

Meeting Minutes
NAACCR GIS Committee
Wednesday, May 14, 2008
2:00-3:00 PM Eastern Time
1:00-2:00 PM Central Time
12:00-1:00 PM Mountain Time
11:00-12:00 noon Pacific Time
10:00-11:00 AM Alaskan Time

Toll free number: 1-866-784-0143, Passcode: 9425222

A. Roll Call

Members Present: Frank Boscoe – Chair, Kevin Henry –Vice Chair, David O’Brien, Carolyn Halbert, Pam Agovino, Bob Borchers, Holly Hodges, Chris Newton, Christian Klaus, Jennifer Kachajian, Cathy Riddell, Yongping Hao, Myles Cockburn, Mary Mroszczyk, Chris Johnson, Dan Goldberg (Guest), Jennifer Swift (Guest), Micahel McGlaughlin (Guest)

NAACCR Staff Present: Joshua Whitley

Members Absent: Recinda Sherman, Dave Stinchcomb, Stephanie Foster, Jim Files, Vijay Raghavan, Annette Gardner (CDC), Jim Martin, Susan Brown, Heidi Gianella,

B. Minutes

1. Review January and April Minutes
 - a. There was a problem with the recording of the April meeting and it could not be reviewed. No April minutes will be available. January minutes should be available very shortly.

C. Old Business

1. Geocoding Best-Practices Document – Dan
 - a. This document is complete. Waiting for John to give the final edits for chapter 3 – Introduction to Geography. John thought it wasn’t as good as it could have been, so he is making some revisions. The document should be available for review by the committee by Monday. There are no new major content changes, so the review process by the committee should be fairly short. The committee will vote on approval of the document at the in-person meeting on June 9th. The document will then be sent to the board where 2 selected individuals will review it and give a recommendation to the board for approval or disapproval. Word was also heard back from Google about the use of their images. We can use them as long as the use is not for profit.

2. Geocoding NPI –Kevin
 - a. The geocoded NPI file was posted on the NAACCR website two weeks ago. The final file had a match rate of 94%. This still leaves a small amount of room for improvement. A second version will be released soon, but people were asking for it so the committee wanted to get a version of it out as soon as possible. The committee needs to discuss how to take care of changes and updates to the file. Several members also suggested ideas for marketing this item. Several publications were given that we may be able to write something in about the file. Kevin will stay on after the call to discuss ideas with Frank for advertising. Josh will give a report next meeting on the number of downloads. Josh was also asked to give a report on the number of downloads of the Geocoding handbook.

3. CDC Geocoding project – Stephanie
 - a. Stephanie was not on the call. Dan gave a short report outlining the 3 phases of the project. Phase one is gathering background information about Geocoding and presenting it to the CDC. Phase two is a needs assessment and comparison of other available geocoders. Phase three is defining the details of the application and building the application. Michael that the whole purpose of this project is for the CDC to offer a free Geocoding application to cancer registries. There are hopes of having this project live sometime next summer. Currently the CDC is reviewing a document that USC sent to them this week. Stephanie's report – paste into minutes **HERE**.

4. In-person meeting in Denver

Meeting name: GIS
Date: June 9, 2008
Time: 2:00-3:00pm Mountain Time
Leader: Frank Boscoe

Toll free number: 1-888-727-6732
Moderator Passcode: 8394743
Participant Passcode: 839474

D. New Business

1. Yearly Report – Frank
 - a. Attached below.

2. Web-based address validation tool – Bob/Christian/Dan
 - a. <http://webgis.usc.edu/Services/AddressValidation/StaticValidator.aspx> - The project has been made available for testing online. USC licensed Wisconsin postal data to use for this purpose. The product will work with even the smallest amount of data available. The next step in this project is to roll out an add-on that will allow users to transfer the found address to the entry software they're using. Dan just finished the latest phase by creating the web version.

Soon, USC will be getting the zip+4 data for the whole US. All that's necessary for testing with the web version is to sign up.

Cancer Registry software developers should find this useful as well and it will be easy to integrate. USC's IT department says that it should be OK to roll out to all states at once, when country-wide data is available. Canadian data might also be a possibility. Bob is presenting this product at the annual conference on Thursday morning.

3. Sea change in GIS (observations from the AAG Meeting) – Frank
 - a. Frank has noticed a change in terms of how people are supporting GIS with software. Lots of the tools that are being utilized are free. This seems to be a growing trend, especially among grad students. At the AAG meeting, Frank noticed that the presentations generated using typical paid software tools were few and far between and the presentations created with free software tools were plentiful. He believes this is leading towards a change in fund and resource allocation when it comes to GIS.

NAACCR Geographic Information Systems Ad-Hoc Committee
Year End Report
April 30, 2008

Here are the main activities of the GIS committee during the 2007-08 fiscal year:

1. NAACCR grant award from the Susan E. Komen Foundation: “Quantifying Transportation Barriers in Accessing Health Facilities for Breast Cancer Diagnosis and Treatment”

A subcommittee consisting of Frank Boscoe, David Stinchcomb, Kevin Henry and Chris Johnson met throughout the year, both amongst themselves and with the project team that includes staff from the University of Southern California and the NAACCR central office. Most meetings were by conference call, but there was an in-person meeting in Los Angeles in August. We developed project specifications, reviewed the acquisition of data, and considered research projects that could be conducted with the finished product. Another in-person meeting is anticipated in the summer of 2008.

2. Geocoding best practices handbook

In 2006, the GIS committee, working with Dan Goldberg of the University of the Southern California, developed an outline for a geocoding best practices handbook. The handbook reflects a need for guidance about geocoding techniques that emerged from the committee’s survey of NAACCR registries. Mr. Goldberg received a contract for this work in December 2006 and wrote a full draft during the spring of 2007. A GIS subcommittee consisting of Frank Boscoe, Kevin Henry, David Stinchcomb, Mary Mrosczyk, Christian Klaus, Stephanie Foster, and Bob Borchers then conducted a chapter by chapter editorial review through a series of conference calls which lasted through January, 2008. The text was then given to John Wilson, Dan’s supervisor at USC, for copy editing (free of charge). Dan is still incorporating these corrections.

It is unlikely that the handbook will be submitted to the NAACCR Board review and approval during the current fiscal year, hence publication expenses will have to be re-budgeted for 2008-09.

3. Useful GIS tools and data

a. National Provider Identifier (NPI)

Kevin Henry, with input from the committee, geocoded the entire 2.5 million record NPI file and made this available via the NAACCR web page. Frank Boscoe gave a presentation on this project at the 2008 Association of American Geographers Meeting; Kevin and Frank will be doing the same at the NAACCR meeting in Denver. This resource will be useful for anyone doing research involving geographical access to health care.

b. Dummy geocoded dataset

Chris Johnson and Frank Boscoe developed a realistic, but artificial, dataset of 4,000 breast cancer cases using business addresses. These data were used in the NAACCR Toolkit and are being used in the testing and development of the Komen grant software.

c. Address verification tool

Christian Klaus and Bob Borchers developed a software tool that will allow hospitals to verify address information before sending it to a central registry. This will help reduce the typographical errors, transpositions and formatting problems that central registries must contend with. They will be demonstrating this software in Denver.

4. GIS-related NAACCR data items

Committee members modified the wording of the GIS Coordinate Quality data item, proposed a birth place code for East Timor, and recommended elimination of the code “000000” for census tract. The committee will be involved in discussion of data elements specific to the 2010 Census.

5. GIS-related presentations at the 2008 annual meeting

Once again, the GIS committee will have a strong presence at the NAACCR Annual Meeting, with several GIS-themed sessions and numerous posters.

6. Review article summarizing past GIS-related NAACCR presentations

We sought to write a journal article summarizing GIS-related posters and presentations for the benefit of those unaware of or unable to attend NAACCR meetings. No real progress was made in the past year; instead, this will be developed into a NAACCR Narrative submission.

7. Education

Frank Boscoe and Chris Johnson led a session on GIS for the NAACCR Webinar Series. They also taught a one-day course on SAS methods at the NAACCR Toolkit. Frank will be developing educational material on free web-based GIS using Google, which may eventually lead to a NAACCR meeting workshop or equivalent.

8. Consolidated address

There was ample discussion of how to select an address for a consolidated tumor when there are several candidate addresses, led by Bob Borchers. However, it proved impossible to arrive at a consensus, so this item was tabled indefinitely.

9. Committee Succession

Beginning in June, 2008, Frank Boscoe will be replaced by Kevin Henry as the Committee Chair. Chris Johnson will become the Vice Chair.

Old items from last year

The GIS survey findings were presented at the meeting in Detroit and in the NAACCR *Narrative*, though they were not converted into a white paper format as requested by the NAACCR Board. Given the amount of time that has passed since the survey was taken, it no longer makes sense to do this.

In the summer of 2008, the committee reviewed the Great Circle Distance item and found it to be of little use, given the poor definition of “treatment location” (many patients go to more than one facility; facilities within a corporate network may be indistinguishable) and the fact that many states still are not geocoding their cases.

The committee proposed to fund a student’s attendance at the conference based on his or her demonstrated expertise in applying GIS to cancer surveillance. The NAACCR Board decided against funding this proposal at this time. Attempts to find a corporate sponsor were unsuccessful.

Linda Pickle of StatNet Consulting, on behalf of a leading GIS software publisher, solicited the committee as to which improvements and enhancements were most critical in GIS.

Acknowledgements

Other members and guests not mentioned above who contributed substantially and actively to the committee (by doing more than simply attending conference calls) included David O’Brien, Holly Hodges, Recinda Sherman, Chris Newton and Josh Whitley (minute taker).