

# National Geospatial Advisory Committee

## BSI RECAP OF NGAC PROGRESS TO DATE

BSIJUN09

**BSI has attended all but one of NGAC’s meetings in fulfilling its corporate mission to be a National Parcel Layer Content Service Provider. Though only the NGAC members directly participate in committee business, any attendee has ample opportunity to network, get on a first name basis with our nation’s top industry leaders, and then sit back and watch the messy business of creating policy unfold. Many see NGAC emerging as the “voice” of our geospatial industry. Charged with establishing a National Geospatial Strategy, NGAC will be shaping how we operate for years to come. BSI urges all organizations with a national geospatial-centric business model to keep an eye on the NGAC web site and even attend the upcoming August Meeting.**

**Unless nationally/international oriented information service providers of all flavors know what is going on at the fed, then whatever the fed does in not going to work. As a run-up to BSI voicing its own opinion for implementing NSDI, key is for us all having a clue what’s happened so far. To speed up your understanding, the following are excerpts from selected documents of record reported positions and interests codified this far.**

### OVERVIEW

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is a Federal Advisory Committee sponsored by the Department of the Interior. The NGAC reports to the FGDC Chair.

**NGAC Charter:** “The Committee will provide advice and recommendations related to management of Federal and national geospatial programs, the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and the implementation of OMB Circular A-16 and Executive Order 12906. The Committee will review and comment upon geospatial policy and management issues and will provide a forum to convey views representative of non-federal stakeholders in the geospatial community.”

### The Members of the NGAC:

NON GOVERNMENT MEMBERS	GOVERNMENT MEMBERS
<b>Ms. Anne Hale Miglarese (NGAC Chair)</b> Booz Allen Hamilton	<b>Mr. Steven P. Wallach (NGAC Vice-Chair)</b> NGIA
<b>Mr. Jack Dangermond</b> ESRI	<b>Dr. Timothy M. Bull Bennett</b> ND Association of Tribal Colleges
<b>Ms. Kass Green</b> The Alta Vista Company	<b>Mr. Michael Byrne</b> State of California
<b>Dr. David F. Maune</b> Dewberry	<b>Mr. Richard B. Clark</b> State of Montana
<b>Mr. Charles Mondello</b> Pictometry International	<b>Dr. David J. Cowen</b> University of South Carolina
<b>Ms. Kim Nelson</b> Microsoft Corporation	<b>Mr. Donald G. Dittmar</b> Waukesha County, Wisconsin
<b>Mr. Matthew O’Connell</b> GeoEye	<b>Mr. Dennis B. Goreham</b> State of Utah
<b>Mr. John M. Palatiello</b> MAPPS	<b>Hon. Randy Johnson</b> Hennepin County, Minnesota
<b>Mr. G. Michael Ritchie</b> Photo Science	<b>Mr. Randall L. Johnson</b> Metropolitan Council, St. Paul, MN
<b>Mr. David Schell</b> Open Geospatial Consortium	<b>Dr. Jerry J. Johnston</b> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>Mr. Eugene A. Schiller</b> S.W. Florida Water Management Dist.	<b>Mr. Barney Krucoff</b> District of Columbia
<b>Dr. Christopher Tucker</b> Erdas, Inc.	<b>Hon. Timothy Loewenstein</b> Buffalo County, Nebraska
<b>Mr. Allen Carroll</b> National Geographic Society	<b>Mr. Zsolt Nagy</b> State of North Carolina
<b>Dr. Sean Ahearn</b> Hunter College – City University of New York	<b>Dr. Jay Parrish</b> State of Pennsylvania

## **A NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL STRATEGY**

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee urges the new administration to commit to a strategic investment in geospatial programs and technologies to underpin and support the health, welfare, and safety of U.S. citizens. ... To address the complex issues it faces, the Federal Government should increase its efforts to utilize geospatial information and technologies to their fullest potential, in cooperation with State, local, regional, and Tribal governments.

### **Vision of Desired Future State wherein...**

- o A robust geospatial infrastructure fosters economic vitality, advances health initiatives, protects the homeland, supports science, governs the Nation, otherwise enriches the lives of all Americans;
- o Geospatial information and tools are available, accessible, and routinely used;
- o Geospatial information easily available from the public domain and geospatial marketplace;
- o Americans, informed of its value, enjoy and appreciate ongoing sustained development
- o All sectors operate under a shared governance and set of goals and objectives.
- o All sectors work collaboratively with a common set of policies, standards, and data models;
- o All partners have incentives and are accountable for producing results;
- o Coordinated policies ensure enhanced access to current and archived geodata;
- o National geospatial infrastructure is supported cost sharing among partners;
- o Incentives ensure cost-effective initiatives, continuous progress, and innovation;
- o A skilled, educated work force exploits full potential of geospatial resources to benefit society;
- o Emerging business technologies embrace the concept of place.

## **GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Whereas Executive Order 12906 and OMB Circular A-16 designate geospatial data themes and assign federal agency stewards for those themes;

Whereas most agencies have not been provided designated resources to meet stewardship responsibilities;

Whereas some agencies have not produced plans to accomplish stewardship responsibilities;

Whereas OMB has not been able to assemble consistent and accurate budgetary crosscuts for geospatial activities to implement stewardship responsibilities;

Whereas agencies have not been held accountable for meeting stewardship responsibilities;

Whereas the coordination, duplication avoidance, and partnering requirements of Executive Order 12906 and OMB Circular A16 remain unsatisfied not only among Federal agencies, but also with non-Federal stakeholders:

Now Therefore; Be It Resolved:

- o That the NGAC recommends that the FGDC encourages and supports the Administration in the use of geospatial data and technologies to transform government operations and provide accountability and savings across geospatial activities, by:
- o Reaffirming Executive Order 12906 and revising it to increase accountability;
- o Strengthening direct OMB enforcement of reporting requirements in Circular A-16;
- o Coordinating and working in partnership with Federal, State, Tribal, and local government agencies and the private sector, and building upon non-Federal data wherever practical.
- o Strongly considering the role of geospatial data and technology in transforming government operations while implementing the President's management agenda and formulating and executing the President's Budget.

#### **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- o Establish a geospatial leadership and coordination function immediately within the Executive Office of the President. The geospatial coordination function should be included in the reauthorization of the **E-Government Act**. The function of this position should:
  - Develop a partnership-based national geospatial strategy
  - Oversee the revision and strengthening of policies (i.e. OMB Circular A-16) in concert with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)
  - Evaluate and clarify the roles and responsibilities of Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments; academia; and the private sector in the creation and maintenance of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)
  - Coordinate the funding and acquisition of geospatial data.
- o Designate **Geographic Information Officers** within each Department or Agency with responsibilities stipulated within OMB Circular A-16.
- o Establish implementation of **geospatial programs** to support essential government services underpinning the NSDI, such as:
  - Imagery for the Nation
  - National Land Imaging Program
  - National Land Parcel Data
- o **Title 13 Amendment.** Revise restrictive statutory language as it pertains to non-sensitive address data in Title 13 U.S. Code so that the address information assembled for the 2010 Census can be shared with local government GSI managers to materially improve situs address data at the local level.
- o **Imagery for the Nation (IFTN)** The NGAC approved the following resolution...
  - Provide financial incentives to foster creation and publication of public domain data
  - Save taxpayer money by achieving national economies of scale
  - Set minimal technical standards to ensure cohesive national data is created.
  - Establish schedule for delivery so customers and partners can plan effectively
  - Act as a model for the development of other critical national geospatial data layers;

- o **Management of IFTN** within the federal government
  - Continuous strategy or plan for customer-driven input
  - Analysis of cost avoidance or savings
  - ROI validation – data, methodology, frequency
  - Analysis of cost/benefit
- o **IFTN Provisos.** Before IFTN is implemented, NGAC requests that...
  - **Procurement strategy**
    - Including small business participation
    - Use of best practices models (e.g., IDIQ & QBS for procurement)
    - Licensing vs. ownership to avoid public domain issues
    - Analysis of capacity and production capabilities
- o NGAC recommends immediate action on **Recommendation #1 in the NRC report** (review of authorities; designation of land parcel coordinator).
- o **FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee** to convene a stakeholder group to address parcel data issues related to the mortgage crisis (**DONE: See NCAD RECAP**).

## **ECONOMIC RECOVERY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The NGAC approved the following recommendations to the FGDC regarding **Economic Recovery**. To ensure transparency and accountability NGAC strongly recommends that:

- o **Economic Recovery Legislation.** FGDC agencies and OMB fully utilize geospatial technology to effectively implement and manage the enacted economic recovery legislation.
- o **The proposed Recovery Board** should develop a geospatial strategy and requirements that apply across the different components of the economic recovery legislation, including:
  - Health IT
  - Broadband
  - Wildland Fire/Emergency Response
  - Alternative Energy
  - Global Climate Change
  - Transportation and Infrastructure
  - Conduct of the 2010 Census
  - Education, Training, and Workforce Development
- o **To ensure transparency** and accountability NGAC strongly recommends that:
  - The Recovery Board should ensure that the **Recovery.Gov** website is geospatially enabled to manage and track economic recovery investments.
  - OMB should issue clear, enforceable guidance to agencies working on stimulus-funded activities to ensure that geospatial investments are made in a strategic

and coordinated manner, consistent with the standards-based development of the NSDI,

- Federal grants and contracts guidance language requiring reporting and documentation of geospatial data development should be completed and implemented.