

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of 10/5/95

Attendance

Scott Leachman*	Fred Whitrock*	Kathleen Randall*
Joe Holmes*	Lynda Wayne	Jane Goodman
Sharon Balfour*	Bob Harper*	Glen Daigre*
Sherel Martin*	Keith Cascio*	Arleather Hutchinson
Robert Hayes*	Blanche Cretini*	(*--Representative or
Bo Blackmon	Sharon Kleinpeter	Alternate)

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

The chair asked for corrections to the previous Meeting Summary. No corrections were forthcoming and Ms Balfour moved acceptance and was seconded by Mr. Leachman. With no objections the Summary was adopted.

Mr. Holmes provided the report of the Data Sharing Committee. The Committee produced the following recommendations (Council discussions and actions follow each recommendation):

1. The Committee should be a permanent committee, its membership should be expanded, and additional persons who are not members of LGISC should be allowed to participate on the committee.

The chair indicated that the committee should consider itself permanent and appointed Mr. Leachman and Mr. Whitrock as additional members. The committee was further advised that participation of persons beyond the Council was at the discretion of the committee.

2. The Committee encourages the funding of LAGIC as necessary for the fulfillment of the data sharing goals of the committee.

The recommendation was noted.

3. A homepage should be quickly established on the Internet for LGISC. The homepage should include some pilot data sets with metadata.

The chair recognized this recommendation and indicated that he is working on a homepage. He asked for assistance from the Council. Mr. Joel Register and Ms Jane Goodman were volunteered to help with homepage design. The chair indicated that the homepage would probably be constructed with links to departments. Data sets would reside within (and be maintained by) departments but would be accessible through the homepage. Ms Balfour asked how agencies without access to the 'net could provide their data. The chair answered that those agencies could make arrangements with

agencies with GIS and 'net access. (This does not include DOA.) Ms Balfour also asked if data sets would require Council approval for inclusion on the homepage. Discussion indicated that this would be the case.

4. The committee recommended that the most requested GIS data sets be included on the homepage.

Mr. Leachman indicated that he has a federal grant to work in this area. The chair noted this and indicated the committee should work on identifying these data sets until such time that LAGIC might be available to work on this.

5. The Council should develop a standard liability statement to accompany distribution of data sets by state agencies.

The chairman established the Liability and Public Access Committee to address this issue. Ms Randall (committee chair), Mr. Leachman, and Mr. Whitrock were appointed to this committee. The committee should determine the need and feasibility to seek legislation in this area. The committee was asked to provide a report at the next meeting.

6. The committee sought clarification of Sec. 1055.C of the Act 922. Specifically, does this section apply to the sharing of data, the requirement for metadata, or something else? *Ms Randall, Ms Balfour and the chair all indicated that this provision was inserted during the legislative process and that the meaning was not clear. From observance of the process, it was clear that the legislature desired the sharing of data but the exact application of this punitive provision could not be established. The chair indicated that the Data Sharing Committee should recommend policies to the Council for consideration.*

The committee also suggested that it should identify and investigate past problems encountered by agencies in sharing GIS data. *After some discussion it was agreed that this should be a part of identifying policies for recommendation to the Council.*

The committee also brought up the issue of metadata. *After discussion the chair asked that the committee compare the state metadata standards with the required fields of the federal standards and report on this issue at the next meeting.*

Some discussion about the homepage followed. Mr. Holmes suggested that a map from the Oil Spill Coordinators Office would be a nice addition to the homepage. Others agreed. Mr. Hayes suggested that Dr. Pine at LSU also had some good maps for possible use on the homepage. The chair indicated that he would get in touch with various people to look at their materials for inclusion on the homepage.

The chair then commented that the Data Sharing Committee has many tasks to accomplish and suggested that efforts be prioritized as follows: 1. Policy recommendations, 2. Comparison of metadata standards, and 3. Identifying data sets of general interest for access through the homepage.

Mr. Harper provided the report from the LAGIC Funding Committee. He indicated that LSU will be receiving \$1 million from Petroleum Violators Escrow (PVE) funds in the near future. The committee will meet with Vice-Chancellor Harvel Eaton (in charge of research at LSU) at 1:30 p.m., October 11, to encourage the use of approximately \$300,000 of these PVE funds for the establishment of LAGIC. Mr. Harper had briefly discussed the matter by phone with Dr. Eaton and had expressed that this was a high priority of the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Harper emphasized that this funding will provide for LAGIC for only two years. Eventually, state general funds will be needed to support LAGIC. *The chair thanked Mr. Harper for his optimistic report. He asked the committee to try to look into the future funding needs for LAGIC and to function as a financial oversight committee to LAGIC.*

The chair then called for items of new business. Ms Klienpeter reminded Council members of the opportunity to contribute to the upcoming issue of *Louisiana Parish Government*, the publication of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana. This issue will feature GIS in the state. Members were reminded that the deadline date for submission is November 1, 1995. The chair encouraged members to submit articles and indicated that he will provide a short article on the Council and its development.

Ms Balfour provided a report on the meeting of the National Association of State Geographic Information Coordinators (NASGIC). She provided various brochures and pamphlets for the use of Council members. (These will be on file at the State Library--see Ms Blanche Cretini for assistance.) She recommended a newsletter and brochures on the activities of the Council. She indicated that there is a major effort to establish "open" systems. This is the ability to transfer data from one brand of system to another. Most vendors are in favor of this, however, at least one major vendor is opposed. She indicated that the Federal Geographic Data Center (FGDC) has a homepage with a lot of GIS information available. USGS also has a useful homepage. She found out that the EPA is going to pay for Mississippi's land use update. The chair indicated that a land use update will be an important issue for the Council to address in the future. Ms Balfour indicated that FGDC will have a training workbook on their homepage for metadata standards. They will also do training classes. There is also funding available for the state to inventory what local governments have.

The chair asked for other new business. Ms Balfour asked if a standard meeting date will be established. The chair replied that he will poll the Council in his next mailout to members.

The chair then proposed a resolution (copy attached) to honor Ms Balfour for her efforts on the behalf of the GIS Task Force. The resolution was seconded by Ms Klienpeter and Ms Randall. There were no amendments to the resolution which will be voted upon at the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for 1:00 p.m., Thursday, November 30, 1995 at Wildlife and Fisheries.