

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of October 9, 1997

Attendance

Members or Alternates:

Sharon J. Balfour, Department of Transportation and Development
Truman McDaniel, Department of Health and Hospitals
Joe Holmes, Department of Environmental Quality
Bo Blackmon, Department of Natural Resources
Keith Cascio, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Zelia Scheve, LA Municipal Association
Brad Spicer, Department of Agriculture & Forestry Bob Hagstad, Division of Administration
Gene Stephens, Department of Economic Development Fred Whitrock, Department of Justice

Others:

R. Brent Yantis, NRCS
Lynda Wayne, LSU - CADGIS
Lei Jin, DOTD
Ray Fox, USGS
C. P. O'Neil, USGS
Craig Johnson, Ascension Parish Government
Ooly LeJeune, Ascension Parish Government
Rizwan Ahmed, DNR
Paul Zundel, DEQ
Herman Melancon, DEQ
Edwin D. Hoover, DEQ
Kay Henderson, DOTD

Sharon Balfour called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40. A quorum was present with 9 members and /or alternates.

Summaries of Past Meetings:

The summary of the August 6, 1997, meeting was approved on a motion made by Brad Spicer and seconded by Joe Holmes.

A request by Brad Spicer to amend the agenda to discuss Item 7, Strategic Planning Session, earlier on the agenda since he had to leave early was approved. It will be handled after the Chairman's report on the Data Base Commission. Mr. Rizwan's presentation is to follow.

Chairman's Report:

Data Base Commission.

Glen Daigre, Bob Keaton, Lynda Wayne and Sharon Balfour met with Allen Doescher of the Division of Administration who is putting together the agenda for the **first** meeting of

the Data Base Commission since its reorganization. We presented him with the Council's status report and requested to be on the agenda for the meeting of the Data Base Commission. Mr. Doescher requested a demonstration of the metadata maker software. That demonstration was held this morning at LSU. Mr. Doescher also wanted to know who would be the contact person for the handling of the LAGIC agreement. A motion by Brad Spicer and seconded by Bo Blackmon named Sharon Balfour as the contact for handling the LAGIC agreement. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Doescher also requested LAGIC funding levels for years two and three. Lynda Wavne will get with Glen Daigre. The Data Base Commission will meet at 1 0:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 1997, in the Governor's Press Room, 4th floor of the Capitol Building. Sharon Balfour will be reporting on the Council's activities and our request for LAGIC funding. Come if you can.

Strategic Planning Session:

Brad Spicer reported that the strategic planning session is scheduled for October 21-22 at the Wildlife and Fisheries facility at Woodworth, Louisiana. A map was distributed. Please RSVP to Glen Daigre by October 15. Bring \$25 in cash to cover the cost of food.

Civil Service GIS Job Classifications:

Mr. Rizwan Ahmed, the Information Systems Director of DNR, reported on the Council of Information Systems Directors' (CISD) work with the State Civil Service Department to upgrade the IS and GIS positions since it is difficult to retain qualified personnel at the current pay scale, and to include GIS in the IS classifications. Civil Service is receptive. Bo Blackmon has been chairing a work group to develop new job descriptions for GIS. The plan is to submit the package to Civil Service on October 20 for their November meeting. The intent is to get the Civil Service Commission to accept the concept and then to continue to work with the CISD to work out the details. Mr. Rizwan was asked if the IS Director job could be filled by a person with a GIS background. Mr. Rizwan did not know, but said it was a good question and he would look into it. Bo Blackmon is to do a market analysis for the GIS pay range. Bo Blackmon reported that he would present the latest job descriptions to the CISD discussion group on October 10. Mr. Blackmon handed out the latest version of the job descriptions and asked for comments.

Brad Spicer left the meeting. The meeting was recessed for ten minutes. Keith Cascio joined the meeting and a quorum was maintained.

Continuation of the Chairman's Report.

NSGIC Annual Conference.

Joe Holmes, Mike Brown and Sharon Balfour attended the meeting in Portland, Oregon. Thirty-three states were represented and six federal agencies. The keynote speaker was the head of the European GIS consortium, EUROGI. He is from Northern Ireland. Two representatives from Russia, and two top executives from Intergraph and ESRI were also in attendance. Also the head of MAPPS and UCGIS. It's a great meeting for networking and finding out the latest trends in the industry. The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) is doing a study of U.S. geographic information

resources. A report is due out in November 1997. A handout of the NAPA project description was distributed. The next NSGIC annual conference will be in Annapolis, Maryland. Louisiana will host the 1999 conference in Lafayette at the Hilton. The Council members were encouraged to join NSGIC and subscribe to the NSGIC list server on the Web. Sharon Balfour was presented an outstanding service award by NSGIC. Joe Holmes added that the discussion at the NSGIC conference with the MAPPS group was interesting,

Framework Data Survey.

The NSGIC Framework Data Survey, funded by FGDC, will be coming out soon. NSGIC wants the state coordinator for the survey to sign an agreement. The survey is to be sent to all federal, state, and local agencies, and anyone else we feel should participate. Discussion centered around the timing of the survey as the Council intends to conduct its own survey. The Council did not want to have two surveys going out back to back. As the timing is not yet known on either survey, this issue will be revisited when more details are known.

Status Report.

The Council's Status Report was sent out today to all department secretaries, the House and the Senate as required by law.

Metadata Video Conference.

The Video conference on metadata will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 1997, at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Auditorium. LTRC has agreed to pay for the down link. Only 20 have signed up so far. Please try to attend.

The Governor's Council on Economic Development.

Sharon Balfour is on the Infrastructure Task Force of the Economic Development Council and chair of the GIS subcommittee. The Economic Development Council is developing goals for the state. **One** of the goals is to have a statewide GIS. Council members were requested to send a short list of what you are doing. Thanks to all who responded. The GIS goal, as I have described it, is to have a State Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI) similar to the NSDI at the National level and have all agencies and local governments connected by 2018.

Pat O'Neil, USGS Representative to the Council:

Mr. Ray Fox, USGS Mid-Continent Mapping Center, presented Mr. Pat O'Neil as the **new** contact for the USGS in Louisiana. The Chair reported that Mr. O'Neil will take on the task of organizing the federal agencies in Louisiana for coordination with the Council. Mr. Fox had some handouts on the latest update of USGS map products and urged the Council to start work on the hydrography framework layer for Louisiana.

Old Business:

The Chair reported that the Innovative Partnership agreement for the development of the DOQQs was approved.

New Business:

The Chair mentioned that there was a need for technical committees to address issues like the framework hydrography layer and hoped it would be handled at the strategic planning session.

Next Meeting Date:

The Chair reported that a representative of the FGDC would be in Mississippi on November 19th and offered to extend his trip to come to Louisiana to meet with our Council. Therefore, the next Council meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 1997, at 1:30 at Wildlife and Fisheries.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Joe Holmes and seconded by Zella Scheve.