

Meeting of 2/29/96

Attendance

		Representatives	
Scheve(LMA)	Scott Leachman(LPJA)	Keith Cascio(INLF)	Zella
Spicer(Ag&F)	Joe Holmes(DEQ)	Blanche Cretini(CRT)	Brad
	Sharon Balfour(DOTD)	Kathleen Randall(HOUSE)	
		Glen Daigre(DOA)	
		Others	
Elmore(PSA,Inc)	Lynda Wayne(LSU)	Christine Hill (BR)	Terry
McNiff(NBS)	Jane Goodman (DOTD)	Bob Hagstad(DOA)	Marcia
Couvillion(DEQ)	Arleather Hutchinson(DOA)	Lori Bums(DEQ)	NVendi
	Bo Blackmon(DNR)	Liyun Ye(PSA,Inc)	

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. The chair determined that there was not a quorum as only eight representatives were present. The meeting was then called into a committee of the whole. The chair read the policies which were adopted at the previous meeting to assure that all members were in accord with them. There was a brief discussion of some of the precise wording but the council agreed to accept the policies as read.

During the discussion of the policies, Blanche Cretini, an alternate delegate from CRT entered the meeting and a quorum was declared.

The chair indicated that a major issue related to data sharing remains to be tackled by the committee. The issue is metadata. Mr. Holmes' committee had organized a presentation on this issue for the Council. The chair then asked Mr. Holmes to make the presentation.

Mr. Holmes first introduced Ms. Marcia McNiff, a geographer with the Spatial Analysis Branch of the National Biological Service's Science Center in Lafayette. She collaborated with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) on a test of the federal metadata standard.

Ms. McNiff-. The move toward the standard began with the National Performance Review, a government effort to improve cost-effectiveness. A component of this was the creation of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) to have geographic data readily available to those who need it. An executive order (12906) was issued (4/11/94) to help bring this about and to assign this responsibility to the FGDC, a committee with representatives from many federal agencies. Metadata is a basic requirement to allow the sharing of data, and FGDC decreed that federal agencies, (and contractors, etc.) use the federal metadata on all new data beginning in January, 1995. Additionally, agencies had to submit a plan for providing metadata for their existing data sets by April, 1996. Other provisions requires federal agencies to ensure that searches for existing data be conducted prior to the expenditure of additional funds for new data; and that partnerships with other federal agencies or other groups be sought to spread costs. National Spatial Data Clearinghouse was established as a locus for information about data sets and their availability. Ms. McNiff defined metadata as information that describes the content, quality, condition and other characteristics of data. Metadata allows internal organization of data and makes the sharing of data more possible and likely. It also allows the description of desired data sets. FGDC designed content standards for digital geodata metadata. These standards are extensive and somewhat difficult, however, it does ensure that needed metadata is recorded. Many elements are optional. There are seven sections: Identification, Data Quality, Spatial Data Organization, Spatial Reference, Attribute (Features), Distribution, Reference. There are various tools which have been developed to assist users to fill out this metadata. Interested persons can call Ms. McNiff for a review of these tools.

Mr. Holmes then introduced Ms. Linda Wayne of the Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) at LSU to address implementation of metadata.

Ms. Wayne: The Institute, through agreement with FGDC, will provide a node for the compilation of metadata for Louisiana. Additionally, the group will work on providing Internet access to georeferenced data sets. CSI will assist state and local agencies in the process of creating metadata through the development of tools, conducting workshops, and direct assistance. Because many issues related to metadata are not firmly resolved at the federal level, the Institute is putting a large effort into tracking developments to ensure that actions in Louisiana are parallel.

Mr. Holmes then introduced Mr. Glen Daigre who chaired the Louisiana GIS Task Force metadata committee which devised the state metadata standard.

Mr. Daigre: Copies of the state standards were provided to members who did not have them. The motivation for the state's effort was to try to capture information about data sets before it was lost. The state standard is simpler than the federal standard and does not capture as much detail, however, it is less intimidating. The emphasis is placed upon reducing, as much as possible, the discouragements from recording metadata. Not all data produced in the state does or will fall under federal requirements to record metadata. The state standard was made with this in mind.

There was some discussion of the issues related to metadata. Ms. Cretini brought up the Government Information Locator Services (GILS), which is a broader effort in the federal government to make information more easily available. Ms. McNiff indicated that there was coordination between FGDC and GILS but that she had not heard much about it recently. Mr. Holmes thanked the speakers for their presentations.

The chair requested that the Data Sharing Committee provide some recommendations on metadata to the Council at the next meeting.

Ms. Balfour provided a brief report about the 12th Annual Louisiana Remote Sensing and GIS Workshop. The dates are April 16 to 18. Early registration is \$70, late registration is \$85.

The chair, then asked for a new business. Mr. Blackmon announced that DNR is accepting resumes for a GIS Supervisor (GS 18).

The next meeting ", as set for Wednesday, April 10, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. (note later time!).

The final item discussed was the Civil Service classification of GIS personnel. A particular issue which had arisen involved an applicant for a position in the Office of State Lands in the Division of Administration. Due to Civil Services' interpretation of allowable substitutes for certain professional experience, the applicant did not qualify for the position he was seeking. While there was concern among Council members that any modification of the specifications for the GfS series would tend to weaken the case for a general service level upgrade of the series, it was agreed that the chair should send a letter to Civil Service advising them of acceptable language for substitutions. (Note: The chair sent the letter to Civil Service. That agency responded that it was not inclined to allow the substitution.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.