

GIS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2025

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Members present: Alfredo Herrera (OPM), Scott Gaul (OPM), Stuart DeLand (DEEP), Elizabeth Congo (DOT), Dan Czaja (DESPP), Gary Archambault (DPH), Erik Snowden (CRCOG), Mark Hoover (MetroCOG), John Guskowski (CCM), Emily Wilson (UConn), Peter Sampiere (United Illuminating), Meghan McGaffin (General Assembly)

Absent: Tracy DeGrazia (CCM)

Start time: 1:02PM

Introductions and Attendance

- Welcome from Alfredo Herrera
- Attendance

GIS Office Staff Update

- GIS Coordinator position open
- Motion to send Carl Zimmerman a thank you letter on behalf of the Council

Council Administration

- Annual Update of the Strategic Plan. Open for comments.
 - No comments.
 - Motion to vote to approve Annual Update of the Strategic Plan
 - Council voted. Motion approved.

GISO Priority Topics and Working Group Updates

Parcel and CAMA Updates (Leah Hodges & Ashley Benitez)

- Finished with initial processing of 2024 layer. In the QA/QC process.
- Updates on Parcel and CAMA Grants.
 - Spent 2% of total \$2 million grant so far.

- Work is happening both in house and through vendors.
- Significant work in digitizing condominiums using 2023 building footprints
- Ongoing efforts to standardize data fields

Statewide Addressing Updates (Ashley Benitez)

- UConn students working on methodology to conflate and analyze addresses from different sources. First step in looking at the quality of the addresses.
- When geocoding data, noticed lack of consistency in data.
- Working on developing a guidance on location address for state administrative data so there is more consistency.
- Initial proposed schema/standard for address data. To implement, review existing datasets for completeness and coordinate with GISO for support with address validation/geocoding.
- Scott Gaul: Having standards across agencies is a good opportunity to improve data quality. Does anyone have an address standard that you use within your agency or company that works well?
 - Dan Czaja: Telephone records are locked down so you can't just add a record in, needs to be matched to a street. For GIS data, use NENA standard which is more of a database standard. For many fields, only certain predefined data can be entered.
 - Meghan McGaffina: Addresses are tricky. Outreach to the agencies to understand why its important. When available, provide a lookup table. Vendors that state agencies are dealing with (school/health/court records) - take a similar approach as the CAMA data.
 - Dan Czaja: Educate towns that this is how you want the data and create a mechanism to add new data. Otherwise they submit addresses and we have to clean it.
 - Mark Hoover: How will this dataset work with Dan's dataset (E911)
 - Alfredo Herrera: This guidance is for administrative data. Example: list of students and you need to capture their addresses. This guidance is best practices in how this data would be entered into the dataset. In terms of how it interacts with Dan's dataset, we are working in parallel on a Master Address dataset that will be working with the E911 data.
 - Ashley Benitez: The UConn students were working with the E911 data in their methodologies.
 - Scott Gaul: Two things being worked on. One is the actual address dataset and the other is the standards to have more consistent collection of address data. Creating something that can be used broadly across the board. Within framework of best practices and guidance. Helpful for Council to tell us standards they use for address data.

Imagery and LiDAR Update (Alfredo Herrera)

- Imagery published, thank you to Emily Wilson at CT ECO
- Other deliverables in various states of being published
- We received data from Ecopia for Impervious Cover. They are doing some reprocessing to fix areas at state border.
- Transportation layers are still being processed.
- 2026 flight planning started, kick off meeting planned for October. Imagery Workgroup will be invited.
- Dewberry will be at GIS Day in November.
- Showing examples of Impervious Cover data. Buildings from this product are being compared against the Dewberry product.

The New England 3DHP Regional Partnership

- Elevation Derived hydrography product. A 3D network of water throughout the state. Last year, submitted joint DCA (Data Collaborative Announcement, a cost sharing proposal) to USGS with select HUC10s. States that participated included CT, RI, MA, VT, and ME. Was not awarded. Advised to try to submit again. New joint proposal includes states previously listed plus NH and NY.
- CT is submitting two DCAs
 - Joint (HUCs that cross state borders), MA and RI will pay their portion of the HUCs
 - CT only (including CT only HUCs)
- 3DHP will support culvert and bridges requirement. The 3DHP product will identify areas with culverts
- In this process, created a DCA Watershed Selection Tool, a planning tool. Understand what the total cost is for multiple watersheds, and how much each state would pay for the watershed. The tool also accounts for the watersheds land area in areas where part of the watershed is in the open water.
- Questions?
 - Emily Wilson: When would we expect to see actual data?
 - Alfredo Herrera: DCA applications due September 12. USGS indicated that budgeting decisions are all set. Expect to be able to announce decisions by late October and announce joint agreements by end of the year. Vendors can start after that, 5-6 months to complete all the work. Caveat: USGS is down a lot of validators, so may take extra time. There are a lot of moving pieces. Hoping to see data within the next year to two years.

Public Comment

- None

Closing Remarks

- Thank you for joining us.

Adjourn: 1:47PM

