

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of June 21, 2000

1. Call to Order

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) 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 as there were only 8 agency/organization representatives present. Chair Blackmon called the meeting to order as a committee of the whole.

2. Roll Call

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism,

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

Department of Economic Development,

Andrew Kuyoro, **Alternate**

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 Transportation and Development

Eric Jeansonne

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Dina Sa

Joshua Kent

Louisiana State University (LSU)

Hampton Peele (LGS)

Office of the Louisiana Database Commission

Ed Leachman

USGS / National Wetlands Research Center

Pat O'Neil

University of Louisiana, Lafayette Regional Applications Center

Brent Yantis

C-K Associates

Perry Lopez

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

Danny Spillmann

City of Shreveport: Regional Geographic Information Center (REGIS)

Ron Norwood, City Engineer

3. Approval of April & May 2000 Minutes

The minutes were submitted and reviewed. No changes were suggested. Action to accept the minutes will be deferred upon quorum of the council.

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) reported on the "Planning for Digital Government" meeting hosted by the Division of Administration. Chair Blackmon stressed the importance of GIS and the actions that the LGISC and LAGIC will have in the future of government in Louisiana.

Chair Blackmon deferred the remainder of the chairman's report for inclusion throughout the council meeting.

5. LAGIC Report

GIS Primer Update

Mr. Joshua Kent (LAGIC) reported that the GIS Primer is undergoing regular additions and updates to the content. LAGIC continues to solicit individuals interested in reviewing the content. As of this date, only one critique had been received.

LGISC Archives Update:

Mr. Kent reported the loss of Graduate Assistant Giovanni Tairov, the library scientist assigned to the Archive project. Mr. Kent reported that the archive is behind schedule but is expected to be completed by the end of September.

As of this meeting, the archive is 70% complete with only a small amount of documents remaining to be cataloged. Mr. Kent reported that he expects a search tool to be developed during by developed by the second quarter of the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

GIS Resource Inventory

Mr. Kent reminded the council that there are only a few days remaining for the

GIS Resource Inventory. As of 6/21/00, only LAGIC, DHH, DED, LPJA, and DNR have submitted information to the inventory. Following the end of the inventory period, a report will be drafted and submitted to the Chair and members of the council. A brief summary of results will also be developed and posted online by September 2000.

LAGIC Director Status

Chair Blackmon reported on a recent meeting between the LAGIC Oversight Committee and officials of the Center for Coastal, Energy, and Environmental Resources (CCEER, LSU) to discuss specific duties, responsibilities, and expectations of the future LAGIC Director. The LGISC Over-site Committee and CCEER agree in principle to offer the position to the current candidate.

Chair Blackmon informed the council that he expects the LAGIC Director position to be filled by mid-August, 2000.

6. Old Business

DOQQ Update

Joshua Kent (LAGIC) reported that the status has not changed. The procurement request for 858 CIR DOQQs is in progress. USGS headquarters has confirmed receipt of the funding request (all Modification #0003 images) and is currently processing the funds transfer to Louisiana.

When asked, Mr. Kent indicated that it is his understanding that all DOQQs should be delivered to the state before the end of 2000.

LIDAR Update

Mr. Kent reported on the current status of the LIDAR initiative. Procurement confirmation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) for Tasks one through four are still in the pipeline. LIDAR will be demonstrated during the American Society of Flood Plain Managers (ASFPM) conference held during June 2000 in Austin, TX.

Digital Data Committee Update

Mr. Joe Holmes (DEQ) provided a brief account of the current initiative of the Digital Data Committee. Mr. Holmes expects to have a July or August meeting of the committee to review the proposed procedure submitted by LAGIC for accepting, evaluating, and “electing” data sets as “blessed.”

During discussion of the process and issues related to the procedure, attention was directed to the issues associated with agency responsibilities. Sharon Balfour (LDOTD) asked if the Council is capable of enforcing responsibilities. Mr. Ed Leachman indicated that the Data Base Commission possesses the ability to promulgate rules if a rule has statewide implications.

The Digital Data Committee will hold further discussion of the proposed

procedure, promulgation of rules, and additional issues when next it convenes.

NGS Advisor

Sharon Balfour (LDOTD) announced that all parties have signed the NGS Advisor agreement for the 1999-2000 period (which expires September 30, 2000). The next contract negotiations may involve the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supporting the majority of the NGS Advisor expenses.

Additionally, Ms. Balfour reported that the National Ocean Service (child agency of NOAA and parent agency of NGS) might pursue the option of placing a permanent representative of the NOS in Louisiana. Mr. Pat O'Neil indicated that it was his understanding that the NOS position would be located in Lafayette. More information will be obtained and reported at the next meeting.

Planning the July 26, 2000 State/Federal GIS Coordinating Committee and LGISC meetings:

Chair Blackmon and Pat O'Neil (USGS) reported on their efforts to develop an agenda and format for the July 26, 2000 joint meetings. The joint meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9am to 12 noon, Wednesday July 26, 2000.

Mr. O'Neil indicated to the Council that the State/Federal GIS Coordinating Committee is especially interested in projects pursued by the State of Louisiana that are of interest to the State/Federal Coordinating Committee. Of particular interest:

- DOQQs
- LIDAR
- State Wide GIS CD-ROM version 2.0
- NOS/NGS Advisor Status
- Introducing the LGISC
- Digital Government initiative (ODBC)
- DRG conversion to NAD 83

A final agenda will be drafted and made available on the LGISC web site and distributed via e-mail to all contacts.

Official Council Mailing Address Vote

Chair Blackmon, upon consensus of the committee of the whole, announced that a vote to adopt the Official Council Mailing Address is un-necessary. The official mailing address will be:

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

DOTD (John Wells) GPS Project

Mr. John Wells (LDOTD) was not present at the meeting. This issue will be discussed at a later date.

Planning for a Digital Government by Mr. Ed Leachman (ODBC)

Mr. Ed Leachman (ODBC) reported on the current initiative directed by the Division of Administration (DOA) to develop a “digital state.”

The Digital Government initiative consists of seven technology-based goals that, when achieved, will provide better services to the citizens of Louisiana.

These seven goals include:

1. world class services to the citizens
2. visionary leadership in government
3. progressive policies for economic development
4. maintain technological advancement
5. provide high-speed internet access to all
6. provide innovative training and education
7. bring technology to the forefront

Mr. Leachman expanded his report to include the details of the first goal indicated in the above list. Performing as a *Catalog of Services*, the [Info Louisiana](#) web site is being redesigned to become a portal to public services and information available in Louisiana.

Of particular interest to the LGISC, geospatial information constitutes a major component of this portal. It will provide geo-data to people who need it. But the information must be useful. For some, downloading GIS coverages is the primary goal. For others, identifying the tax code for his/her home is all that is needed. In order to best provide that information tailored to the individual, the ODBC is requesting assistance from the LGISC to determine the needs and methods for delivering geospatial information to the citizens of Louisiana.

Mr. Leachman requested that the Council assist the ODBC in:

- Identifying the requirements for a geospatial portal
- Identify what the geospatial portal should be (how will it distribute information seamlessly).
- Identify ways to combine resources and organize it in a reasonable and intuitive manner.

Chair Blackmon and Mr. Leachman accepted volunteers for a working group to address these issues at a later meeting. Bo Blackmon, Scott Leachman and Sharon Balfour volunteered to assist.

7. New Business

The Shreveport Regional Geographic Information Systems (REGIS)

introduced by Mr. Ron Norwood, Shreveport City Engineer

Mr. Ron Norwood (REGIS) introduced himself to the Council and provided a brief introduction to the current effort to develop a regional GIS for northwest Louisiana.

Mr. Norwood reported that since 1994, Shreveport lacked the commitment to develop a regional GIS, until now. Current efforts to combine the multiple GIS projects in the region (including public works, E911, Tax Assessors, etc) have resulted in the need for coordination. Shreveport expects to hire a coordinator to manage the development and implementation of the project.

In the mean time, Mr. Norwood requested that the Council send a representative to Shreveport to evaluate the current efforts and provide some suggestions to ensure the successful implementation of the REGIS.

The Council will recommend that the LAGIC Director, upon filling the position, visit Shreveport to help evaluate the REGIS. However, the Council indicated that they would not participate in suggestions regarding vendor specific applications and hardware.

Chair Blackmon also recommended that Mr. Norwood contact Mr. Scott Leachman (LPJA) from Lincoln Parish for more information/advice. Mr. Leachman and Mr. Norwood exchanged contact information. Additionally, it was recommended that Mr. Norwood examine the *GIS Primer* for information that might be valuable in his efforts prior to Shreveport's hiring of a coordinator.

Chair Blackmon also requested that Mr. Norwood maintain contact with the Council and LAGIC.

Mr. Norwood thanked the Council for its time.

Establishing a formal LAGIC Oversight Committee

Chair Blackmon requested the formal establishment of the LAGIC Oversight Committee and introduced the current committee members and duties:

Members:

- LGISC Chair
- Sharon Balfour (LDOTD)
- Bo Blackmon (DNR)
- Glen Daigre (DOA)
- Ed Leachman (ODBC)

Duties:

- Advise CCEER on employment issues.
- Set priorities
- Provide assistance to LAGIC
- Oversee LAGIC Activities

Chair Blackmon opened membership of the Committee to the public.

NSGIC Annual Conference Agenda Available

Sharon Balfour (LDOTD) reported on the availability of the NSGIC Annual Conference Agenda online at <<http://www.nsgic.org/conf/2000annual.html>>. Location, fees, and more information are available online.

A link to the NSGIC Annual Conference web site is available from the LGISC web site.

SPOT Image

Chair Blackmon reported that SPOT Image is providing another opportunity for a statewide purchase of satellite imagery. Those interested may contact Chair Blackmon for more information.

DEQ IRS/TM Project

Joe Holmes (DEQ) reported to the council on the status of the DEQ Indian Remote Sensing / Thematic Mapper satellite image merge project. The image data will include 5-meter resolution, pan-chromatic, 1998 Indian RS satellite data and 1997 TM BOTUS (Best of the US) color satellite data.

DEQ will distribute the information by parish and should be available in the near future.

Chair Blackmon requested the Mr. Holmes provide a regular status report to the Council on this important project.

8. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2000 at 1:30 in the Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting will take place following the Federal/State GIS Coordinating Committee meeting.

9. Adjourn

The committee as a whole adjourned at approximately 3 pm.