

**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Marine Boundary Working Group
February 12, 2002**

Minutes

The Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG) met at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on February 12, 2001. An agenda is included at the end of the minutes, as is a list of items that were distributed at the meeting. Individuals who wish to request copies of these items should contact David Stein at Dave.Stein@noaa.gov.

Highlights

Donald Campbell, FCC, welcomed everyone to the facility and gave a short presentation about the FCC and their role in marine boundaries. Cindy Fowler, co-chair of the working group, called the meeting to order and participant introductions were made. This was the fourth meeting of the MBWG. The objectives of the meeting were to highlight some of the recent activities underway by members of the working group and to form subgroups to further implement them. Tim Goodspeed and Sharon Anastasi, NOAA Special Projects Office, were on hand to facilitate the meeting.

Agenda Items

1. Meeting Minutes and updates from working group members.

David Stein reviewed the meeting minutes from November 6, 2001. David indicated that the Web site is now publicly available at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/>. Also, a marine boundaries poster was displayed in the conference room. The poster was developed by the NOAA Coastal Services Center (CSC) and has a NOAA National Ocean Service focus. It was suggested that the poster could be modified to have more of a collaborative, or working group feel if the working group so desires. Individuals who have comments or wish to request copies of the poster should contact David Stein.

Bob Smith, Department of State, gave an update on the Baseline Committee and distributed a handout on the Alaska v. United States Supreme Court case. The state of Alaska has brought an original action in the United States Supreme Court to determine the juridical status of the waters of the Alexander Archipelago, or Inside Passage, of southeast Alaska.

2. Offshore/onshore cadastre coordination.

Lee Thormahlen, Minerals Management Service (MMS), gave a presentation on a meeting held between MMS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the State of Oregon on developing an offshore cadastre in Oregon. The question was whether to project the offshore cadastre onshore or visa versa. Also, what type of offshore cadastre system should be used in Oregon, or any other state? Lee is planning to

summarize his discussion and possibly form a small subgroup to further explore these issues. Anyone who is interested in participating with MMS and BLM in this activity should contact Lee Thormahlen. [Lee, is this accurate? I did the best I could with this one.]

3. **Overview of the Cadastral Subcommittee and the cadastral data content standard.**

Jason Racette, BLM, gave an overview of the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee and distributed a letter from Don Buhler, Chair of the Cadastral Subcommittee, welcoming the opportunity to work with the MBWG in developing a marine-based cadastral data content standard. Additionally, Don invited members of the MBWG to the next Cadastral Subcommittee meeting in Grand Junction, Colorado, on March 12-14, 2002. Jason also introduced Nancy Von Meyer to the group. Nancy works for Fairview Industries and has worked closely with the Cadastral Subcommittee and BLM on the development of data standards. Nancy gave a presentation on data content standards. Nancy and Jason informed the group that BLM is extremely interested in the marine cadastral standard and is eager to participate in its development. Her presentation will be posted on the Web site in the next couple of weeks. It will be accessible at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/htm/meetings.htm>.

4. **Training and outreach discussion.**

Andrew Hulin, NOAA CSC, led a discussion on developing a training and outreach strategy. The discussion began with a review of the accomplishments of the group concerning the training and outreach strategy. A draft one-pager about the MBWG had been completed as specified within the strategy, and was distributed to the group for comment. In addition, a MBWG poster was displayed and discussed. Again, the group was encouraged to comment. The MBWG Web site was also discussed briefly, and the group was informed that all comments had been addressed, and the site was now live. There was limited discussion concerning this subject, as Ole Varmer, NOAA General Counsel, was scheduled to discuss the site at length in a later agenda item. It was also presented to the group that the training and outreach strategy had been split into two new strategies; one for training and one for outreach. Doing so will present more manageable and differentiated tasks for each of these components.

The remainder of the discussion focused on the development of the MBWG training strategy. The need for a *Marine Boundaries Developers Handbook* was presented to the group. The necessity for the development of such a handbook stems mainly from a number of ambiguities inherent in the legal, textual, and geographic descriptions of many marine boundaries today. It was discussed that by providing a reference guide to those involved in the development of these boundaries, a number of these issues could be avoided. The audience for the handbook was debated throughout the discussion. It was initially decided that the primary audience should be the makers and developers of marine boundaries, while a secondary audience might be academia. Potential sources for this project were discussed as well. The two primary references that were identified were *Shore and Sea Boundaries* by Shalowitz, and *Shore and Sea*

Boundaries by Reed. Also, NOAA's *Tide and Current Glossary* by Hicks was suggested as possible reference.

The discussion then focused on potential audiences for the handbook. While there were a number of suggestions, it was generally agreed that the handbook should be rather accessible and responsive to the needs of a less technical audience such as congressional staffers, and others in positions where there might be high turnover and insufficient time to acquire an in-depth understanding of the issues pertaining to the development of marine boundaries. The MBWG members also generally agreed that such a handbook should describe "best practices" for the development of marine boundaries. This would include such components as 'how to draw boundaries', various options for developing boundaries, and a discussion of unambiguous boundary descriptions.

In addition, it was suggested that a discussion of 'who has what responsibility' be included within the handbook. This might include an outline of the various approval processes for marine boundaries as the federal, state, and local level. Finally, there was a discussion on examining ramifications of marine boundaries within the handbook. This might include aspects such as experiences and case studies. A sub-working group was formed to deal with the above issues. If anyone wishes to participate in this group, contact Andrew Hulin at Andrew.Hulin@noaa.gov.

5. Legal update.

Ole Varmer, NOAA General Counsel, presented the modifications his office made to the U.S. Marine Cadastre portion of the Web page. His changes can be found at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/htm/cadastre.htm>. Before the Web page is publicized, the working group is being given two weeks to review this section. Ole also indicated that Lanetta Gray, NOAA General Counsel, would be available to assist with the legal aspects of the marine boundary database.

6. Next meeting.

The next working group meeting was discussed. Donald Campbell offered to host the next meeting at the FCC sometime in early summer. A joint meeting with the Cadastral Subcommittee was also discussed. We would like to shoot for sometime in the Fall of 2002 for the joint meeting. Charleston, SC was proposed as a meeting location. The group asked to not schedule a meeting to close to the end or beginning of the fiscal year change.

Action Items

1. Solidify subgroup participation.
2. Begin working with the Cadastral Subcommittee on a data content standard for marine boundaries (offshore cadastre).
3. Identify someone from the Department of Justice to serve on the MBWG (standing item).
4. Respond to letter from Don Buhler, BLM.

Items Distributed at Meeting

1. Agenda
2. Marine boundaries poster
3. One pager on the Geospatial One-Stop Initiative
4. Draft one-pager on the MBWG
5. Cadastral Data Content Standard
6. Work plan
7. Boundary database

Attendees

Name	Agency	Email
David Stein	NOAA CSC	Dave.Stein@noaa.gov
Cindy Fowler	NOAA CSC	Cindy.Fowler@noaa.gov
Andrew Hulin	NOAA CSC	Andrew.Hulin@noaa.gov
John Arensberg	NIMA	Arensbej@nima.mil
Ray Milefsky	DOS	Aermilef@us-state.ois.gov
Liz Turpak	DOS OES	tirpakej@state.gov
Donald Campbell	FCC/OET	Dcambel@fcc.gov
LouRae Langevin	DOD	Langevinlr@hq.navy.mil
Nancy Von Meyer	Fairview Industries	nancy@fairviewindustries.com
Ole Varmer	NOAA/GCOS	Ole.Varmer@noaa.gov
James Hubbard	NOAA NOS	James.hubbard@noaa.gov
Curtis Loy	NOAA/NOS/OCS	Curtis.Loy@noaa.gov
Mitchell Tartt	NOAA/NOS/NMSP	Mitchell.Tartt@noaa.gov
Lanetta Gray	NOAA GCOS	Lanetta.D.Gray@noaa.gov
Lee Thormahlen	MMS/MBB	Leland.Thormahlen@mms.gov
Suzanne Bass	NOAA GC	Suzanne.bass@noaa.gov
Todd Mikolop	USCG	Tmikolop@comdt.uscg.mil
Jason Racette	BLM	Jason_Racette@blm.gov
Robert Smith	DOS	Dr_rwsmith@yahoo.com
Martin Freeman	NOAA/GCOS	Martin.Freeman@noaa.gov
Doug Vandegraft	USFWS	Doug_Vandergraft@fws.gov
Tim Goodspeed	NOAA/NOS/SPO	Tim.Goodspeed@noaa.gov
Sharon Anastasi	NOAA/NOS/SPO	Sharon.Anastasi@noaa.gov
Erika Washburn	EPA/OWOW/OCPD	Washburn.Erika@epa.gov

Agenda

- 8:00 Continental breakfast
- Federal Communications Commission Opening Remarks
 - Presentation – FCC Issues relative to Marine Boundaries - Donald Campbell

- 8:45 Welcome and introductions
- Welcome from co-chairs and short introductions from working group
 - Review of Meeting Minutes and action items from November 6, 2001
 - Updates from working group members
 - Update from Baseline Committee – Curt Loy and Bob Smith
- 9:15 Offshore/onshore cadastre coordination: discussion of the Oregon effort – Lee Thormahlen
- 9:45 Proposal to establish a working group within the MBWG to develop a process and procedure for coordination of the offshore/onshore cadastres - Lee Thormahlen
- 10:15 Snack break
- 10:30 Overview of the Cadastral Subcommittee and the cadastral data content standard – Jason Racette and Nancy VonMeyer
- Proposal to develop a joint working group with the Cadastral Subcommittee to proceed with the offshore component
- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:00 Training and outreach discussion – Andrew Hulin, all
- Audience, curriculum, etc.
 - Proposal to establish a working group within the MBWG to draft wording and contact/resource list for congressional staffers to use when developing marine and/or land based boundary legislation
- 2:00 Marine boundary legal update – Ole Varmer
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Work plan action items – David Stein
- 4:00 Next meeting
- Joint meeting with the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee, date, place

Minutes Submitted by

David Stein, NOAA Coastal Services Center
Executive Secretary/Working Group Coordinator
FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group

