

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of October 21, 1999

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair Joe Holmes (LDEQ) called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M. in the First Floor Louisiana Room, Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was not present with seven agency/organization representatives present.

2. Roll Call

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

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**

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

James Patton, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Others Present:

Department of Transportation and Development

Mary Kay Henderson, **Alternate**

John Wells

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, Baton Rouge Office of Community Development

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Lynda Wayne

Joshua Kent

Office of the Louisiana Database Commission

Ed Leachman

Nationa Wetlands Research Center / USGS

Suzanne Harrison, EE-IR Center

C-K Associates

Perry Lopez

Amite River Basin Commission

Dietmar Rietschier

3. Approval of September 16, 1999

There was no quorum for approval.

4. Chairman's Report

Co-Chair Joe Holmes (LDEQ) announced that Fred Whitrock had accepted a new position with the LDWF and would no longer serve as a LGISC representative for the Attorney General's Office. In a related matter, the LGISC has not received appointments from the LMA though the proposed appointee, Mattie Coxe, did receive formal recognition from the Governor. It was suggested that the Chair 1) contact the Attorney General and request a new appointment be made and 2) contact the Governor's Office to check on the status of the Ms. Coxe's appointment letter. Holmes also announced an upcoming GPS workshop sponsored by the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors.

5. LAGIC Report

FGDC Metadata Education Curriculum

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) reported that she had recently participated in an FGDC-sponsored working group to establish a multi-level curriculum for metadata training.

LGISC Archive Status and Workplan

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) presented a summary report outlining differences among the Government Information Locator System (GILS) and Dublin Core (DC) cataloging formats. Her research indicates that GILS is designed to preserve content information for archive purposes and that DC is designed to summarize file descriptors that facilitate locating online data resources. Since the actual archive documents will not be formatted for the web, but instead accessible from a web interface, the GILS standard was recommended to the LGISC.

NSDI Node: the Local Port

Joshua Kent (LAGIC) described current efforts to establish access to metadata holdings directly from the LAGIC website. As an NSDI participant, LAGIC currently formats data for distribution via the central NSDI Clearinghouse Website. To distribute locally, LAGIC must develop an interface program capable of extracting key information such as themes and coordinates from the metadata and feeding the information to an online GIS to support spatial queries. This work is being coordinated with Farrell Jones of the Computer-Aided Design and GIS Laboratory (CADGIS) Research Lab at LSU. Kent and Jones will prototype the system for DOQQ distribution.

FGDC Framework Initiative Stewards

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) reintroduced the idea of state Framework Data Stewards that would monitor the activities of each of the framework data layers and provide regular reports to the LGISC. As outlined in a prior LDBC Geospatial Working

Group Report the following agencies have been identified as stewards:

Elevation and Bathymetry – State Lands
Geodetic Control – State Lands (NGS Advisor)
Cadastral – State Lands
Hydrography – DEQ
Transportation – DOTD
Governmental Units – DOA/InfoLouisiana
Orthoimagery – DNR/LOSCO

Lynda will contact these agencies to initiate the program and schedule their presentations.

6. Old Business

LAGIC Technical Support Role Committee Report

Sharon Balfour (LDOTD) provided a written and oral report that summarized Technical Support Committee efforts to produce a metadata primer for hard copy and online distribution. The committee has developed an initial outline of the primer and will contact LGISC members for contributions as they, with LAGIC, continue development.

GIS Day Proclamation

Joe Holmes (LGISC Co-Chair, DEQ) presented the proclamation signed by Governor Foster declaring November 19, 1999 GIS DAY in Louisiana. The document has been scanned and is available online at the LGISC website (<http://www.state.la.us/lgisc/index.htm>).

DOQQ Status

Ed Leachman (ODBC) reported that, to his knowledge, the IP was in place for Phase II and the contract for MrSID Compression was finalized. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) reported that the DOTD had provided \$50K to complete the Kisatchee Forest area previously excluded by the US Forest Service. Bo Blackmon (DNR) requested that the MrSID contractor make a presentation to the LGISC to explain the data compression method.

National Geodetic Survey Advisor

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) reported that work continues toward finalizing and signing the Advisor agreement between the Louisiana participants and the NGS.

LA RS/GIS Workshop Features Local Government

Bo Blackmon (DNR) reported that the workshop will be held May 2-4, 2000 at the Pennington BioMedical Research Conference Center in Baton Rouge. The Planning Committee is organizing early this year in an effort to improve workshop participation. The Workshop will also include a 'Featured Session' on GIS issues and applications relevant to local governments. The session will be coordinated, and possibly combined, with traditional special sessions sponsored by the LGISC and the URISA.

State GIS Job Specification Changes

Bo Blackmon (DNR) reported that the GIS position upgrades had been approved by the Governor with changes. The changes introduce coursework requirements that will reduce the number of eligible candidates. He suggested that the changes are overly restrictive and will continue to work with CISD to resolve.

7. New Business

Database Commission Update

Ed Leachman (ODBC) reported that a GIS application was under development to assist in the distribution of Louisiana demographic information. Karen Paterson (ODBC), Kathleen Randall (House), Glen Koepp (Senate), and Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) were providing oversight on the project. Mr. Leachman intends to demonstrate the demographic application, the geospatial data catalog, and other information management programs at the La. Database Commission meeting scheduled for December 14, 1999, 10:00 a.m.

LA Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe presented policy revisions recently adopted by the LMA to “encourage the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to improve local planning and governmental operations.” Ms. Coxe outlined operations such as geocoding, street map updates, and address matching, as imperative to effective local government data management.

ASPRS Speakers Bureau

Bo Blackmon (DNR) has been asked to provide a list of speakers from Louisiana that would be available for various ASPRS presentations. The speakers must be knowledgeable in a range of mapping science disciplines and willing to cover most of their own travel costs, though some honorariums may be provided. Anyone interested in participating should contact Mr. Blackmon directly. LAGIC will distribute the call for participants.

Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District

Dietmar Rietsch, Director of the Amite River Basin (ARB) Conservation District, presented information about research the ARB is undertaking in association with the University of Huntsville and NASA to model the hydrography of the Amite River Basin. The project will require development of an extensive geospatial database that will need to be coordinated with many Louisiana and Mississippi state agencies and organizations. He will keep the LGISC briefed of ARB data development activities and needs.

DOQQ Testimonial

Mr. Perry Lopez of CK and Associates explained his organizations’ recent use of preliminary DOQQ data to serve as a highly effective backdrop in several environmental planning initiatives. Mr. Lopez was encouraged to document his DOQQ ‘successes’ and support the upcoming DOQQ update initiative.

7. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 1999. (3rd 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., sans quorum.