Summary

The GIS Advisory Committee met on February 15, 2012, at the Office of Energy and Planning in Concord. The following people were present:

- Ken Gallagher, NH Office of Energy and Planning: ken.gallagher@nh.gov
- Fay Rubin, Complex Systems Research Center/UNH: fay.rubin@unh.edu
- Thelma Thompson, UNH: thelma.thompson@unh.edu
- David Salzer, UNH T²: dsalzer@unh.edu
- Rick Chormann, NH Geological Survey – Dept. of Environmental Services (NHGS-DES): frederick.chormann@des.nh.gov
- Neil Olson, NHGS: neil.olson@des.nh.gov
- Kristen Svendsen, NHDES: kristen.svendsen@des.nh.gov
- Chris Dunbar, NHDES: christopher.dunbar@des.nh.gov
- Tylor Young, NH Dept. of Health and Human Services: tylor.young@dhhs.state.nh.us
- Stephan Hamilton, NH Dept. of Revenue Administration: stephan.hamilton@rev.state.nh.us
- Arin Mills, NH National Guard: arin.mills@us.army.mil
- Becky Carr, NHARNG: becky.carr@ng.army.mil
- Tanya Krajcik, NH Div. of Historical Resources: tanya.krajcik@dcr.nh.gov
- Frank Catanese, NH Dept. of Information Technology (DoIT): frank.catanese@doit.nh.gov
- Lin Neifert, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): lineifert@usgs.gov
- Laura Hayes, USGS-NH/VT: lhayes@usgs.gov
- Norma Jo Sorgman, U.S. Forest Service: nsorgman@fs.fed.us
- Amy Kizak, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commissions: akizak@snhpc.org
- Tara Bamford, North Country Council: tbamford@nccouncil.org
- Robert Pruyne, Rockingham Planning Commission: rpruyne@rpc-nh.org
- Lisa M. Stanko, Public Service of NH: stanklm@nu.com
- June Garneau, MAPS: jgarneau@mappingandplanning.com
- Sara Siskavich, Unitil: siskavich@unitil.com
- John Cassidy, ESRI: jcassidy@esri.com
- Vincent Pito, U.S. Census Bureau: vincent.j.pito@census.gov

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

1. U.S. Census

Vincent Pito of the U.S. Census Bureau's Geography Division gave a presentation describing the bureau's Geographic Support System Initiative (GSSI), a new program to improve address coverage and

perform continuous spatial feature updates to the Census Bureau's MAF/TIGER database. The Census Bureau is looking to develop partnerships with other agencies to accomplish this work.

Prior to the 2010 census, the MAF/TIGER data was improved to a horizontal accuracy of 7.6 meters. In 2009, the Census Bureau conducted an address canvass, collecting a GPS coordinate for every housing address in the country. The GSSI is intended to extend the update process on a continuous basis, as well as enhance the address database, such as replacing all Rural Route and post office box addresses with street-based addresses. If the program is successful, there will only need to be a targeted address canvass before the 2020 census.

The first step in the GSSI process is now underway, which is to inventory what resources are available from fellow agencies, including states. The meeting with this committee today is part of that process. The Geography Division will conduct an initial test of 100 counties nationwide to develop procedures to ingest data from outside sources.

Frank Catanese of DoIT recommended that the Census Bureau consider using the state's E-911 database, if possible. Fay Rubin noted that Complex Systems Research Center is mapping rural addressing statewide as part of the broadband mapping initiative, for all census blocks with an area greater than 2 square miles, and that Complex Systems would be happy to share the data with the Census. Lin Neifert of the USGS mentioned the issue of reporting boundary changes between municipalities: the USGS and the Census Bureau need to sharing information so that the boundaries agree between the two mapping systems used.

2. GIS Administration

Rob Pruyne noted the passage by the NH House of HB418, which requires state agencies to consider open source software when acquiring software, and promotes the use of open data formats. (The bill was later passed by the Senate, then signed into law on March 12.) Frank Catanese did not think that ESRI software would come under that scrutiny.

3. Updates

- ▶ Ken Gallager circulated a new standard for trails data passed by the Federal Geographic Data Committee.
- ▶ Thelma Thompson reported that the UNH-Diamond Library is cataloguing their scans of historic USGS topographic maps and working on a new interface to access the data. The library will be sending an email to potential users to survey what they would want in the new interface.
- ▶ Lin Neifert reported that the 10-meter Digital Elevation Models have been completed for New Hampshire. The state's digital topo maps will continue to be updated this year, with contours and new imagery being added as layers. The maps are available in TFW and GeoPDF formats. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency will be collecting leaf-off imagery for the nation's urban areas in 2014. State agencies are encouraged to contact Lin if they would like to fund imagery collection for additional areas.
- ▶ Tylor Young's reported that the Division of Public Health Services has received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Michigan to train four workers on ESRI products and to obtain ArcView licenses in order to study chronic disease. The division's epidemiologists

will be using digital pens to tie field data in with ESRI geospatial data. In addition, the division is collaborating with the state's E-911 program to make geospatial health data available on NH VIEWWW.

▶ Chris Dunbar, in the Waste Management Division at DES, is conducting a Risk and Vulnerability Analysis of underground storage tanks in the state. The analysis will result in a ranking of 1 to 5 for facilities, ranging from low risk to high risk. Input data will include proximity to water supplies, and surrounding population data. Chris also recommended the use of a metadata editor produced by US EPA.

▶ Neil Olson, of the NH Geological Survey within DES, is working with Lin Neifert of USGS to transfer stewardship of the state's watershed boundary and hydrography datasets to the NHGS. As a result, if data users have edits to report, they should contact Neil. Lin noted that Alabama has an online editing tool, and that the USGS is looking for other states to try using it. DES is building an agency-facing application for data editing.

Neil is also investigating how to extract stream network features from Lidar data, and was to present his findings at the Water and Watershed conference in Plymouth on March 23. Ken Gallager asked whether it would be possible to extract wetlands boundaries using similar methods. Rick Chormann responded that the issue of local wetlands boundaries is a complicated one, and that the NHGS has been investigating what would be required.

▶ Norma Sorgman reported the White Mountain National Forest has still not been able to acquire Lidar data for their land, due to poor weather conditions last fall. They now hope to collect the data this spring. The Forest is working with the E-911 program on a detailed review of the state snowmobile trail network through the Forest, including marking trail junctions for search and rescue operations. There are trail naming issues, so the agencies are working to come up with common names. Norma announced that she will be retiring in the near future, and that she is interviewing graduate students with sufficient time to allow for hiring and training, so that there is a smooth transition of operations.

▶ Stephan Hamilton reported that the Department of Revenue Administration's Mosaic Parcel Map now has 92% of the state's parcels in its system, with a goal of reaching 98-100% by the end of the second year of operation. DRA is working on data-sharing arrangements with NHDOT, NHDES, DRED, the Board of Tax and Land Appeals, and reaching out to the National Guard and other organizations. Regional planning commissions will be able to access the parcel data through a WMS service. Stephan encourages other agencies at the state level to enter into data-sharing agreements with DRA, as it is an easy process. DRA is also willing to talk with the Census Bureau about sharing their data.

▶ Kristen Svendsen mentioned that more information about State-designated rivers has been added to the [DES website](#).

▶ Sara Siskavich reported that Unitil has hired a vendor to extract building footprints from 2010 Lidar data for 13 communities in the state, extending from Dover and the Seacoast west to Salem. The resulting data shows building footprints but not rooftop information. No building attributes have been collected yet. Sara is willing to share the data with interested users, or Unitil could send the data to GRANIT.

▶ David Salzer reported that the T² program has been developing road surface management systems (RSMS) with municipalities in the state. They have also done an inventory for Concord of needed ADA improvements for sidewalks and curb ramps and ranked for a maintenance plan.

▶ Tara Bamford reported that the North Country Council is in the midst of collecting rural address points for the broadband mapping project. They calculate that they have to collect 12,000 data points and are

relying heavily on volunteer labor, including college students as well as high school students who need to perform community service projects.

▶ Amy Kizak reported that there are in fact some rural census blocks in the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission region, so they are involved in the rural addressing project as well. They are also working on a survey of regional community anchor institutions and one on satellite dishes.

▶ Rob Pruyne noted that the Rockingham Planning Commission is finishing an update to 2010 of land use for the region, and will then perform a new regional buildout (to be completed by early summer). All regional planning commissions have received a Sustainable Communities grant, and the RPC is also looking to obtain a grant to do an analysis of infrastructure and natural features that would be impacted by climate change-induced sea level rise and increased storm surges.

▶ John Cassidy reported about the ArcGIS Online seminar that was held on January 5 at NHDES; about 45 people came to it. Upcoming seminars will cover ArcGIS Online subscriptions and ArcGIS 10.1, to be released later this year.

▶ June Garneau recently taught and “Intro to GIS” seminar at two different colleges, and is now doing hazard mapping for communities, especially in the North Country, including developing evacuation routes. She welcomes input from state GIS users.

▶ Fay Rubin announced that the 2011 NAIP imagery has been received at GRANIT. As before, countywide SID-format mosaics will be posted to the GRANIT website. Users may request tile-based 4-band jpeg imagery or the full dataset and will need to send a hard drive to Complex Systems for the data. (Maine and Vermont NAIP imagery are also available upon request from Complex Systems.) The new 10-meter DEM data is also now at Complex Systems and will be posted to the GRANIT website soon. The 2011 1-foot imagery of northern New Hampshire will be coming soon. The state roads layer is being refreshed by NHDOT, and new National Hydrography Dataset data will be posted next week. There is a new Nature Conservancy initiative to update the conservation lands layer, starting this year. A new web-based wetlands evaluation tool is currently being tested. The GRANIT Data Mapper is now a Flex-based application: go to granitview.unh.edu. Finally, UNH is working on an NSF project, with data management by Complex Systems, to stimulate research activities in the state.

The next meeting of the GIS Advisory Committee was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, May 23, 2012**, at the Department of Health and Human Services, 29 Hazen Drive in Concord.