

LGISC-M-19960613-00

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of 6/13/96

Attendance

Representatives

Philip J@ Meric(DHH)

Glen Daigre(DOA)

Ed Hoover(DEQ)

Sharon Balfour(DOTD)

Robert Hayes(PS&C)

Fred Whitrock(AG)

Keith Cascio(WLF)

Blanche Cretini(CRT)

Bo Blackrnon(DNR)

Others

Lynda Wayne(LSU)

Chris Swalm(Talane)

Leonard King(Labor)

Arleather Hutchinson(DOA)

Paul Vidacovich(P&O')

Ellen Miller(EBR)

Joel Register(LSU)

Jane Goodman(GeoQuery)

Craig Johnson(LAURISA)

Paul Landry(LSBRPELS')

Tim Biseb(Intergraph)

Merlin Pistorius'

I LSFIRPELS= Louisiana State Board of Registered Professional Engineeffs and Land Suweyors
· P&O= Pyburn and Odum

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. Ms. Cretini moved acceptance of the summary of the 4/10/96 meeting. Mr. Cascio seconded this motion. The summary was accepted without objection.

A report from the ad-hoc Metadata Committee. Ms. Wayne provided the report. The committee compared the state standard and the federal standard. A comparative presentation of the federal and the state requirements. Generally, the standards are very similar though the federal standards

are more explicit, There are some fields in the state standards which are not required,fields under the federal standards. Mr. Register then reported on electronic forms available on-line to assist data generators to compile metadata. The chair indicated his favorable opinion of using the appropriate required data fields but raised some specific questions about individual fidIdT.-Ms. Wayne provided explanations when questions were raised. Mr. Cascio asked if adopting the federal standards would limit the Council. The chair explained that the standards we would adopt would be Louisiana's standards but would be compatible with the federal standards. The chair then requested a motion on the issue. Mr. Cascio moved that the Council adopt the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) mandatory metadata fields (version 6/94) as the basis of the Louisiana Required Metadata Standard. Mr. Hoover seconded. After brief discussion, mostly about tying the state standard to any future revisions of the federal standard, the motion as stated was adopted without objection. The discussion then proceeded to the fields that are in the former state standards which were not in the federal required fields. Each field was discussed. Some of the equivalent federal fields were not as specific as the intention of the state fields. Ms. Wayne pointed out that more specific definitions (and/or informative statements) could be included. Ms. Balfour moved that we include all of the former state standard fields as required fields in the Louisiana Required Metadata Standard. Ms. Cretini seconded this motion. The motion passed without objection. Ms. Cretini then asked how this concept was to be disseminated. There was considerable discussion related to this issue. There was a general agreement that the standard requires refinement before dissemination,

The next item was a report of the ad hoc committee on Relations with the Federal Geographic Data Committee presented by Ms. Balfour. She indicated that the committee had met and carefully reviewed the materials from FGDC. The committee recommends becoming a FGDC cooperator. She explained the process for becoming a cooperator. First, we submit an application to FGDC; they accept the application; the conditions of the relationship are then negotiated. Ms. Balfour requested a vote by the Council on whether it should seek to be an FGDC cooperator. Ms. Cretini moved that the Council should seek to be an FGDC cooperator. Mr. Cascio seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was adopted with no objections.

Mr. Whitrock then reported on the liability statement issue. He indicated that Louisiana does not exercise "sovereign immunity", ie. the state can be sued. However, agencies should not be concerned about suits resulting from the misuse of data they provide. The problem area is false, inaccurate or ill-defined information. This constitutes negligence if-. 1. There is a legal duty to supply accurate data; 2. This duty is breached by failure to provide data or by providing inaccurate data; and 3, There is damage to the party obtaining the information. In general, Louisiana courts require strong proof of these items in order to find negligence. The courts often find that recipients of data have some obligations to insure the accuracy of information they receive. In researching this issue Mr. Whitrock indicated that he could find no cases in Louisiana applying negligence to the distribution of information in a manner likely to be practiced by GIS data generators. The state does have some additional protection from liability under the "Discretionary Acts of Public Entities Immunity". Voluntarily providing information probably falls under this immunity. In summary, disclosure statements, while they probably provide little actual legal protection, do put data users on notice and may discourage suits. Metadata is also important to put users on notice.

Mr. Blackmon asked about the requirements to provide data under the Public Information Law.

Mr. Whitrock indicated that mere possession of data may make an agency a custodian of that data and therefore subject to the requirements of the law. However, an agency probably does not have to provide the data in a format which is not normally used by the agency. There was much general discussion about this issue and about recouping costs associated with providing data. Mr. Landry indicated that property boundaries can only be determined by registered land Surveyors and notification should be made to this effect on GIS data sets with property boundary data.

The chair asked Mr. Whitrock to continue to follow these issues.

The next meeting date was set for July 18, 1996 at 1:30 in the 4th Floor Conference Room at Wildlife and Fisheries.

Under "New Business" the chair brought up the possibility of having a retreat for the Council to discuss future directions, issues and possible legislation. He appointed Mr. Cascio, Ms. Balfour and Ms. Randall to an ad hoc committee to look into the possibilities for a retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.