



Facilitating the sharing and coordinated use of spatially referenced data in Delaware

**D R A F T**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**DGDC Meeting**  
**1:30 p.m., December 3, 2009**  
**Room 220**  
**Kent County Admin. Building**  
**555 Bay Road**  
**Dover, DE**

**Attendance List:**

Mike Mahaffie ..... OMB  
Doyle Tiller ..... OMB/DFM  
Laura Simmons ..... OMB/OSPC  
Barbara Gladders ..... DHSS  
George Yocher ..... DHSS  
Lillian Wang ..... DGS  
Miriam Pomilio ..... DGS  
Dick Sacher ..... UD/RDMS  
Ben Mearns ..... UD/RDMS  
John Laznik ..... UD/CADSR  
Nicole Minni ..... UD/WRA  
Bruce Allen ..... DeIDOT  
McKelvin Gilbert ..... DeIDOT  
Mollie Raley ..... DeIDOT  
Silvana Croope ..... DeIDOT/TMC  
Kim Cloud ..... DTI  
Mary Harper ..... HCA  
Carl Yetter ..... DNREC  
Deborah Sullivan ..... DNREC  
Mike Krumrine ..... DNREC  
George Yocher ..... DHSS/DPH  
Barbara Gladders ..... DHSS/DPH  
Valerie Miller ..... DSHA  
Terry Whitham ..... DSHS  
Patrick Susi ..... New Castle Co.  
Rick Steffers ..... Wilmington  
Brook Sanders ..... Wilmington  
David Beattie ..... Wilmington  
Roger Barlow ..... USGS  
Mark Nardi ..... USGS  
Art Walker ..... USDA/NRCS  
Steve Elliott ..... ESRI  
Seth Van Aken ..... ESRI  
Erica Rhoades ..... AEGIS  
David Long ..... Brightfields  
Cheryl Alt ..... URS Corp  
Matt Layton ..... URS Corp

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Mahaffie began the meeting at approximately 1:38 p.m. with a round of introductions. (Note: The slideshow that was used to organize the meeting content is [posted on-line in Google Documents](#))

**Announcements**

Seth Van Aken announced that Steve Elliot ([selliot@esri.com](mailto:selliot@esri.com)) has taken over as Delaware's ESRI account representative.

Steve Elliot announced that the ESRI Mid-Atlantic Users' Group (ESRI-MUG) conference is scheduled for December 9, in Valley Forge, PA. ([www.esrimug.org](http://www.esrimug.org))

**Approval of [September 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes](#)**

**A motion was made by Roger Barlow, seconded by Carl Yetter, to accept the minutes of the September 17, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Subcommittee and Working Group Reports**

*Conference Planning Subcommittee*

Mike Mahaffie reported that things are starting to come together for the [2010 Delaware GIS Conference](#), scheduled for February 10, 2009 (with a day of workshops scheduled for February 9, 2009). He noted that the major speakers will be Ann Hale Miglaresse (head of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee) and Eileen Shea<sup>1</sup>, of the National Climatic Data Center.

<sup>1</sup> Mike noted Ms. Shea as "tentative" at the meeting. A confirmation of her attendance has since come in.

Nicole Minni reported that the GIS Awards group has received several nominations for the 2010 Delaware Geographic Service Award. DGDC members will be asked to vote, on-line, using the [degis.org](http://degis.org) conference web site.

[Registration](#) for the conference is now open.

#### *GeoEducation in Delaware*

Miriam Pomilio reported that the subcommittee is seeking entrants for the 2010 K-12 Contest, which will culminate at the Conference. She asked the group to pass word along to any teachers they know.

#### *GIS Day Subcommittee*

Miriam also reported, as a stand-in for Megan Nehrbas, that the GIS Day event at DAFB on November 18 was a great success. She showed [some pictures from the event](#) and thanked the many volunteers from the GIS community who helped out.

#### *Technical Infrastructure Subcommittee*

Kim Cloud reported that the Geospatial Data Exchange system is about to undergo its final round of testing after which it will be turned over to DTI for installation in the DTI server environment.

Kim also reported that the Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) between the State and ESRI is up for renewal and that she is working with DTI leadership and ESRI staff on proposals to continue the program.

And Kim reported that Delaware, via DTI, has received a \$1.5 million grant, as part of the federal stimulus effort, to create, and make available to the public, geospatial data showing the availability of broadband internet access in Delaware. She noted that the grant budget includes some funds that can be put towards an update of orthophotography in 2011.

#### *Data Standards Subcommittee*

Pat Susi reported that the group is finishing work on a draft standard for parcel data. Mike Mahaffie is working on a Delaware-specific gazetteer as part of that effort.

Pat also noted that Kent and New Castle Counties are nearing agreement on an updated data set representing their county boundary. Kent County staff are also working on an update of the Kent/Sussex boundary.

Bernie Gilbert and Bruce Allen, of DeIDOT are working on a draft of a new statewide centerline/transportation data set and data maintenance approach.

## Updates and Reports

### *USGS Update*

Roger Barlow reported that the federal government has flown two swaths of new LiDAR data along the Delaware coastline. The data were collected on November 30. Those interested in seeing the raw, uncorrected, data can contact Roger. "Cleaned-up" data will be available in February.

He reported that agreements for the DVRPC ortho project that will also collect imagery of all of New Castle County are ready to be signed. Data collection will take place in the spring.

Roger and Mark Nardi reported that the "point-cloud" from Delaware's 2007 elevation project – covering Kent and New Castle Counties – will soon be sent to the USGS data center in Rolla, Missouri. That data will then be posted to the [USGS CLICK data download site](#). Point-cloud data from the 2005 federal LiDAR data project are already available on the CLICK site.

Roger and Deborah Sullivan reported that the project to update the National Hydrology Dataset (NHD) undertaken by DNREC with federal grants funds is nearing completion. The basic data have been successfully integrated into the NHD. Deborah noted that the contractor is still working to repair some problems caused by the creation of "pseudo-nodes" along long lines by the software.

Roger also noted that the new ortho funding from the broadband grant might be integrated into a proposal from NGA and the Air Force to collect new orthos of Kent County. He will work with the Executive Council on a path forward.

And Roger announced that USGS photo-topos will be available soon in PDF format. These are similar to the continually updated DataMIL topographic PDF maps already produced by DGS.

### *NAIP Orthophotography Project*

Mike Mahaffie reported that the summer, 2009 orthoimagery collected by USDA under the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) is now available on the USDA's APFO site ([www.apfo.usda.gov](http://www.apfo.usda.gov)). The data are true-color, 1-meter resolution data.

### *Report from Geospatial Research Day*

Ben Mearns reported that the first Geospatial Research Day (GRD) at the University of Delaware was a great success. There were many posters and presentations, including an experiment with "Lightning Talks" – a series of very short, very focused presentations. [A short video is posted on-line](#). He added that for next year, the plan is to have more small-group interaction and more Q&A.

### *National Issues/NSGIC Update*

Mike Mahaffie gave an overview of the new [Advocacy Agenda](#) (PDF) from the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). Key national opportunities identified by NSGIC are:

1. "For the Nation" Data Programs
2. Address Points from the Census Bureau
3. Governance of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
4. Technology to Improve Government Effectiveness

Mike added that registration is now open for the NSGIC Mid-Year Conference, to be held March 7 to 10 in Annapolis, MD.

### **Old Business**

#### *Strategic Planning Project*

Mike Mahaffie reported that work continues on the state GIS strategic plan. He expects to have a very early draft for the DGDC Executive Council later this month, a draft for DGDC review in January, and a final draft for discussion as part of the GIS conference in February. The planning consultant will be in Delaware next week to meet with DTI staff, the steering committee and any others who are interested.

### **New Business**

#### *LiDAR Data Issues*

Carl Yetter gave a presentation (attached) of the results of a working group meeting of many of the users of the LiDAR point-cloud and elevation data models that were derived as a by-product of the 2007 project to create 2-foot contours as part of Delaware's Framework. The group discussed many of the lessons learned from the project and has created a base of knowledge for future projects.

Carl reported that the NOAA Coastal Services Center has created a new set of Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) from the original 2005 (Sussex) and 2007 (Kent and New Castle) point-clouds. These are an attempt to iron-out some of the discontinuities that resulted from having two different data projects. The DEMs are posted on [the CSC web site](#).

Carl noted that the group has requested that the DGDC consider advocating for a change in state law to support the use of the latest version of the NAD83 coordinate system.

**Carl Yetter made a motion, seconded by Mark Nardi**, to request that the DGDC Executive Council work towards a change in state law to set the state's standard coordinate system as NAD 83 (2007) State Plane meters, with a vertical datum of NAVD 88, and to specify that data be maintained (though not necessarily displayed) in meters on both the horizontal and vertical axes. After brief discussion, **the motion passed unanimously**.

### *Google*

Mike Mahaffie noted that he is still working on establishing what body should speak for the state to Google in data-sharing discussions. There was a general discussion of recent data changes by Google and the increasing role of organizations such as Google and Microsoft in developing public interfaces with GIS data and information. Seth Van Aken reported that ESRI is also starting to move into this arena.

### *DGDC and Social Media*

Mike Mahaffie showed the new [DGDC News blog](#) and the [DGDC twitter account](#) and gave a short overview of some of the uses of social media tools as communications avenues for DGDC.

### **Open Comment Period**

John Laznik noted that a group should meet soon to work on a standard for address data, since the different counties now have differing data standards for their address data.

Silvana Croope suggested that there be more work on data standards and metadata for data sets beyond the Framework data sets. She reported that she has been working within DelDOT, and with David Racca of the UD, on improving data standards for internal data sets.

Dick Sacher reported that the University of Delaware will offer a new set of classes towards a certificate in GIS. This program is geared towards working professionals.

Mollie Raley suggested that there be some outreach to local television stations. She noted that the background maps used in some local weather reports are very inaccurate and could be improved.

Silvana Croope suggested that there could also be some outreach to the ADC map company to improve the quality of the information on ADC maps.

**A motion was made by Pat Susi, seconded by Carl Yetter, to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed unanimously.

# Elevation Data Users Workshop

October 13, 2009

## A SYNOPSIS



*Delaware Coastal Programs*



# Purpose and Overview

- Group convened by John Talley, DGS
- Workshop moderated by Delaware Coastal Programs

1. Coordinate projects – avoid duplicate effort
2. Compatibility of data and analysis
3. Datums – horizontal AND vertical
4. Sharing and distribution



# Participants

- Delaware Geologic Survey
- University of Delaware
  - *DEOS*
  - *EPSCoR*
- USGS
- DNREC
  - *Div. Soil and Water Conservation*
  - *Delaware Coastal Programs*



# Projects using lidar

1. Modeling Marsh Migration of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge
2. Inundation Mapping
3. Marsh Vulnerability Index
4. LIDAR correction for Marsh Surfaces
5. DEOS Coastal Flood Monitoring Prototype
6. DEOS Geobrowser
7. Characterizing flow between tidal channels and a salt marsh platform using heat as a tracer of hydrologic processes.
8. Relative Sea Level Rise, Subsidence, and Interactions
9. Updating FEMA non-tidal flood studies with LIDAR
10. Updating SLOSH Inundation Maps
11. DEWOS – Short term or mobile observations



# Datum and Projection

- Currently, State mandated to use NAD83 Delaware State Plane meters
- However, many of the newest State datasets (i.e. 2007 Ortho Imagery and subsequent County Parcel data) have been produced in the more accurate NAD83 Delaware State Plane HARN projection
- No mention of Vertical Datum



# Datum and Projection

- Participants agreed to ask the Executive Council of the Delaware Geographic Data Committee (DGDC) to have this standard updated to reflect the most current horizontal datum, NAD 83 (2007) State Plane meters, and to ask the Council to include the vertical datum as NAVD 88



# Datum and Projection

- When a project ranges between states or regionally ...
- The projection UTM (Zone 18North) should be used to ensure common ground



# Storage and Distribution

- The consensus of the participants was that data should be stored in the metric system
- Display of data should be in units appropriate to the audience
- Meters vs. feet and NAVD88 vs. MLLW



# Since the workshop

- Discussion of current lidar limitations
- Discussion on “the next round of lidar”
- Preparing request to Executive Council
- Distribution of reprocessed data thru Digital Coast



# Digital Coast

NOAA - Coastal Services  
Center

[http://www.csc.noaa.gov/  
digitalcoast/index.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/index.html)

Digital Coast : Data Access Viewer - Windows Internet Explorer

http://csc-s-maps-q.csc.noaa.gov/dataviewer/viewer.html?keyword=lidar

DIGITAL COAST Digital Coast : Data Access Viewer

Zoom In Area Area

(1,142 MB)

- 2000 Fall East Coast (11,314 MB) Add to Cart
- 2002 Worcester County LiDAR Mapping (2,184 MB) Add to Cart
- 2003 Dorchester, Somerset, Talbot & Wicomico Counties LiDAR Mapping (10,952 MB) Add to Cart
- 2004 Anne Arundel, Charles, Howard & St. Mary's Counties LiDAR Mapping (101 MB) Add to Cart
- 2005 Cecil County LiDAR Mapping (1,671 MB) Add to Cart
- 2005 Sussex County LiDAR Mapping Bare Earth Only (1,513 MB) Add to Cart
- 2005 USACE Topo/Bathy Mapping (46,006 MB) Add to Cart
- 2006 Kent, Queen Annes & Caroline Counties LiDAR Mapping (3,523 MB) Add to Cart
- 2007 Kent and New Castle Counties LiDAR Mapping (4,727 MB) Add to Cart

Est. Data Size = 0MB

Data Checkout

HEDOC | NOAA | NCE  
NOAA Coastal Services Center

Questions or Comments? Contact CSC  
Updated on June 1, 2009



Delaware Coastal Programs

