

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of November 18, 1999

1. Call to Order

Chair Scott Leachman (LPJA) called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M. in the First Floor Louisiana Room, Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was not initially present but called at 3:15 with nine member agency/organization representatives present.

2. Roll Call

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

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**

House of Representatives

Kathleen Randall, **Member**

Department of Transportation and Development

Sharon Balfour, **Member**

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Jim Hanifen, **Alternate**

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 Economic Development,

Andrew Kuyoro

Department of Transportation and Development

Mary Kay Henderson, **Alternate**

Pam Coffey

Eric Jeansonne

John Wells

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Lynda Wayne

Joshua Kent

Office of the Louisiana Database Commission

Ed Leachman

National Wetlands Research Center / USGS

Pat O'Neil

National Geodetic Survey

Bob Zurfluh

ATS

John Speice

GSRC

Sharon Newman

3. Approval of September 16, 1999 and October 21, 1999 Minutes

The September 16, 1999 minutes were submitted and approved on a motion made by Glen Daigre (DOA) and seconded by Sharon Balfour (DOTD) and the October 21, 1999 minutes were approved on a motion by Sherel Martin (LAA) and Joe Holmes (DEQ).

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Scott Leachman (LPJA) reported that he had contacted both the Louisiana Municipal Association and the Attorney General's Office requesting they finalize the selection/appointment of their respective LGISC representatives.

5. LAGIC Report

NSDI Node: The Local Port

Joshua Kent (LAGIC) provided an update on efforts to provide direct access to Louisiana metadata records developed to support the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Clearinghouse Node. Current access to the records is available from the Clearinghouse national website. Kent has been actively developing a local interface that will enable users to search for metadata by geography, keyword, and/or author directly from the LAGIC website. Once completed, the interface will operate as the ODBC Geospatial Data Catalog and provide users access to metadata and linked data sets maintained at the Louisiana Statewide GIS and other cooperating agencies/organizations.

FGDC Framework Initiative Stewards

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) reminded LGISC members of their commitment to serve as stewards for various FGDC Framework themes and related activities. Wayne will contact agencies previously identified as 'responsible' for specific themes and schedule presentations by stewards at alternating LGISC meetings. Mr. Marty Beasley (DOA/SLO) has agreed to make the first presentation.

In addition, Glen Daigre (DOA) discussed related national efforts to coordinate hydrological coding and a request by the National States GIS Council (NSGIC) that Sharon Balfour (DOTD) represent the NSGIC during coordination efforts. Furthermore it was suggested that Ms. Balfour coordinate with the LGISC 'hydrologic' framework steward, Joe Holmes (DEQ).

Need for Metadata

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) asked for the LGISC's assistance in motivating agencies to produce and contribute geospatial metadata. While several agencies have been active in training workshops, few have contributed records. Glen Daigre (DOA) suggested that the LGISC Chair, ODBC, or Governor send a letter of recognition to those agencies that have contributed records.

6. Old Business

GIS Day

Scott Leachman (LPJA) reported that he had made a GIS presentation to approximately 300 students at Ruston High School and had scheduled another at the Ruston Jr. High School. He also reported that Louisiana Tech was working with local elementary school students and had organized a GIS Day open house. Kay Henderson (LDOTD) was planning a visit to an elementary school in Clinton and would be taking the students GIS software and data as well. Joe Holmes (LDEQ) has created a display for the DEQ lobby and will set up several interactive demonstrations. DEQ will host several students from Episcopal High School and host a GIS Day event in Shreveport in association with LSU Shreveport. Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) invited all to visit the LSU GIS Day display in the Howe-Russell Bldg. on campus and to take the 'online satellite tour of Louisiana' produced by DeWitt Braud, Tony Lewis, and several others at LSU.

DOQQ Status

Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) relayed a report from David Gisclair (LOSCO) that color DOQQ's had been sent for every production block in Phase 1. They are currently trying to resolve issues surrounding the changing shoreline and the fact that some areas previously mapped no longer have land mass while other areas, previously unmapped because they had no land, have since accreted land masses. Compression continues and they expect the first shipment of 6 100K panels after Thanksgiving.

NGS Advisor

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) reported little success in convening all organizations that have agreed to support the NGS position. Several meetings have been held but there is still no signed agreement. Furthermore, DOTD has indicated they will not participate in the next funding cycle. Glen Daigre reminded the LGISC that a resolution was passed to support this position and that some action is needed to insure a long-term operational plan. Sherel Martin raised the issue of the use of temporary benchmarks by the DOTD and requested additional information be collected to ensure the maximum benefit and utilization of DOTD survey efforts. Scott Leachman named a 'Benchmark' committee and appointed Sherel Martin as Chair, and Rich Bailey and himself as members.

Louisiana RS/GIS Workshop

The Workshop will be held May 2-4, 2000 at the Pennington BioMedical Conference Center in Baton Rouge, La.

State GIS Job Specification Changes

No report was available.

6. New Business

'Blessing' the DOTD Parish Boundary Data Set

Joe Holmes (DEQ) suggested some action needed to be taken regarding 'blessing' of the DOTD Parish Boundary Data Set as the preferred data set for state planning and analysis. A review committee selected the data set nearly a year ago, yet no formal action has been taken. Holmes felt the LGISC needed to support the ODBC by providing some formal endorsement of the data set. Lynda Wayne (LAGIC) had asked the LGISC to withhold action until she and DeWitt Braud could complete work on their research identifying issues relative to data 'certification'. Unfortunately, final recommendations have not been drawn for the study and the LGISC cannot be expected to delay much longer. Ms. Wayne did suggest that the LGISC seek to 'bless' the data provider (DOTD) rather than a single data set. In this way, the data set is free to evolve as necessary without additional official action. Joe Holmes (DEQ) and Glen Daigre (DOA) were asked to draft language that would serve to recognize DOTD, and future data providers, as official sources of state geospatial data.

LGISC Nominating Committee

Scott Leachman (LPJA) appointed Joe Holmes as Chair of the LGISC nominating committee and Glen Daigre and himself as members. The committee will solicit nominations for the LGISC 2000 Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) Update

Pat O'Neil (NWRC/USGS) announced that the state DRG's had been updated for each of revised revised USGS 7.5 minute quadsheets.

DOTD Update

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) introduced Pam Coffee and John Wells from the DOTD and announced that Kay Henderson was recently promoted to GIS Project Supervisor.

Economic Development Update

Andrew Kuyoro (DED) introduced himself to the LGISC as a new GIS contact at the Department of Economic Development and stated his interest in working with the LGISC>

GPS for GIS Workshop

Bob Zurfluh (NGS) announced that NOAA was planning a free one-day workshop in Baton Rouge and New Orleans to help state and federal agencies get started with GIS and GPS technology. He will keep the LGISC informed when a date and program is set.

National GPS Resolution Under Development

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) announced that the Western Governor's Association was drafting a resolution to stop proposed budget cuts that would limit civilian access to some high-resolution GPS signals. The proposed cut backs on signal availability to primarily affect areas outside of Louisiana.

7. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15th 1999 at 1:30 in the Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:40 P.M. on a motion by Joe Homes (DEQ) and seconded by Glen Daigre (DOA).

**The meeting was subsequently moved to the Louisiana Assessors Association Office on Valley Creek Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.*