

**Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**  
Meeting of January 15, 1998

**Attendance**

**Members or Alternates:**

Bo Blackmon, Department of Natural Resources  
Gene Stephens, Department of Economic Development  
Truman McDaniel, Department of Health and Hospitals  
Virginia Smith, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism  
Kathleen Randall, House of Representatives  
Paul Zundel, Department of Environmental Quality  
Brad Spicer, Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
Sherel Martin, LA Association of Assessors  
Fred Whitrock, Attorney General's Office  
Scott Leachman, LA Policy Jury Association  
Zella Scheve, LA Municipal Association  
Bob Hagstad, DOA/State Land Office  
Glen Daigre, Division of Administration (late arrival)  
Ron Couvillion, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (late arrival)

**Others:**

Richard Loftin, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts  
Lynda Wayne, LA Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)  
Joel Register, LA Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)  
Pat O'Neil, USGS/WMD (Federal Coordinator)  
Larry Handley, USGS/NWRC  
Steve Hartley USGS/NWRC  
Tim Bisch, Intergraph Corporation  
Mark Suarez, Department of Transportation and Development  
Eric Jeansonne, Department of Transportation and Development  
Roger Wirth, Department of Transportation and Development/Real Estate  
Kay Henderson, Department of Transportation and Development  
Joshua D. Kent, DOA/State Land Office  
Wendi Couvillion, Johnson Controls/Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program  
DeWitt Braud, LSU/Department of Geography and Anthropology  
Craig Johnson, Ascension Parish  
David Gisclair, LA Oil Spill Coordinator's Office  
Deborah Fuller, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Sandy Dingman, National Park Service

Scott Leachman (Vice-Chair) called the meeting to order at approximately 1:45 in the Louisiana Room on the first floor of the Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg. A quorum was present with 12 members and/or alternates present (a 13<sup>th</sup> member arrived later).

### **Summary of Last Meeting:**

The summary of the November 20, 1997 meeting was submitted and approved on a motion made by Virginia Smith and seconded by Zella Scheve.

### **Chairman's Report:**

- **Data Base Commission/LAGIC**

The Interagency Agreement to establish LAGIC had been signed by LSU and returned to DOA for final administration. A temporary account number was established at LSU and both Lynda Wayne and Joel Register were appointed, in part-time status.

Lynda Wayne will begin the GIS Resource Inventory and requested that each agency provide her with the names of 1-3 (most appropriate for each agency) individuals to serve as primary contacts and participate in survey instrument design. She will develop a draft instrument for their review and input.

- **FGDC**

Sharon Balfour and Lynda Wayne attended the FGDC Steering Committee meeting at the US Department of Interior headquarters in Washington, DC, chaired by DOI Secretary Babbitt, January 12&13, 1998. The meeting focused in the refinement and presentation of state-related issues for consideration by the FGDC. The issues included:

- cooperatively building foundation data sets: maximizing the use of existing resources/funding programs
- improving coordination with federal field offices, and
- increasing state role in the development of national GIS-related standards

Additional items included:

- presentation of State-related GIS efforts for 1997
- review of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) report entitled *Geographic Information for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Building a Strategy for the Nation*. For more information see: <http://www.napawash.org>

- **Framework Data Survey**

LA (Balfour) has signed the Cooperative Agreement with the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) for the completion of the Framework Data Survey.

- **Strategic Planning Session**

The Planning Session will be held Tuesday, February 3, 1998 at the Burden Research Plantation on Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA. Participation is open to all. Those interested in attending should notify Sharon Balfour immediately. Attendees will be responsible for paying for their own lunch. LAGIC will cover facility costs.

## **Richard Loftin, LA School for Math, Science, and the Arts**

The LSMSA is interested in developing a training program in GIS and has requested the LGISC consider measures for supporting such an effort. He provided an outline of the history and objects of the LSMSA stating that the LSMSA strives to provide students learning opportunities not available in tradition high school curricula. Specific areas in which the LGISC may assist include but are not limited to:

- development of summer internship programs
- provide real-world study problems
- provide access to available data sets in the form of CD's, websites, etc.

Any organization interested in participating in this effort should contact Dr. Loftin at [loftin@nsula.edu](mailto:loftin@nsula.edu) or 800.259.3173

## **Federal Agency Coordination**

Mr. Pat O'Neil (USGS/NMD) presented a list of regional federal field office contacts. Other issues include:

- Development of a federal regional NWI/GIS working group initiated by Mike Callahan of the USGS/NMD Rolla, MO
- Presentation of the 1995 Louisiana Aerial Photo CD ROM Library. The final library will contain 46 data CD's and an Index CD. Ten CD's have been developed to-date and are available for distribution. The cost of the full set is \$4,000. Individual CD's are also available. The data is in TIFF format. For additional information visit <http://www.casts01.usl.edu/CASTS/aerial-cd>.

## **Old Business:**

### **Civil Service Job Classifications**

Mr. Bo Blackmon (DNR) reported that the GIS job classifications were being placed within the Information Services (IS) category and have been submitted for approval. The job descriptions will be reviewed at the March meeting of the CISD. Some of the issues raised relative to the creation of the new classifications include:

- increased pay for IS personnel participating in the 2000 conversion process
- establishment of special entry rates

The new job classifications were needed to increase the State's ability to attract and maintain highly qualified GIS candidates. An implementation workshop is being planned to aid agencies in adopting and implementing the new job classifications.

### **DOQQ's**

Mr. David Gisclair reported that the Interagency Agreement with the USGS for the development of Louisiana Digital Ortho Photo Quarter Quads (DOQQ's) has been mailed. There is some concern, however, in that the USGS match to the program was reduced from \$1,251,197 to \$417,000. The \$417,000 commitment will produce statewide CIR photography. This will limit production to approximately 200 of the original 1269+ DOQQ's required to cover the state south of 30.5° latitude. Production will, however, proceed with the northern portion of the state should the legislature appropriate the state's funding share for the area north of 30.5° latitude.

The lack of federal and state funds could cause lags in production and affect the continuity of the data set. Organizations interested in coordinating on this effort should contact Mr. Gisclair at 504-922-3245 or *tapgis@linknet.net*.

## **New Business**

### Louisiana GIS Workshop

The annual GIS Workshop is scheduled for April 7-9, 1998 at the Cajundome in Lafayette Louisiana. A digital camera workshop has been arranged for the afternoon of the 9<sup>th</sup>, after sessions are complete. An LGISC session has been reserved on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> - those interested in submitting State-related presentations should contact Sharon Balfour at 504.379.1478 or *sbalfour@dotdmail.dotd.state.la.us*. LAURISA sessions are scheduled for both morning and afternoon on April 9<sup>th</sup> - those interested in submitting URISA-related presentations should contact Kathryn Cargo at 504.565.7000. Those interested in submitting other presentation topics should contact Bo Blackmon at 342.4137.

### Collection and Archive of LGISC Documents

A committee was created to collect and archive all documents (minutes, committee reports, planning session documents, etc.) produced by the LA GIS Task Force and the LGISC since inception. The committee is seeking hardcopy and digital documents and will compile the information at the LAGIC facility at LSU. A motion was made by Bo Blackmon to create the Archive Committee and seconded by Brad Spicer. Committee members include: Bo Blackmon, Glen Daigre, Sharon Balfour, Zella Scheve, and Lynda Wayne.

### Election of Officers for 1998

Bo Blackmon, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported that the committee was undergoing a review of the open meeting law to ensure full compliance. Primary changes include:

- posting of the agenda at the meeting location 24 hours prior to LGISC meetings
- creation of formal descriptions of officer roles and duties.

Nominees were collected via circulation of a nomination form and electronic messages. All nominees were then contacted to confirm willingness to participate.

Nominees were:

Chairman:

Joe Holmes - LA Department of Environmental Quality

Vice-Chairman

Sharon Balfour - LA Department of Transportation and Development

Ron Couvillion motioned that the call for nominations be closed, Zella Scheve seconded.

The election was called for each position and the nominees were elected unanimously.

In the absence of either newly elected Chairpersons, motion was made by Ron Couvillion that past Vice-Chairman, Scott Leachman continue to Chair the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bo Blackmon and passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting date was set at March 5, 1998 at 1:30 in the Louisiana Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of LA Wildlife and Fisheries Building.