

# Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

## Digital Data Committee

Meeting of January 21, 2021

### 1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Warren Kron (LMA) called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM. A quorum was present via Webex for the meeting. The meeting was held remotely pursuant to the waivers of viva voce mandates of LA R.S. 42:11 *et seq.*, contained in 2020 JBE 41.

### 2. Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Chris Ard – City of New Orleans (NOLA)  
Kathrine Cargo – Louisiana Chapter Emergency Numbering Association (NENA)  
David Gisclair – Louisiana Senate (Senate)  
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:

Phillip Breaux – LSU Center for Analytics & Research in Transportation Safety (CARTS)  
Emily Dale – Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT)  
Lynn Dupont – Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts (PDD)  
Brad Mooney – Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)  
John Sheehan – Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Rachel Watson – Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT)

### 3. Meeting Summary

Mr. Kron (LMA) asked members to review the minutes from the December 17, 2020 meeting. On a motion by Kathrine Cargo (NENA) with a second by Josh Manning (PDD) the December minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

Following approval of the minutes, Mr. Kron (LMA) shared the updated spreadsheet that compares several classification systems which will be used for developing the land cover framework of the LSDI.

- Anderson (Levels I and II)
- NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP Tables 1 and 2)
- NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) Regional Land Cover and Change
- USGS National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD 2016)
- USDA Cropland Data Layer (CDL)
- US National Vegetation Classification (USNVC)

Since the previous meeting, two classification systems were added including the C-CAP Regional Land Cover and Change and the USNVC. Mr. Kron (LMA) asked Lynn Dupont (PDD) if the C-CAP Tables 1 and 2 could be removed since the C-CAP Regional Land Cover and Change is the classification published on the NOAA C-CAP website. Ms. Dupont (PDD) agreed, mentioning that Tables 1 and 2 were created for a project that the Regional Planning Commission had contracted with NOAA to

produce the 1 meter resolution land cover for the region, and it was meant specifically for further classifying impervious surfaces.

Mr. Kron (LMA) also provided an overview of the US National Vegetation Classification system which is an integral part of the USGS GAP classification system. He found there are 8 classes in the USNVC and GAP adds another 4 classes. Ms. Dupont (PDD) commented that several years ago she was asked to conduct a land cover classification using GAP and there were 21 classes at that point in time. However, that may have been due to the fact that the land cover was nearly all vegetation. Mr. Kron (LMA) added that the spreadsheet only displays the class and subclass levels of the USNVC, but the classification breaks out into hundreds of lower level classes. Ms. Dupont (PDD) noted that each state only uses classes that are pertinent to that state, but the GAP classification encompasses all classes.

Darryl Mack (DOTD), David Gisclair (Senate) and Ms. Cargo (NENA) complimented the organization of the spreadsheet, and Mr. Kron (LMA) provided clarification where necessary of how each of the classification systems correlate to one other starting with the Anderson systems. Mr. Mack (DOTD) commented that it appears no Federal agency uses the same classification system which is correct. Mr. Kron (LMA) then shared the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) Consortium [website](#) which lists all of the Federal partners and information about their respective classification systems.

Ms. Dupont (PDD) reiterated that the goal of the Committee's effort is to point users to existing data and that the land cover table will be instrumental in assisting users on how to choose the appropriate dataset. Mr. Kron (LMA) added that a next step would be to add more info about each classification system such as the resolution and update cycle unless the Committee believed another classification system should be added to the table.

Mr. Gisclair (Senate) explained his vision as to how the land cover classification systems would be structured in the LSDI framework. Using the Infrastructure framework as an example since it is very detailed, he recommended the Committee take the same approach for developing land cover. The table that is currently under development could be added into the LSDI appendix. Mr. Sheehan (DEQ) noted that this would make the land cover framework consistent with the other parts of the LSDI. Mr. Mack (DOTD) and Ms. Cargo (NENA) also participated in this discussion.

Ms. Cargo (NENA) asked to define the purpose of developing land cover framework, and Mr. Gisclair (Senate) stated that the Committee is simply trying to define what land cover is, its limits, and to establish a common vocabulary for clearly defining what land cover means within the LSDI. Mr. Manning (PDD) also participated in this discussion.

Ms. Cargo (NENA) asked the Committee if there are any other classification systems that need to be incorporated, and Mr. Kron (LMA) noted that the US Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) had been previously discussed but not added in the table. Mr. Sheehan (DEQ) noted that it is a widely used system, and Mr. Mack (DOTD) stated that DOTD shares the NWI data in its open data portal. Mr. Kron (LMA) also noted that additional work needs to be done that complete the USGS GAP classification system.

Mr. Sheehan (DEQ) provided a copy of the NWI classification system and Mr. Kron (LMA) shared it with the Committee for review. Mr. Kron (LMA) remarked that the first two levels of the NWI could be incorporated into the LSDI land cover framework, but any classes beyond those levels would seemingly be too much information. Mr. Sheehan (DEQ) recommended that a note about the NWI data should be made in the metadata which states that it does not serve as an official delineation of wetlands. Ms. Dupont (PDD) added that a survey would have to be conducted in order to delineate a wetland for legal purposes.

Several Committee members reiterated that the land cover framework will be more of a guidance document about which classification systems exists as opposed to a minimal schema like addresses or streets that specifically define fields, data types and domain values. Mr. Kron (LMA) asked Committee members to carefully review the land cover table that has been developed and provide their feedback if any corrections or changes are necessary. Phillip Breaux (CARTS) asked for Mr. Kron (LMA) to send the links to the various websites that have been referenced to develop the land cover table. Mr. Kron (LMA) also demonstrated a [story map](#) that NOAA published to explain the C-CAP Land Cover Classifications, and the USNVC Hierarchy Explorer [tool](#) to show the depth of the classification.

Finally, Mr. Gisclair (Senate) summarized the components of the LSDI that will require updates when the Committee completes its work on land cover. Included are three documents – the Introduction that describes what land cover is; Appendix 1 which outlines the various classification systems and their respective classes; and Appendix 2 which defines each class. Mr. Gisclair (Senate) also noted that the LSDI currently groups land use and land cover into one framework, and these will need to be separated accordingly.

#### **4. Action Items**

Mr. Kron (LMA) will incorporate the US Fish and Wildlife National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) classes and into the wetland section of the land cover table. Also, the USGS GAP Analysis will be further developed, and the NOAA C-CAP Tables 1 and 2 will be removed from the table. Additionally, writing the metadata descriptions for each classification system will be initiated.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

Scheduled for Noon on Thursday, February 18, 2021 and the location will be determined later.

#### **6. Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 12:58 PM after the committee voted unanimously on a motion made by Ms. Cargo (NENA) and seconded by Mr. Gisclair (Senate).