



NORTH ARROW

Mapping into the Millennium

Nov - Dec 2002 Volume XXIII

North Carolina Property Mappers Association Newsletter

President's Corner

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Highlights:

President's Corner

Upcoming Events

Certified Mappers

Award Recipients

Local Government

Committee Meeting

Minutes

Fall Conference

I was glad to see the turnout we had for fall conference in this yet another year of budget crunches. The "Building Bridges" segment and the "Round Table" both generated a lot of good comments. Nita Barton and her committee worked hard to bring us an informative and inovative conference. Many thanks to you all until you are better paid!

Certified Mappers

Congratulations to all who received their recognition at the conference and to all of those who couldn't be with us. (See pages 3 & 4 for a listing of all mappers recognized and award recipients)

North Arrow

You may notice some changes (not for the good) in this edition and the next one. Please bear with me. Sheila Harris, our dedicated editor is out of work on FMLA. We hope to have her back with us soon, but until then I will attempt to fumble my way through getting the newsletter out.

Spring Workshops

This year we again will try to bring you a quality workshop at a location near you. At our Board meeting in December we will be making plans to present a workshop on working with DOT ROW maps for the membership. Look for more information on the

workshops in the next issue of the North Arrow.

Membership Renewals

That time is right around the corner. Next issue will have renewal form included. Please take time to fill out the form completely and legibly. It is all we have to utilize to get your information into the Legend.

This and That

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your president. Please email me or call me with any concerns, ideas, or questions you may have. If you don't tell me I don't have the opportunity to act on the memberships wishes. Log on and check out our website. Rich Elkins continues to do a wonderful job with it.

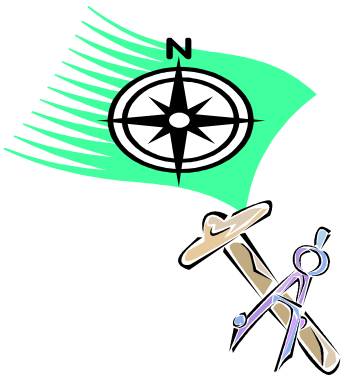
<http://ncpropertymappers.org>

Thank you to all the incoming board members, committee chairmen and committee members. You give a lot of your time to the association and it is appreciated. (And by the way it's still not to late to volunteer to serve on a committee) This is your organization so get involved with it. Working together we all can make a difference and keep our association going strong. Best wishes to everyone for a safe and festive holiday season.

Marie Monteith

marie.monteith@buncombecounty.org





UP COMING EVENTS



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
November 20, 2002	GIS day	Everywhere
February 20-21, 2003	NC GIS Conference	Winston-Salem, NC
March 30- April 2, 2003	IAAO/URISA Conference	Columbus, Ohio
July 28 – Aug 1, 2003	Mapping School	Greensboro, NC
Oct 1 – 3, 2003	NCPMA Fall Conference	Research Triangle Park, NC



NCGIS 2003 – A WORLD OF SPATIAL PARTNERS

Mark your calendar today to attend one of the largest GIS conferences in the nation! Journey to Winston-Salem, North Carolina for the **2003 North Carolina Geographic Information Systems Conference** on February 20-21, 2003. The conference, sponsored by the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NC CGIA) and the North Carolina Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (NC URISA), will be held at the Benton Convention Center in downtown Winston-Salem. Pre-conference URISA workshops will be held February 19. Workshop fees are \$120 for NC URISA members, \$130 for non-NC URISA members, and \$150 for everyone after January 31. The two-day conference registration fee is \$85 and includes two lunches and a social. After January 31, the cost is \$125. Full-time students may attend for \$25 (must show valid ID). For information about exhibiting at the conference, please contact Zsolt Nagy at 919-733-2090 or Roscoe Reeve at 919-732-8181.

The conference hotel, adjacent to the Benton Convention Center, is the Adam's Mark Winston Plaza. To reserve your room before the cut-off date of January 24, please call the Adam's Mark Winston Plaza at 336-725-3500 or the Adam's Mark national reservation center at 800-444-2326 to make your reservations. The conference room rate is \$109 per night plus tax. Mention the North Carolina Geographic Information Systems Conference when making your reservation.

For details, as they become available, visit the web site at <http://cgia.cgia.state.nc.us>.



Regular Mappers

Cristopher D Bridges Iredell Co.
Diana M Carlyle Halifax Co.
James B Clark Robeson Co.
Stephanie Creech Greene Co.
Sabrina Fowler Richmond Co.
Wayland Humphrey Lenoir Co.
Trevor Lovin Cherokee Co.
Donna McFayden Cumberland Co.
Jeremy S Poss Chatham Co.

Senior Mappers

Hope P Bostick Richmond Co.
Kimberly M Bryant Brunswick Co.
Ted Cisine Robeson Co.
K Jason Clodfelter Davidson Co.
Martha Jane Holland Onslow Co.
Betty S Lowman Catawba Co.
Marty Lowe Surry Co.
Elaine M McLelland Iredell Co.
Holly J Melton Buncombe Co.
Jay V Miller Durham Co.
Patricia C Rouse Onslow Co.
Deborah Weatherly Cherokee Co.

Academic Achievement Regular Mapper

Stephanie Creech Greene Co.
Wayland Humphrey Lenoir Co.

Academic Achievement Senior Mapper

Deborah Weatherly Cherokee Co.

Mapper of the Year

Albert Taylor Jr. Carteret County

Old Timers Award

C.T. "Hap" Holladay
Kucera International

Plumb Bob Award

Marie Monteith Buncombe County

Report from Program Committee

Hey to all N.C.P.M.A Members,

I would again like to congratulate Nita Barton-2002 Program Chairperson for a job well done on our 2002 conference. She made it a tough act to follow, So.....in order to keep up our strict standards we have already started planning for next year's conference and we would love your input. For those of you who attended this past N.C.P.M.A. conference or any conferences (not just N.C.P.M.A), let us know what you liked and didn't like. We love to steal ideas especially if it makes our members happy! Some of the feed back we have gotten is:

- Some members want Karaoke to come back
- Some members are glad Karaoke wasn't there
- "Building Bridges" was fun and let's do it again
- Another Round Table discussion is a must

...and your comments and ideas are waiting to be heard as well.

Please get in touch with any 2003 Program Committee member who are as follows:

Greg Belk 704-920-2405 Cabarrus County

Brenda Davis 336-401-8103 Surry County

Holly Melton 828-250-4974 Buncombe County

Marie Monteith 828-250-4977 Buncombe County

Rick Norejko 828-250-4844 Buncombe County

Stephanie Parkins 828-452-6644 Haywood County

Ruth Ann Sitton 828-488-9273 Swain County

Co-Chair Suzie Nicholson 828-586-7571 Jackson County

Chair: Tammy Southern 336-727-2655 Forsyth County

So don't be shy.....remember this conference is for YOU!!!!!!

Tammy Southern

Job Offering

RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

GRADE: 62

BEGINNING SALARY: \$25,309

POSITION: TAX MAPPER

LOCATION OF POSITION: CURRITUCK COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICE

CURRITUCK, NORTH CAROLINA

POSITION AVAILABLE: IMMEDIATELY

MINIMUM EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE:

GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH SOME EXPERIENCE IN MAPPING, GIS, LAND RECORDS OR A RELATED FIELD; OR ANY EQUIVALENT COMBINATION OF TRAINING & EXPERIENCE WHICH PROVIDES THE REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

POSITION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERFORMING RESPONSIBLE TAX MAPPING WORK; ASSISTING THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS WITH MAPPING/LAND RECORDS INQUIRIES; MAINTAIN DIGITAL PROPERTY DATA IN COUNTY GIS SYSTEM; & OTHER DUTIES AS REQUIRED

SPECIAL JOB REQUIREMENTS:

MUST POSSESS A VALID NC DRIVER'S LICENSE

RECRUITMENT PERIOD: NOVEMBER 12, 2002 THROUGH 5 P.M. ON DECEMBER 4, 2002

HOW TO APPLY: CURRITUCK COUNTY APPLICATION REQUIRED

WHERE TO APPLY: CURRITUCK COUNTY PERSONNEL/FINANCE OFFICE

153 COURTHOUSE ROAD, CURRITUCK, NC 27929

JOB REFERRAL # NC3306560

RETURN APPLICATIONS: CURRITUCK COUNTY PERSONNEL OFFICE

153 COURTHOUSE RD

PO BOX 39

CURRITUCK, NC 27929

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Local Government Committee Report

The quarterly meeting of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE (LGC) was held on November 5, 2002.

During the meeting the LGC reviewed the North Carolina Corporate Geographic Database Issue Paper (CGDB) with the points raised during the discussion at the August 21st Council meeting. The following is an outline of the issues the LGC considers most critical to local government and some recommendations on how to address these issues.

Key Issues

1. Common Understanding

- The vision of the CGDB is poorly understood. How it relates to the North Carolina Geographic Clearinghouse should be further clarified. Many GIS users in local government have the impression that the CGDB is strictly a central data repository. To achieve the true vision of the CGDB as a statewide strategic resource it is critical that its purpose be clearly defined and understood by local government GIS users.

Recommendations:

- a. Expand on existing efforts to promote a better understanding of the CGDB and to encourage local governments to buy into the vision. Specifically, create educational tools and materials that describe and promote the CGDB as a statewide strategic resource. Promotional materials should clearly present compelling reasons for local governments to participate in the coordination process and to contribute data to the CGDB.
- b. Continue efforts to educate elected officials on the value of GIS. Promote the "GIS for Elected Officials" PowerPoint presentation that is available on the CGIA web site. Some 11 local government GIS users have customized the "GIS for Elected Officials" presentation to include local government applications and to highlight issues that are specific to a particular jurisdiction. It is recommended that CGIA obtain copies of these customized presentations and make them available to others through the CGIA web site.
- c. Consider changing the name of the CGDB. The use of "database" in the name implies a central database and detracts from the true vision.

2. Data Inventory/Metadata

- The lack of a complete inventory of geospatial data resources in North Carolina is a serious impediment to achieving the vision of the CGDB. A complete picture of available data will help local governments understand the value of the CGDB and will help break down barriers to data sharing. In addition, an inventory will identify gaps in data availability, which will permit the Council to target its efforts to help build partnerships to develop new data resources.
- The availability of metadata is critical to achieving the vision of the CGDB. The effective use of geospatial data relies on a common understanding of the origin and composition of the data.

Recommendations:

- a. Conduct a survey to inventory the geospatial data resources in North Carolina. Take advantage of Internet-based survey tools that facilitate the collection, storage, and analysis of survey results. Include in the survey questions regarding distribution policies. If possible, target known users and developers of geospatial data rather than a mass mailing to general mailing lists.
- b. CGIA should expand its metadata education and support program. CGIA should offer direct assistance to local governments to help develop metadata as an incentive for local governments to contribute data to the CGDB. CGIA should continue to develop or promote existing education materials that offer compelling reasons why local governments need to develop metadata.

Action by the LGC:

- The LGC will assist in identifying an appropriate survey tool.
- The LGC will help design the survey by reviewing the initial draft to be prepared by CGIA, and by providing suggestions for changes additional questions.
- The LGC will assist CGIA in identifying known users and data developers in local government to whom the survey should be distributed.

3. Content

- At its first meeting in August, the LGC identified data content standards as a critical issue. Local governments share data with neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions. Accepted core data content standards will facilitate data sharing by improving usability, especially as they relate to attribute fields. However, the core content standards should not impede each jurisdiction's ability to utilize its data for its own needs.
- The successful development of a complete and continuous CGDB requires the participation and support of local, regional, and state data providers. Providing useful data content to the CGDB will depend upon the ability of stakeholders to specify and adhere to basic elemental data standards, while at the same time being able to extend the data elements for specific local organizational needs.

Recommendations:

- a. The meaning of the phrase "requirements and content specifications" as referred to in the CGDB issue paper is unclear to the LGC. The LGC requests clarification on the definition of content specifications.
- b. It is difficult to communicate these concepts to a council body or board of commissioners who possess varying degrees of knowledge or expertise in GIS. Once the definition of "content" is accepted, the LGC recommends that the SMAC be tasked with creating a demonstration of the benefits of specifying and adhering to data standards to include several clear, compelling examples that would be meaningful to a less technical audience.

4. Access and Distribution

The LGC believes that this issue covers a broad range of topics including:

- Technical barriers to data sharing;
- Data integration problems;
- Distribution policies
- Privacy; and
- Homeland security.

Recommendations:

- a. Use the inventory survey to identify existing data distribution policies of state and local government agencies.
- b. Establish standard policies for sharing data that are acceptable to local governments. Agencies that agree to participate in the CGDB should sign written agreements in which the policies are clearly stated
- c. Develop data content specifications to address integration issues.
- d. Encourage state government agencies to contribute data to the CGDB. For many local government agencies the CGDB is of limited value because the data sets are not at an appropriate scale. However, there are valuable data sets within state agencies that would be of great value to local government. Unfortunately, these agencies are not making their data available through the CGDB.

The LGC considers the issues listed above as the most critical to local government. However, the LGC has additional comments on several other issues listed in the CGDB Issue Paper:

- **Information Technology**

To a great extent, the growth of the World Wide Web supercedes the need for a separate statewide information technology network. Internet technologies have removed many of the technical barriers to data sharing and data distribution. Therefore, the availability of high speed Internet access throughout North Carolina is critical to successful utilization of the CGDB.

Recommendation:

The GICC should support the efforts of the Rural Internet Access Authority to extend high speed Internet access throughout North Carolina in order to enable access to CGDB resources throughout the state.

- ***Federal Initiatives***

As a result of national concerns about terrorism and homeland security, there are significant federal funding opportunities available to state and local governments to help address these issues. In many cases, homeland security projects are compatible with the issues set forth in the CGDB Issue Paper.

Recommendation:

The Council should explore opportunities for state and local government agencies to tap federal funds to address homeland security issues.

- ***Legislation***

A compendium of legislation that affects geospatial data collection and use would be beneficial.

Recommendation:

Prepare a compendium of state government legislation with explanations about the impact on local government collection and the use of geospatial data. Add the compendium to the CGIA web site. Include federal legislation. Determine if there is a requirement that data developed with federal funds must have FGDC compliant metadata.

This concludes our summary of issues and recommendations. If anyone has any questions or input that needs to go to the Council please contact me at my e-mail address: LUANNE.COX@BUNCOMBECOUNTY.ORG or by phone at 828-250-4973.

Lu Anne Cox

GIS Special Project Analyst
Buncombe County Land Records