

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of May 17, 2000

1. Call to Order

Chair Bo Blackmon (LDNR) called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. in the Third Floor Conference Room, Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was not present as there were only six agency representatives present. Chair Blackmon called the meeting to order as a committee of the whole.

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**

Louisiana Assessors' Association
Sherel Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association
Scott Leachman, **Member**

Others Present:

Division of Administration
Marty Beasley, State Land Office

Department of Economic Development,
Andrew Kuyoro, **Alternate**

Department of Transportation and Development
John Wells

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
David Gisclair

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)
Dina Sa

Louisiana State University
DeWitt Braud, Geography and Anthropology

Center for Landscape Interpretation
Kevin Durbin

Office of the Louisiana Data Base Commission
Ed Leachman

3. Approval of April 19 Minutes

The minutes were submitted and reviewed. Mr. Scott Leachman (LPJA) requested a surname correction from “Leachmon” to “Leachman” on page two line three. Action will be made upon quorum of the council.

4. Chairman’s Report

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) reported on the Louisiana Remote Sensing and GIS Workshop had good attendance, the highest abstract submission and the highest Technical Session attendance in the RS/GIS history. Chair Bo Blackmon attributes the increase in participants to the fact that the Workshop was in Baton Rouge, held at the Pennington Center and that it included local and parish government. Chair Blackmon thanked Mr. DeWitt Braud (LSU) for managing to “pull it together.” The Chair also reported that since “The Louisiana GIS CD, Version 2” presentation and CD release, eight requests for additional copies have been received. Mr. David Gisclair (LOSCO) reported that additional copies can be requested by contacting Mr. Don Davis by electronic mail; contact information is available at the Atlas website. Chair Blackmon requested that the LGISC web site have Mr. Davis’ contact information available online.

Chair Blackmon (DNR) reported that the Louisiana Remote Sensing and GIS Workshop Organizational Committee decided that the 2001 Workshop will be structured in the same way as this year’s Workshop. Consideration will be given to the possibility of having the Workshop every other year, a larger format with possible concurrent sessions and, or, to a two day rather than three day session. Mr. DeWitt Braud (LSU) will continue to be in charge of the Workshop for next year.

5. LAGIC Report

FGDC Metadata Content Standard v2.0 Availability

Ms. Dina Sa (LAGIC) handed out the FGDC Metadata Content Standard v2.0 packet to Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) and announced the availability of the new version of the standards online at www.fgdc.gov.

GIS Primer

Ms. Dina Sa (LAGIC) reported that the GIS Primer site is averaging only 3 visits per day and that the only suggestions received were those from the evaluation forms distributed at the RS/GIS Workshop. Links to this site are available from the LAGIC and the Council’s web site.

Chair Blackmon believes there is a need to pursue outside input for content enhancement and length. He would like to request that Katherine Cargo (NOGIS) and the head of the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission to review the

site and provide input and suggestions. Technical Committee members are encouraged to visit the site and provide suggestions and expertise. Mr. DeWitt Braud reiterated the importance of having individuals with and without GIS experience to review the GIS Primer site so to make the content rich and straightforward. Mr. Scott Leachman informed the Council that he had placed a request to the Lincoln Parish GIS Commission and to Dr. Price, an engineering professor at Louisiana Tech, to review and provide feedback on the website. Comments received were forwarded to Mr. Joshua Kent. Presentations will be accessible online as they become available.

Resource Inventory

Ms. Dina Sa strongly suggested the participation in the Resource Inventory. Scott Leachman reported having problems updating the hardware inventory; he kept getting “kicked out” while attempting to update his inventory. Ms. Sa will report difficulties to Mr. Joshua Kent.

LAGIC Director Status

Ms. Dina Sa reported that there is now only one candidate for the LAGIC Director position. The other candidate has accepted a position elsewhere. The remaining candidate will be interviewed this Friday, May 19.

6. Presentation: The Louisiana GIS CD Version 2.0

Mr. DeWitt Braud (LSU) presented The Louisiana GIS CD Version 2.0. The CD contains a collection of datasets from LOSCO and sponsoring agencies. Mr. Braud advised the Council of the several possible scenarios that can be used to navigate the CD, informed of the datasets available and revisions, corrections and updates completed. Mr. DeWitt Braud also demonstrated some of the problems encountered while using the CD. There is a DLL problem that can be avoided by selecting the ignore option in the GIS software you are running; otherwise user will encounter access violations. Also, the CD application is not able to recognize GIS software that is installed over the network and will fail to run. The GIS software must be installed in the hard drive where the Louisiana GIS CD has also been installed. Additionally, the GIS CD application will not run if the user installs a copy of the GIS software from the Louisiana GIS CD when there is already GIS software present in the hard drive. In the case of ArcView software, this problem can be solved by re-associating certain files; instructions for this procedure can be obtained by contacting Mr. DeWitt Braud. Chair Blackmon suggested posting suggestions and instructions at the Atlas, LAGIC and the Council’s websites.

Chair Blackmon requested Mr. Ed Leachman to schedule DeWitt Braud’s presentation of the “Louisiana GIS CD Version 2” to the Louisiana Data Base Commission.

7. Old Business

Digital Data Committee Report

Mr. Joe Holmes reported that the Committee decided to recommend the parish boundary dataset developed and maintained by DOTD as a “blessed” digital dataset for the state. The committee recommends that LAGIC assist Kay Henderson (DOTD) in the development of compliant metadata. Mr. Marty Beasley (DOA-SLO) suggested that Mr. John Snead (LGS) prepare a proposal to be submitted to the Division of Administration State Lands Office for developing a high-resolution State boundary dataset. State Lands would become the stewards of this dataset. Mr. John Snead was receptive and will seriously consider submitting the proposal. Future consideration will be given to create a high-resolution Parish boundary.

Mr. Holmes reported that there was no response from the Attorney General’s office as to a new appointee. Chair Bo Blackmon did speak with Mr. Gary Kaizer about the matter and that Mr. Kaizer had recommended contacting Fred Whitrock (former Council representative from the Attorney General’s Office). Mr. Joe Holmes spoke to Mr. Fred Whitrock, (LDWF) about the need for representation (a new appointee) from the Attorney General’s Office. Mr. Whitrock suggested speaking with Mr. Richard Williams (Special Counsel to the Attorney General) who may be able to contact the individual with the authority for assigning a new representative.

Chair Bo Blackmon recognizes the importance of the custodianship issue and the Data Base Commission’s desire for the issue to be resolved. Therefore, Chair Blackmon suggested a public posting of the Council’s efforts and requested placing the Digital Data Committee reports on the LAGIC website.

DOQQ Update

Mr. David Gisclair (LOSCO) reported that Executive Order MJF2000-18 has curtailed expenditures without getting a written exemption from the Commissioner of Administration. A letter has been submitted to the Governor’s Office requesting an exemption on the DOQQ and LIDAR projects. Mr. Gisclair received a call from the Division of Administration and he advised them of the importance of the project and the impact an interruption to this project would have on State government. Division of Administration will take it into consideration.

There are ten task orders and none have been processed. There is enough funding for the first six. Mr. Gisclair is attempting to speak to the Governor directly to resolve the issue.

LIDAR Update

Mr. David Gisclair (LOSCO) reported that three of seven task orders are outstanding.

NGS Advisor Status

Ms. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) reported all the information NGS had requested to process the agreement was submitted. The hard copy of the agreement has not yet been received for signatures. Chair Blackmon is concerned about whether the Executive Order is going to affect the approval and signing of the agreement.

6. New Business

Office of the Data Base Commission Data Nominations

Mr. Ed Leachman (LDBC) reported the results of a survey soliciting major state entities (about 20) for geo-spatial data nominations for inclusion in the Louisiana database. Agencies nominated datasets considered to be significant and thus should be part of the Louisiana database. Mr. Ed Leachman asked if the Council ought to be involved in the process of candidate datasets that are not part of the framework data but are of high geographic significance; for example, LOSCO datasets. Mr. Ed Leachman will compile a list of datasets that have geo-spatial content and submit it to the Council for review. Chair Blackmon suggested that Mr. Leachman prepare a presentation on datasets of most significance.

Mr. Ed Leachman also indicated the need to consider the development of a data distribution and format concept. Chair Blackmon reiterated that as a prerequisite to advertising the availability of a dataset it is necessary to consider whether the custodians of the data will have the resources to distribute and to maintain the data layer and metadata current.

Planning the July 26, 2000 State/Federal GIS Coordinating Committee and LA GIS Council Meetings

Chair Blackmon informed the council that Mr. Pat O'Neil (USGS) requested acquiring a meeting room or auditorium at DNR. The Chair submitted a request for a hearing room at DNR and is awaiting approval. Chair Blackmon has requested that the announcement for the meeting to be removed from the Council's website until a meeting room is secured.

Official Council Mailing Address

Chair Blackmon proposed to have a permanent mailing address rather than using the address the mailing address of the presiding Chair. All Council mail will now go to the following address:

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
C/O LA Geographic Information Center
E302 Howe-Russell, LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

NSGIC

Ms. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) suggested the Council should have an officially appointed representative for the State of Louisiana.

Also, Ms. Balfour informed the Council that there is a profile of Louisiana on the NSGIC website they may want to review.

LAGIC Scope of Service

Chair Blackmon and Ms. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) will meet to review the LAGIC Scope of Services.

GPS Project

Mr. John Wells (DOTD) asked for a letter of support from the Council for justifying the purchase of a sophisticated GPS system to gather a high-resolution data for the State. Chair Blackmon agreed and will address the issue as a quorum.

7. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2000 (3rd Wednesday of the month) at 1:30 pm in the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 P.M. as a committee of the whole.