

**Meeting Summary**  
**Delaware Geographic Data Committee**  
**April 23, 1999**  
**State Personnel Training Center, Paradee Building, Dover**

**Attendance List:**\*

Vincent Rucinski -- DelDOT	William Jester -- DelDOT
George Yocher -- DHSS	Dorothy Morris -- OSPC
Michael B. Mahaffie -- State Planning Coordination	Lillian Wang -- DGS
Dorothy Morris -- State Planning Coordination	Greg Hughes -- State Personnel Office
Gray Yakimov -- Department of Labor	Mark Dufendach -- Department of Education
Dennis Murphy -- DNREC	Elayne Starkey -- Public Safety
Susan Moerschel -- DNREC	Howard Lowell -- Archives
Deborah S. Sullivan -- DNREC	Dorrie Moore -- DEDO
Michael G. Townshend -- Department of State	Tom Houska -- DSWA
Tim Westbrook -- New Castle County	David Edgell -- City of Dover
Jian Chen -- University of Delaware	Julie Loescher -- DSHA
John Laznik -- University of Delaware	Judy Martin -- DSHA
William S. Schenck -- Delaware Geological Survey	Paul Morrill -- Delaware City
Tracy DeLiberty, University of Delaware	Chris Golden -- Budget Office
Karen Horton -- Delaware State Housing Auth.	Miriam Pomilio -- DNREC Parks
Brad Ebaugh -- Delaware Electric Cooperative	Mark Davis -- Department of Agriculture
Jeff Bergstrom -- City of New Castle	
Dick Sacher -- University of Delaware/RDMS	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Mike Mahaffie asked everyone to introduce himself or herself, explaining that the group was still new to itself. Each attendee identified who they were and where they were from.

**Representation**

Mike quickly went over the list of agency representatives (attached). He announced that several agencies were still working on who would represent them. Mike asked if anyone had names or agencies to be added to the list. Mike noted that this list of representative would be the "voting members" of the DGDC and this would be the group that would be reporting to the CCSPI. Mike reminded everyone in attendance that the DGDC should be made up of policy makers and the technical people should be on the SMAC committee, noting that some agencies may have the same person on both committees. He added that members of either group are welcome at either meeting, since meetings are open to all.

**FGDC Recognition**

Mike went over the benefits of being recognized as a "State Coordinating Council" by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). There was no objection with Mike going forward with gaining FGDC recognition.

**GIS Conference Review, 2000 planning**

Mike stated that the GIS conference held at the University of Delaware on January 28<sup>th</sup> was a success. He asked for comments from the committee as to whether the conference should be done yearly, what needs to be added, etc.

Debbie Sullivan, of the SMAC Education and Training Subcommittee, stated that the subcommittee felt the conference should be held yearly and that the subcommittee could plan the conference but it would need the support of all agencies. The subcommittee would need to use support staff and resources to help plan the conference.

The cost of the conference would include hall rental, mailings, etc. and could be recouped by charging a registration fee.

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\* This list is based on the sign-in sheets filled in at the meeting. If you remember someone who was there whom we missed, please let us know.

Tim Westbrook stated that education and training should be woven into the policy issues. It was discussed that the conference planners would need to know who to target – the policy makers or the technical staff.

Sandy Schenck stated that the conference could consist of ½ day of policy making and ½ day of training. Susan Moerschel stated that legislators would not attend a ½ day or a full day meeting. She also suggested that the conference be in the fall.

It was discussed that the conference should cover the following areas:

- There should be a training component
- Policy level discussion – not legislative but department heads
- Projects and applications
- Local government tracts

The group agreed to, though did not vote on, the idea of having a conference in the fall of 2000. The Education and Training Subcommittee was asked to move forward with planning and report back to the group and to the SMAC group over the next series of meetings.

#### **Satellite Data Questions**

Susan Moerschel stated that Science Applications International would be deploying remote sensing satellites and were looking for scientific and monetary partners. It was discussed that this should go through the SMAC Committee, which will make a recommendation to the policy group. Susan stated that she would forward the information to Sandy and to the group as a whole.

#### **Report from the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC)**

Sandy Schenck, of the Delaware Geological Survey, gave an overview of the April 13, 1999 SMAC meeting.

Sandy stated that the SMAC committee has four subcommittees; framework, education & training, cadastral, and metadata. He reminded the group that SMAC discusses technical issues and then brings recommendations to the DGDC for policy decisions.

Tim Westbrook asked what the right vehicle was to promote standards. Sandy stated that this issue should be brought up at the next SMAC meeting. SMAC will discuss it and make a recommendation to DGDC. Once DGDC accepts new policies to promote standards, it will be taken back to the departments. It was noted that some Federal standards would need to be adhered to as well as any new standards that are set by this group.

Sandy stated that a cadastral subcommittee was being formed and he needed members from the three counties and local governments. If anyone is interested, please give Sandy or Tim Westbrook a call.

Sandy stated that the USGS has a 30-minute instructional tape on using GPS with GIS. He is not promoting the sale or use of these videos but simply wanted everyone to know they are available. He has ordered one and if anyone would like to borrow his, just give him a call.

#### **Proposed NAD83 Legislation**

Bill Jester, of DelDOT gave an overview of this proposed legislation. The bill would update state law, which currently specifies the use of the North American Datum of 1927 in surveying activities in Delaware. The proposed legislation would specify the use of the 1983 Datum and would provide for a one-year transition period.

There had been concerns raised in the SMAC meeting discussion of the bill; that this would cause undue hardship for the counties in the updating of tax maps. It was agreed that the legislation would not invalidate maps already printed, but would require some changes on new maps, after the one year transition period.

Tim Westbrook raised the question of whether the bill, as written, would require new maps to be printed using only the metric system. While it was agreed that the legislation would require the use of metric measurements in surveying and GPS-related work, it was not clear whether the legislation would or would not require metric measurements on printed maps.

A motion was made by Paul Morill and seconded by Dennis Murphy that Mike draft a letter of support for this bill from the DGDC.

It was discussed that there should be language added that maps could be issued in feet as long as the conversion factor for meters is noted.

Paul amended the motion as follows: That a letter be written in support of the bill with the caveat that an explanation is made about meters to feet. This motion was seconded by Dennis and unanimously approved by all members present.

Mike stated that he would discuss the issue with Tim Westbrook and then write a letter with suggested language to use to clear up any confusion. (Letter attached)

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

**DGDC Agency Representatives**  
**As of 4/23/99**

City of Dover .....	David L. Edgell AICP
City of Lewes .....	William F. Massey Jr.
City of New Castle .....	Jeff Bergstrom
Criminal Justice Council.....	John P. O'Connell Jr.
Delaware City .....	Paul Morrill
Delaware Department of Education .....	Nick Vacirca
Delaware Department of Labor.....	Gary S. Yakimov
Delaware Economic Development Office.....	Robert Skomorucaha
Delaware Geological Survey.....	William S. Schenck
Delaware Health and Social Services .....	
Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination .....	Michael B. Mahaffie
Delaware Solid Waste Authority .....	Thomas E. Houska II
Delaware State Housing Authority .....	Karen Cooper
Department of Administrative Services .....	
Department of Agriculture .....	Mark Davis
Department of Correction .....	
Department of Finance .....	Michael Strine
Department of Justice .....	
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control .....	Dennis Murphy
Department of Public Safety .....	Elayne Starkey
Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families .....	Alisa Swain
Department of State.....	Daniel R. Griffith
Department of Transportation.....	
Dover/Kent MPO .....	
Insurance Department.....	
Kent County.....	Randy Westergren
New Castle County.....	Tim Westbrook
Office of Information Services.....	Robert Seaberg
Office of State Personnel.....	Greg D. Hughes
State Budget Office .....	Christina Golden
Sussex County.....	Dennis J. Norwood
WILMAPCO.....	



STATE OF DELAWARE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF  
STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

Monday, April 26, 1999

The Honorable Anne P. Canby  
Secretary, Delaware Department of Transportation  
800 Bay Rd.  
PO Box 778  
Dover, DE 19903

Dear Secretary Canby,

This letter is intended to express the support of the Delaware Geographic Data Committee for proposed legislation that would modernize the current system of plane coordinates used in surveying in Delaware.

The legislation would specify the use of the North American Datum of 1983 in defining state plane coordinates in Delaware. The 1983 Datum is already widely used by surveyors and those working with geographic data in Delaware and in neighboring states.

The Delaware Geographic Data Committee was created by the General Assembly to ensure the implementation of a coordinated program to catalog and distribute geographic data. The use of a single, up-to-date standard, such as the 1983 Datum, will help facilitate the sharing of data among state, county and local governments, and the private sector.

The legislation was discussed in two meetings that included technical and policy representatives of state, county and local governments, and the private sector. It was agreed that a change to the 1983 Datum would provide more accurate data and would help facilitate the sharing of geographic data. The only concern expressed by the group was that the metric measurements used in the 1983 Datum, though appropriate for surveying, measuring and mapping processes and programs, might cause confusion for the public. The Delaware Geographic Data Committee voted to support the legislation, with a caveat that language be added to clarify that it would not require the exclusive use of the metric system as a descriptive element in official maps.

The Delaware Geographic Data Committee would like to publicly thank the Delaware Department of Transportation for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Mahaffie  
Planning Program Manager  
Office of State Planning Coordination

CC: Greg Oliver  
Bill Jester  
Chris Golden



STATE OF DELAWARE  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF  
STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

Thursday, April 29, 1999

The Honorable Timothy U. Boulden  
Representative, 23<sup>rd</sup> District  
Legislative Hall  
PO Box 1401  
Dover, DE 19903

Dear Representative Boulden,

This letter is intended to express the support of the Delaware Geographic Data Committee for House Bill 170, which would modernize the current system of plane coordinates used in surveying in Delaware.

We understand that the legislation would specify the use of the North American Datum of 1983 in defining state plane coordinates in Delaware. The 1983 Datum is already widely used by surveyors and those working with geographic data in Delaware and in neighboring states.

The Delaware Geographic Data Committee was created by the General Assembly to ensure the implementation of a coordinated program to catalog and distribute geographic data. The use of a single, up-to-date standard, such as the 1983 Datum, will help facilitate the sharing of data among state, county and local governments, and the private sector.

A proposed draft of the legislation was discussed by the Committee in two meetings that included technical and policy representatives of state, county and local governments, and the private sector. It was agreed that a change to the 1983 Datum would provide more accurate data and would help facilitate the sharing of geographic data. The only concern expressed by the group was that the metric measurements used in the 1983 Datum, though appropriate for surveying, measuring and mapping processes and programs, might cause confusion for the public. The Delaware Geographic Data Committee voted to support the legislation, with a caveat that language be added to clarify that it would not require the exclusive use of the metric system as a descriptive element in official maps.

The Delaware Geographic Data Committee would like to publicly thank the Delaware Department of Transportation for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Mahaffie  
Planning Program Manager  
Office of State Planning Coordination  
For the Delaware Geographic Data Committee

CC: Greg Oliver