

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of November 15, 2000

1. Call to Order

Chair Bo Blackmon (LDNR) 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 declared at 1:35pm as ten agency /organization representatives were present.

2. Roll Call

Attendance was confirmed by Roll Call. Council members indicated their presence to the chair for confirmation.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Economic Development,
Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality,
Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
Dennis Eilers, **Member**

Department of Health & Hospitals
Truman McDaniel, **Alternate**

Department of Natural Resources
Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Transportation and Development
Sharon Balfour, **Member**

Division Of Administration
Marty Beasley, **Alternate**

House of Representatives
Kathleen Randall, **Member**

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

Senate
Glenn Koepp, **Member**

Others Present:

Amite River Basin Commission
Dietmar Rietschier

Capitol Region Planning Commission
Nancy Jensen
Louis Temento

Department of Labor
Martin Levert

Department of Transportation and Development
Mary Kay Henderson, **Alternate**

Valerie Horton
Calvin Owens
John Wells

Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts

David Creed

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson
Josh Kent
Dina Sa

Louisiana State University

Rob Cunningham
Hampton Peele, LGS

New Orleans Regional Planning Commission

Lynn Dupont
James Harvey
Jeff Roessel

Office of the Louisiana Data Base Commission

Ed Leachman
Karen Patterson

PSI Inc.

Chris Klahorst
Mike Rich

SJB Group Inc.

Robert Geissler

USGS – NWRC

Calvin “Pat” O’Neil

3. Approval of October 18, 2000 Minutes

The October 2000 minutes were submitted and reviewed by the council. A motion to approve the October 2000 minutes was made by Ms Sharon Balfour. (DOTD) and seconded by Mr. Denis Eilers (CRT). The October minutes were approved and will be available on the LSGIC website within a week.

4. Chairman’s Report

Chair Bo Blackmon discussed the problem that many state agencies have in finding university students to work in their GIS labs. Chairman Blackmon suggested that LAGIC work with University Geography and Computer Science Departments to produce a list of students that would like to work with state and local agencies. This list would be compiled before the semester begins. More research is needed on issues of compensation and sample contracts.

Chairman Blackmon read a resolution praising the work of Glen Daigre, founding member of the GIS Council and the GIS Task Force before it.

Chairman Blackmon requested Members to provide a List of Accomplishments of the GIS Council and LAGIC to be incorporated into an upcoming presentation to the Louisiana Data Base Commission.

Mr. Blackmon invited all of those present at the meeting to stop by the “GIS Day” booth in the Rotunda. The Booth contained GIS posters, an ongoing PowerPoint demonstration and GIS brochures. Chairman Blackmon asked all Members if they would provide the GIS Council with Posters that show the GIS projects occurring in their respective shops. These posters could be used in future displays at conferences and workshops. He also mentioned that LAGIC is purchasing a booth that will be used at these types of events.

5. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Director Craig Johnson encouraged Council Members and visitors to stop by the “GIS Day” booth. He listed some of the “GIS Day” activities taking place throughout the State. The “GIS Day” Proclamation, signed by Governor Foster, was displayed prominently in the Committee Room.

Mr. Johnson discussed how to register for the Intro. to Metadata Workshop to be held at the LSU CADGIS Lab on December 15th. Registration forms and information are available here as well as on the LAGIC and LSGIC websites. There is no charge for the workshop. Seating is limited to 18 with GIS Council members and alternates having first priority, if they register before December 1st.

Mr. Johnson mentioned that LAGIC has received completed GIS Surveys from 20 of the 64 parishes in the State. LAGIC will follow up by phone and fax to the missing parishes. A letter will be sent to each of the eight State Planning Councils enlisting their assistance as well.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that NASA and NSGIC (National States Geographic Information Council) would hold a meeting in early February in Memphis to discuss how NASA can extend the benefits of its Earth Science Programs to state and local governments. Ms. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) will be attending a NASA/NSGIC steering committee meeting in late November in preparation for the February meeting.

6. Presentation: Metropolitan Planning Organizations - Who They Are and What They Do – by James Harvey, President of the Louisiana Planning Councils

Mr. Harvey started by describing the difference between Planning Council Organizations and Economic Development Organizations, as there is some confusion among the public as to which organizations do what tasks. In general, Planning Councils are mandated by the state to look at transportation, land use and environmental issues on a regional scale. Economic Development

Organizations were created under state law to take an interdisciplinary approach to economic development issues. The two organizations work closely together and in many metropolitan areas they are combined in one institution.

As agencies, with broad authority for comprehensive planning, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) must work cooperatively with all of the parish and municipal governments within their jurisdiction. MPO's are governed by Policy Boards, which are made up of elected officials and community leaders. MPO's often act as data repositories and as a technical resource for smaller or more rural parishes. MPO's are driven to adopt more sophisticated technologies (GIS) and approaches to problems (Environmental Streamlining) simply to keep up with the every increasing demand on their services. Mr. Harvey asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Balfour (DOTD) asked if the MPO's were adhering to Federal Geographic Data Standards? Mr. Harvey responded that they are aware of the standards but need to be more involved in groups like LGISC in order to keep up with State and Federal requirements. Mr. Blackmon (DNR) asked about the background of Agency staffers. Mr. Harvey responded that most of his staff are either transportation engineers or planners, but that the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission (NORPC) is unique in having an economist, geographers and a political scientist. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) asked if any parishes are providing GIS data to the RPC. Mr. Harvey responded that New Orleans and Jefferson are providing a digitized street base but not integrated data sets. He also said that data compatibility issues could be a problem so the RPC has both ESRI and Intergraph software so they can accept data from a variety of sources.

Mr. Harvey asked if the GIS Council would provide a speaker for a panel on Remote Sensing and GIS Issues at the annual Planning Council Conference in February. Mr. Blackmon (DNR) volunteered Mr. Johnson (LAGIC). Mr. Blackmon thanked Mr. Harvey and recommended that he, or one of his staff, attend GIS Councils meetings regularly.

7. Digital Data Committee Report: Joe Holmes, DEQ

Mr. Holmes (DEQ), Chairman of the Digital Data Committee, presented the final draft of the Procedures for the Formal Recognition of Digital Data. Comments received by Mr. Holmes, were incorporated into the final document. Parish boundaries are the first official data set to be approved. Ms Henderson (DOTD) mentioned that the Metadata for this dataset would need to be improved. Chairman Blackmon (DNR) mentioned that our lack of legal assistance was a problem, as LGISC does not currently have a member from the Attorney Generals Office to review data sets.

Chairman Blackmon (DNR) complimented Mr. Holmes (DEQ) on the report and stated that he would like to see several other data sets accepted soon. The Chairman suggested that you contact Mr. Holmes (DEQ) directly if you have a data set that you would like reviewed. The complete Report will be posted on the LGISC Website within a week.

Ms Balfour (DOTD) moved to accept the Report with minor corrections as stated. Chairman Blackmon (DNR) asked for a voice vote and received unanimous approval.

8. Old Business

Oversight Committee

Chairman Blackmon (DNR) described the work of the LAGIC Oversight Committee and it's present list of members. He noted that Glen Daigre (DOA) was leaving the Committee and asked for a volunteer to join the LAGIC Oversight Committee. Scott Leachman (LPJA) agreed to serve.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) invited GIS Council members to attend LAGIC's open house at 3:00 on Wednesday, December 13th in Room 313 of the Howe-Russell Bldg, on the LSU Campus.

Procedures for Appointing New Members

Chairman Blackmon (DNR) noted that according to the current bylaws a vote of 2/3rds of the members is required to appoint a new member. As there are currently 20 members a vote of 12 is require for a 2/3rds vote. Therefore a new procedure is not required. Chairman Blackmon will call each agency member to assure a quorum at the upcoming December Council Meeting.

Chairman Blackmon (DNR) is not inclined to remove members that do not attend but ask their agency to send a more active member. Chairman Blackmon (DNR) asked if the Appointing authority at the Department of Labor was aware of Martin Levert's request to be included on the Council, to which Mr. Levert replied affirmatively. Ms. Randall (House of Reps) asked if the Council could act without a request from the agency? She felt that, for the record, it would be best to have the highest appointing authority in any agency request to be added to the Council before the Council votes to accept them. Chairman Blackmon (DNR) will wait for a letter from the Department of Labor before voting to add them as a member.

Data Sharing Efforts

Chairman Blackmon (DNR) distributed a Data Sharing Questionnaire to all Council members. The form documents what data is being shared and between what agencies. The form will be used as the basis of an inventory of the many data sharing arrangements existing between state agencies and between state and local governments.

9. New Business

RS/GIS Workshop Report

Chairman Blackmon reported on efforts of the RS/GIS Workshop Steering Committee to improve the existing mailing list and the list of vendors. These efforts should result in a larger Workshop that will attract parish and local governments to the conference.

FGDC Steering Committee

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will have a steering committee meeting in December. Ms Balfour (DOTD) will be the Federal Liaison for the GIS Council.

Election of New Officers

Chairman Blackmon (DNR) requested volunteers for an election committee to help select nominees for LGISC Chairman and Vice Chairman. Kathleen Randall (House of Rep.) and Scott Leachman (LPJA) agreed to contact individual members. The current "election procedures" are not officially in the bylaws. The Council needs a recommendation to make the procedures official. The election must occur in January; therefore the election forms will be distributed at the December Meeting.

USGS & MAPPS Conference Report

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) gave a report on a three day November conference in New Orleans sponsored by USGS and MAPPS (Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors) called "Licensing Data, Licensing People". Among the concerns expressed during the conference were; the pros and cons of licensing data products, should their exist an agency or set of standards to certify data sets, and should their be licensing of GIS practitioners. Of particular interest to the Louisiana geospatial community are changes in the Model Law for the licensing of surveyors. Joe Holmes (DEQ), who also attended, described how the Model Law is now being modified to take into consideration how this law would affect GIS professionals. In addition, MAPPS described their recent efforts to include more of the GIS community in their steering committees including URISA, UCGIS and NSGIS. Chairman Blackmon recommended that we monitor these efforts.

DOQQ's

Rob Cunningham (LSU) gave a status report on the DOQQ's. He described a swath running south to north through the center of the northern half of the state. This data will soon be available through the Atlas Website. Farrell Jones will use Mr. Sid to compress these images to put on the raster down loader.

Federal/State GIS Working Group Meeting

Pat O'Neil (USGS) announced that the Federal/State GIS Workgroup would be meeting on February 13th at ULL NASA Regional Application Center. Besides the Federal/State meeting, the full day meeting will feature a series of workshops as well as status reports from many local agencies using GIS technology.

OMB Initiative – I-Teams

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) asked that the LAGIC Oversight Committee to look into the effort required to participate in the Implementation Team (I-Teams) Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure the successful implementation of the FGDC Framework concept at the state and local level.

Official State Maps

Joe Holmes (DEQ) suggested that LAGIC might want to purchase 17 of the newly printed state maps to distribute to the 17 agencies that make up the Louisiana State Geographic Information Council. The maps, which cost approximately \$15 each, would be distributed to the heads of each of the member agencies with a sticker saying that the GIS Council provided them.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled for December 20, 2000, at 1:30pm at the office of the Louisiana Assessor's Association
3060 Valley Creek Dr.
Baton Rouge, 70808

(Across from the former Wilson Inn, behind Hobby Lobby on South College Dr.)
For directions to the Assessor's Association Office: <http://www.state.la.us/lgisc>
Click on "*Next Meeting*".

The LGISC **Christmas Party** will immediately follow the LGISC meeting.
Chairman Blackmon thanked the Assessors Association for hosting the event.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned as a Committee of the Whole at approximately 4pm.