

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of 4/10/96

Attendance

Representatives

Scott Leachman(LPJA)
Keith Cascio(WLF)
Rosemary Samsel(Military)
Joe Holmes(DEQ)
Blanche Cretini(CRT)
Fred Whitrock(AG)
Sharon Balfour(DOTD)
Glen Daigre(DOA)
Bo Blackmon(DNR)

Others

Lynda Wayne(LSU)
Arleather Hutchinson(DOA)

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 2:25 p.m, The Chairman noted that the meeting summary from the January 25, 1996 had not been adopted at the last meeting. Ms. Balfour moved acceptance of the summary for that meeting, Mr. Cascio seconded and the summary was adopted without objection. The summary for the February 29, 1996 meeting was then moved for acceptance by Ms. Balfour, seconded by Mr. Cascio and adopted without objection.

The first item was a report by Mr. Holmes on the progress toward metadata standards. He indicated that discussion continues on the exact nature of the final federal standards. The Chair indicated that, due to the potential loss of the usefulness of data sets, the Council should move forward to the adoption of state standards. Ms. Cretini suggested the adoption of the Louisiana GIS Task Force standards if they were compatible with the proposed federal standards. Ms. Wayne indicated that she would assist in reviewing these and report at the next meetir*. The Chair and Mr. Leachman commented favorably upon this concept. Mr. Holmes also indicated that he had the opportunity to use some software designed to make metadata recording easier. Ms. Wayne and others commented on the development of this type of software. The Cha'@ indicated that the federal standards seem too complex for what they are trying to accomplish and, as a result, data sets are becoming useless. He repeated his call for the Council to move forward. Mr. Blackmon indicated that many agencies are required to use the federal standards. Ms. Wayne indicated that whatever we do, the federal government will give assistance toward moving into the national standards. The Chair appointed Ms. Cretini,

Mr. Holmes and Ms. Wayne to report on this issue at the next meeting.

The Chair then reminded the Council of the upcoming workshop in Lafayette. Mr. Blackmon briefly reported that all was going well; registration and the number of presentations were running ahead of last year.

Ms. Balfour then reported that the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) was interested in establishing a formal relationship with the Council. She reviewed some of the items in FGDC's cooperating agreement. There was a brief discussion and the Chair appointed an ad hoc committee to review the issue and report back at the next meeting. Ms. Balfour was appointed to chair the committee and Cascio, Whitrock, and Daigre were appointed as members. The Council then reviewed the questionnaire sent by FGDC. The Chair asked Ms. Balfour to complete the questionnaire based upon comments from the Council.

The Chair called for items of new business. Mr. Blackmon brought up the issue of liability for data. He distributed some examples of liability statements. There was some discussion about the Council adopting an official liability statement. Mr. Whitrock indicated that individual agencies should put out their own statements. There was considerable discussion on this issue. Mr. Whitrock volunteered to research the issue and to make a report at the next meeting of the Council.

The Chair indicated that there were no new developments relative to the PVE funds.

Ms. Cretini asked what the Council will do to ensure that metadata will be used once the Council adopts a standard. A lengthy discussion followed. Ms. Wayne indicated that her program has funding which will allow the provision of a workshop to train personnel in the preparation of metadata. The Chair asked each member agency to determine what resources they will need to ensure that metadata is used and report these to the Council for action. He also asked for assistance in getting information out to local governments. Mr. Leachman volunteered to supply a list of local governments with GIS capabilities. The Office of Emergency Preparedness is providing local governments with some capabilities. Ms. Samsel indicated that she would get details on this for the next meeting.

Ms. Balfour indicated that there should be a brief report of activities from one agency at each meeting. DNR and OEP will be featured at the next meeting.

The next meeting date was set for 1:30 p.m., June 13, 1996.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

