

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Digital Data Committee

Meeting of October 18, 2018

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Warren Kron (LMA) called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM. A quorum was present. The meeting was held at the Claiborne State Office Building, Iowa Room (1-153) in Baton Rouge, LA.

2. Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Kathrine Cargo – Louisiana NENA (NENA)
Collin Degueurce – Louisiana Police Jury Association (PJA)
Warren Kron – Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA)
Darryl Mack – Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)
Josh Manning – Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts (PDD)

Others Present:

Christopher Ard – City of New Orleans GIS (NOLA)
Michael Bernard – Acadiana Planning Commission (APC)
Phillip Breaux – Acadiana Planning Commission (APC)
Lynn Dupont – Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts (PDD)
David Gisclair – Louisiana Senate (Senate)

3. Meeting Summary

Committee members reviewed the minutes from the September 20, 2018 meeting. With a motion by Josh Manning (PDD) and seconded by Darryl Mack (DOTD), the Committee unanimously approved the minutes without changes.

Mr. Kron (LMA) and Mr. Mack (DOTD) noted the changes that had been made to the Local Roads Schema since the last meeting, and Mr. Mack (DOTD) remarked that DOTD is close to finalizing the schema for its Roads and Highways implementation. Discussion ensued about considering the NENA guidelines and whether NENA has already developed a geodatabase schema that would make the comparative process with the Local Roads Schema much easier.

One of the features of the NENA guidelines is that the name field is parsed out further than the minimal schema the DDC has been considering. Christopher Ard (NOLA) provided the City of New Orleans' GIS department schema for centerlines which also includes several additional road modifier fields for legacy compatibility with other departmental datasets. Mr. Mack (DOTD) also mentioned that the Federal Highway Administration is considering establishing a national standard for roadway schema. It was agreed that the minimal schema adopted by the DDC should include the same fields found in national standards for compatibility.

Phillip Breaux (APC) mentioned that several of the 911 operators in the Acadiana region are currently using several different methods of digitizing roadmaps and are interested in implementing a standardized schema and uniform methodology as quickly as possible.

There was a brief discussion led by Mr. Degueurce (PJA) and Mr. Ard (NOLA) about the use of letter case in the schema attributes. Mr. Mack (DOTD) mentioned that in the current Roads and Highways

schema the “full name” field is all capital letters. Mr. Ard (NOLA) mentioned that “camelCase” is the preferred standard in many guidance documents. Camel case (also known as “camel caps” or more formally as “medial capitals”) is the practice of writing compound words or phrases such that each word or abbreviation in the middle of the phrase begins with a capital letter, with no intervening spaces or punctuation. Mr. Ard (NOLA) also mentioned that “camelCase” can cause issues with local French names prefixed with “de.”

Another discussion was had concerning the creation of a methodology paper to be used as guidance for other agencies that require an explanation of the process used to arrive at the minimal schema requirements for other feature classes addressed by the DDC. David Gisclair (Senate) suggested a three-tiered approach similar to what was used in developing the LSDI, which would include the layer framework, layer name, identify the custodian of the data, and describe the steps taken to arrive at the minimal schema requirements.

Mr. Mack (DOTD) also mentioned the need for a technical implementation document for each minimal schema defined. This document would be a reference for any adopting agency, and would provide the implementation steps for using the schema and the workflows to execute an extract-translate-load (ETL) process for integrating the data with the custodian repository.

Mr. Gisclair (Senate) mentioned that what forced the creation of the LSDI was a need for a common lexicon for tagging (for search queries and discovery) and delivering to outside agencies, the multitude of GIS feature classes available in the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Mack (DOTD) mentioned that he is presenting at an upcoming LMA conference about the needs from the Secretary of State for GIS data and has offered examples of legislation and contract agreements requiring delivery of shapefiles from third party contractors and vendors.

Mr. Kron (LMA) asked the committee to consider which feature class it wished to define once the work on transportation was complete, and it was unanimously decided that the next layer the DDC will approach to determine minimal schema requirements will be address points.

4. Action Items

Ms. Cargo (NENA) will contact NENA representatives to discover if a geodatabase schema has been developed by NENA based on their own guidelines. Ms. Cargo (NENA) and Mr. Degueurce (PJA) will collaborate on the guidance document and provide the Committee with a working outline by the end of the 2018 calendar year.

5. Next Meeting

Scheduled for Noon on Thursday, November 15, 2018, in the Iowa Room (1-153) at the Claiborne State Office Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

6. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 1:00 PM after the Committee voted unanimously on a motion made by Mr. Degueurce (PJA) and seconded by Ms. Cargo (NENA).