

# **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of September 19, 1999

## **1. Call to Order**

Chair Scott Leachman (LPJA) called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. in the First Floor Louisiana Room, Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was presented with 10 agency/organization representatives present.

## **2. Roll Call**

### **Member Agencies/Organizations Present:**

**Department of Agriculture and Forestry,**

Brad Spicer, **Member**

**Office of the Governor, Division of Administration**

Glen Daigre, **Member**

**Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism,**

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

**Department of Economic Development,**

Gene Stephens, **Member**

**Department of Environmental Quality,**

Joe Holmes, **Member**

**Department Health and Hospitals,**

Truman McDaniel, **Alternate**

**Department of Natural Resources**

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Sharon Balfour, **Member**

**Louisiana Assessors' Association**

Sherel Martin, **Member**

**Louisiana Police Jury Association**

Scott Leachman, **Member**

### **Others Present:**

**Office of the Governor, Division of Administration**

Marty Beasley, State Land Office

**Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism,**

Kenny Lang, Office of State Parks

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Eric Jeansonne

Jacqui Sanchez

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

JoJo Estrada

**Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office**

David Gisclair

**Louisiana Municipal Association**

Joel Harrell, Baton Rouge Office of Community Development

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Lynda Wayne

Joshua Kent

**Office of the Louisiana Database Commission**

Ed Leachman

**Louisiana State University**

Rob Cunningham, CCEER-LSU

**University of Southwestern Louisiana**

Suzanne Harrison, EE-IR Center

Brent Yantis, NASA Regional Applications Center

**National Geodetic Survey**

Bob Zurfluh

**St. Landry Parish**

Linda Lafleur

**East Feliciana Parish**

Robert McConnell, Assessor's Office

**District 5 Road Commission**

Jeanita Sebastein

**E&E**

Jim Dellinger

Tony Gale

**GSE Assoc., Inc.**

Arthur Defraites, Jr.

**3. Approval of August 18, 1999 Minutes**

The minutes were submitted and approved on a motion made by Brad Spicer (DAF) and seconded by Joe Holmes (DEQ).

**4. Chairman's Report**

Chair Scott Leachman (LPJA) reported on the NSGIC national meeting held in New Orleans August 28 – September 1, 1999. He strongly encouraged LGISC members to participate in NSGIC efforts to link local, state, and federal geospatial data development and coordination.

**5. LAGIC Report**

**LGISC Archive Status and Work Plan**

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) provided a hardcopy report and an oral presentation of the Archive Committee Status and Work Plan. She reported that newly hired Library Science graduate student, Giovanni Tairov, had reviewed the LGISC materials provided and determined that the Government Information Locator System (GILS) catalog format is preferred for the archive. Tairov met with faculty from the School of Library Science, librarians from LSU's Middleton Library, and the head librarian from Government Documents at Middleton in making this determination. Tairov produced a sample catalog record that illustrates the value of the GILS fields including title, author, keywords, abstract, and support for an internal coding scheme. In addition, Wayne provided an inventory of key

documents in the archive and solicited the LGISC members to review and provide missing documents.

Joe Holmes (DEQ) asked if the Database Commission had selected the same catalog format for documenting key state databases. Ed Leachman (DOA/ODBC) reported that the ODBC had selected the Dublin Core catalog format based upon it's interest in distributing documents via the web. Ms. Wayne was asked to work with Tairov to revisit both GILS and Dublin Core and report back to the LGISC Archive Committee with a recommendation and justification.

### **NSDI Node Update**

Joshua Kent (LAGIC) demonstrated the use of the NSDI Clearinghouse to access Louisiana metadata records and provided handouts on accessing and searching the Clearinghouse. Improvements to the site include better presentation of the metadata records and optional formats for viewing the metadata records including an easy to understand FAQ version. He encouraged LGISC members to visit the Clearinghouse and to produce and contribute much needed metadata. Kent also noted that he was working with Farrell Jones of the LSU CADGIS Lab to develop a local port (LAGIC) to the metadata records and direct access to those data sets housed at CADGIS. This effort is initially focusing on distribution of the DOQQ's.

## **6. Old Business**

### **CRT GIS Development Initiative**

Dennis Eilers (CRT/OSP) presented a written meeting summary generated by LAGIC and an oral report on the status of the CRT GIS development initiative. He reported that CRT staff had met with LAGIC and Office of State Lands staff to determine: existing data resources, means of supporting the Office of State Parks 'Park Resource and Facilities Inventory', and the overall agency GIS interest/needs. Three CRT GIS goals and associated action items were generated. Eilers will continue to lead the effort with LAGIC's assistance.

### **LAGIC Technical Support Role Committee**

Sharon Balfour, committee chair, reported that the committee met earlier in the day and determined that a 'GIS Primer' was needed to aid state and local agencies in understanding the use of GIS and to provide guidance in system design and acquisition. The primer should be widely distributed as both a hardcopy and online product. The committee will reconvene, with LAGIC staff, prior to the next LGISC meeting to outline the primer contents.

## **GIS Day**

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) reported on efforts to have November 19, 1999 declared 'GIS Day' in Louisiana. Ms. Wayne was asked to circulate the current proclamation language among LGISC members and to work with Dr. Tony Lewis of the LSU Department of Geography and state Geographic Alliance Coordinator to bring the proclamation to the Governor's attention. In addition, Ed Leachman (DOA/ODBC) offered to work with the Data Base Commission to provide written support to the GIS Day proclamation effort.

## **DOQQ Status**

David Gisclair (LOSCO) provided a written and oral report on the status of the DOQQ's. Phase 1 (south of 30.5°): 1508 total DOQQ's will be generated, 1006 images have been delivered to the USGS, of which 939 have been accepted and sent to the sales database. LOSCO estimates that some DOQQ's will be available in MrSID format by mid-October and that Phase 1 production will be completed by the end of the year. Phase II (north of 30.5°): \$1.15 million is in the LOSCO budget to provide state match for the production of the 1,971 DOQQ's for the northern portion of the state. The US Forest Service has asked to pull 252 images covering the Kisatchie Forest from the USGS IP so that they may produce them internally. The exact reason for the exclusion was unknown but Brad Spicer (DAF) suggested that the Forest Service funds may expire with the Fiscal Year and there may be a need to pull the images from the normal process to ensure timely production. Gisclair expressed concern that the Forest Service may not have the technical capabilities to adequately produce the images. Spicer was asked to contact the Forest Service to clarify the situation.

Marty Beasley (DOA/SLO) discussed the use of DOQQ's to map water bottoms and the anticipated increase in related revenue to the State Land Office. The LGISC discussed the need to further document the benefits of this statewide, federally supported, initiative and suggested that in return for the use of the free DOQQ data, users be formally asked to provide input as to the use and value of the imagery. It was suggested that the information be compiled into a journal article touting the success of the initiative.

Gisclair also stated that planning was needed for the future update of the DOQQ's. Scott Leachman (Chair/LPJA) appointed a DOQQ planning committee to be chaired by David Gisclair (LOSCO). The following committee appointments were made: Scott Leachman (LPJA), Brad Spicer (DAF), Dennis Eilers (CRT), Joe Holmes (DEQ), Brent Yantis (USL/NRAC), and Pat O'Neil (USGS).

## **NSGIC Meeting in Meeting in New Orleans**

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) reported on the success of the NSGIC meeting recently held in New Orleans. Louisiana was well represented in both attendance and presentations. Dr. Don Davis provided a warm welcome that described the history and culture of south Louisiana. Dr. Charles 'Chip' Groat, USGS Director, former Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey, served as luncheon keynote

speaker and provided an update on the status and direction of USGS geospatial data development efforts. Dave Elford (DNR) gave a demonstration of the DNR online oil and gas well database. Several pertinent issues were discussed including proposed US Department of Defense funding cuts to the civil GPS program, National Partnership for Reinventing Government (NPR) call for pilot projects to illustrate the application of GIS to public safety, Congressional anti-privacy initiatives, and proposed limitations to USGS post-processing of Landsat imagery. LGISC members commended Balfour for her work in planning the meeting and she extended her appreciation to Rob Cunningham (CCEER/LSU) for his assistance during the meeting as well as DEQ, DOTD, and NWRC for providing equipment.

### **NGS Advisor**

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) reported that funding had been secured for the current appointment of Bob Zurfluh as the state NGS Advisor. Balfour announced that she would call a meeting, prior to the next LGISC meeting, of all contributing agencies to establish the role and duties of the position.

## **6. New Business**

### **GIS Application for Demographic Data**

Ed Leachman (ODBC) provided a written and oral summary of efforts by the ODBC to develop an online FAQ for state demographic data. The ODBC has contracted with Greg Rigamer Associates (GRA) to work with Karen Paterson (ODBC/State Demographer) to develop an online GIS application that would provide public access to commonly requested state demographic data. Kathleen Randall (House) will assist the program by providing input as to both public and legislative information needs.

### **NSGIC Standards Committee Survey**

The NSGIC Standards Committee requested input from each state regarding priorities in establishing GIS-related standards. Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) summarized the standards and facilitated the LGISC in assigning priorities. The LGISC was asked to assign a total of nine votes among the standards, multiple votes emphasizing those most significant. The following priorities were submitted to the NSGIC: Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (2), Orthoimagery (2), Elevation (2), Hydrography (1), Utilities (1), Global Positioning Accuracy Standard Part 3 - National Spatial Data Accuracy (1).

### **NSGIC GPS Resolution**

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) presented a resolution recently passed by NSGIC opposing US Department of Defense efforts to cut funding of the civil GPS program.

### **GIS Civil Service Positions**

Bo Blackmon (DNR) announced that the newly developed proposal for GIS civil service classifications had been sent to the Governor's Office for approval. Blackmon suggested that the LGISC submit a letter of support to the Governor encouraging his approval. Blackmon suggested time may be very tight in that the proposal was most likely already in the Governor's Office and could be approved/denied at any moment. Brad Spicer (DAF) motioned that the LGISC submit a letter of support to the Governor if time were available. Bo Blackmon seconded the motion and agreed to check the status of the proposal and initiate the action if needed.

### **NASA/LSU Commercial Remote Sensing Workshop at Pennington**

Glen Daigre (DOA) asked that the LGISC be represented at the Commercial Remote Sensing Workshop to be held the following week at Pennington Medical Center. Most LGISC member agencies had received invitations to the Workshop. Lynda Wayne explained that the purpose of the Workshop was to solicit input as to the needs of the state and local geospatial community and to use the information in establishing a NASA sponsored Commercial Remote Sensing program at LSU. Several LGISC members indicated they would attend.

### **7. Determine Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 1999 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month) at 1:30 in the Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 P.M. on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Glen Daigre (DOA).