

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of December 20, 2000

1. Call to Order

Chair Bo Blackmon (LDNR) called the meeting to order as a “committee of the whole” at 1:42 P.M. at the Louisiana Assessors’ Association Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was not 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**

Andrew Kuyoro, **Alternate**

Department of Health & Hospitals

Truman McDaniels, **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 Assessors’ Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Others Present:

Department of Transportation and Development

Mark Suarez

Division Of Administration

Glen Daigre, Former Member

Gulf Engineers & Consultants Inc.

Jeri Daniels

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson

Josh Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO)

David Gisclair

Louisiana State University

Hampton Peele, LGS

Rob Cunningham, CCEER

Office of the Louisiana Data Base Commission

Ed Leachman

Karen Paterson

Planning Systems Inc.

Chris Klahorst

USGS

Larry Handley

Calvin "Pat" O'Neil

3. Approval of November 2000 Minutes

The November 2000 minutes were tabled until the January 2001 council meeting for lack of a quorum.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Bo Blackmon recommended that LAGIC post on the LGISC & LAGIC websites a copy of the PowerPoint show that was presented to the Office of the Data Base Commission at their December meeting. Chair Blackmon advised members that if they need justification with their agencies for their participation in LGISC activities that the ODBC Presentation would provide plenty of examples of the importance of their participation in the LGISC.

The Parish Boundary dataset has been approved by the LGISC Data Committee as the first "recognized" dataset for the state. This dataset will be used as the training dataset for further refining the Council's recently approved set of procedures for recognizing digital data sets. Oil and Gas leases is one example of a dataset that the Council would like to see approved if it meets the Data Committee's standards.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) mentioned the Offshore Platform Dataset that was developed by John Chance Inc. as part of the Environmental Baseline Inventory (EBI). This dataset, which is 80% complete, would be very useful to a number of research efforts. Chair Blackmon asked Mr. Gisclair if it was possible for the Oil Spill Coordinators Office to be the Custodian of that dataset so that it could be made available to the public as a "recognized" dataset.

5. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Director Craig Johnson briefly described the conclusions reached at the

LAGIC Oversight Meeting. Updates on ongoing projects and future proposals were discussed. Among the conclusions reached were; the importance of frequent Metadata Training, the need for outreach activities and the value of holding a strategic planning meeting for members in the spring. Methods were discussed for expanding LAGIC's responsibilities and the number of staff.

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) discussed the recent Metadata Workshop held at the LSU CADGIS Lab on December 15th. Every available seat in the Lab was used. The class, which lasted 8 hours, was taught by Lynda Wayne and Josh Kent. A variety of GIS professionals attended including state and local government employees as well as private sector professionals. Chair Blackmon (LDNR) recommended that we make the Metadata Workshop a regular event.

Mr. Johnson noted that 34 parishes completed the Survey of GIS Capability that was faxed to all 64 parishes by the Police Jury Association. The survey will allow the GIS Council to identify those parishes that are currently creating GIS data and those parishes that are considering implementing GIS technology. Follow up letters were sent and follow up calls will be conducted in early January. Chair Blackmon (LDNR) noted that a 100% response from the Parishes will be difficult to achieve. Mattie Coxe (Louisiana Municipal Association) asked when a preliminary report will be available. Mr. Johnson replied that results should be tabulated by mid-January. Rich Bailey (Louisiana Assessors' Association) suggested that assessors be included in the next survey because in many parishes they are the only governmental agency with a functioning GIS.

Public outreach activities were discussed at the LAGIC Oversight Meeting. Approval was extended to give presentations at both the Assessors' Association and the Police Jury Association Annual Conferences.

6. Presentation: Changing Technology and the Louisiana Assessor – by Sherel Martin, Assessor St. Mary Parish and Rich Bailey, Assessor Quachita Parish

Mr. Martin discussed the evolution of GIS Technology in St Mary Parish from its start in 1990. Water, sewerage and electrical utility (Morgan City) layers were the first to be included. The first aerial mapping efforts used seven reference ground control monuments, their recent flyover included 84 ground control points. Photography is produced at a scale of 1" = 100' in urban areas and 1" = 400' in rural areas.

The parish just started a CAMA system (from Microsolve), Computer Aided Mass Appraisal for updating tax roll information in an automated fashion. ArcView will provide the map querying capability for staff members and eventually the public. By agreement, with the parish and the municipalities, the assessor is responsible for all parish mapping. All updating is done by Parish Assessor staff. The state

is now requiring that the tax rolls be provided to them in digital form. Mr. Martin then described the functions of the Louisiana Assessors' Association.

Mr. Bailey (LAA), head of the Assessors' Association Education Committee, described some of the mapping and other classes available to assessors. IAAO, the national organization, sponsors many of these classes that provide Continuing Education Credits (CEU's). Mr. Bailey volunteered to distribute GIS information from LGISC to local assessors. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) volunteered to post assessor mapping classes on the LAGIC and LGISC websites.

7. Old Business:

RS/GIS Workshop Update:

Chair Blackmon discussed the RS/GIS Workshop which will take place on April 2-4, 2001, at Pennington. The Workshop will expand to include more local government applications and attract a greater number and variety of vendors. Presentations will be added to the website as they come in.

NASA Southeast Regional Workshop Update: Sharon Balfour (LDOTD) discussed the steering committee meeting she attended in Memphis to organize the February 5th meeting of representatives from the Southeastern states. The meeting will focus on problems faced by state and local governments and how NASA RS/GIS products and services might assist. Six individuals representing state and local government will be attending from Louisiana. There will also be a discussion at the end of the meeting about the Broad Area Announcement.

Federal/State GIS Working Group: Pat O'Neil, with USGS in Lafayette, described a meeting to be held in Lafayette on February 13th. The meeting will be held at ULL NASA Regional Application Center, across the street from the Wetlands Center.

Status Report on State CIO and IT Changes at ODBC

Ed Leachman (ODBC) reported that Don Hutchinson is still the acting State CIO until a new candidate is appointed. Mr. Leachman pointed out that the duties and responsibilities of the GIS Council will remain the same but that the reporting structure may change. LA Connections proposes that all authority reside in the CIO's Office and that the Data Base Commission, and possibly the GIS Council, would act as an advisory group to the CIO. The CIO will report directly to the Commissioner of Administration.

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) stated that all of the procurement processes have been completed. In Phase 2 Mr. Sid files of DOQQ's will be available to Assessors' Association and Police Jury Association. Data is currently in Geotiff uncompressed format. The whole state will soon be available in State Plane Coordinates (in feet) due to the demand by engineering companies and others. The DOQQ Project should be completed by April or May.

The RMSE (root mean square of error) showed a high rate of accuracy for the LIDAR data. A higher cost and greater amount of time was required to remove the “noise” caused by objects on the ground. Rob Cunningham (LSU) noted that the contractor has asked for some relief on the specs from FEMA because of the increased time and cost involved. Mr Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that this data will be very valuable for ongoing fresh water diversion projects.

Setting Calendar of LGISC Meetings for 2001

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) proposed the following dates for GIS Council meetings:

- Wednesday, January 17, 2001
- Wednesday, February 21, 2001
- Wednesday, March 14, 2001

8. New Business:

Election of Officers

Kathleen Randall (House) described the procedure for nominating Chairman and Vice Chairman and recommended that we distribute nomination forms to all of the members and alternates attending the meeting. Chairman Blackmon noted that it has been difficult in the past to get members to return their nomination forms.

Appointment of New Members and Alternates

Chair Bo Blackmon (LDNR) mentioned that he spoke with Martin Levert (Department of Labor) who hasn't yet received permission from the authorities their to become a member.

LGISC Strategic Planning Session

Chair Blackmon (LDNR) asked for volunteers to help plan the logistics for this annual meeting. He would like to have a clear list of issues on the agenda. He gave as an example; “How do we encourage state agencies to submit their data sets for review by the Council”? “Where do we stand with each of the Framework Layers and what steps are needed to complete them”?. It was agreed that March or April would be an ideal time to have a one-day meeting.

GIS and Redistricting Workshop – LAURISA

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that LAURISA has scheduled a Redistricting Workshop for the spring. The workshop will be held at Pennington. More details regarding the speakers will be available at the next Council Meeting

E-Mail Signatures

Mattie Coxe noted that Congress has legitimized the use of digital signatures for documents and business applications. Ed Leachman (ODBC) noted that there is a team currently working on a state law that would provide the same protection.

Membership Changes

Truman McDaniels (LDHH) mentioned that there is a letter coming from Bobby Savioe that will appoint him the member from DHH and that Mark Wilson, in the Safe Drinking Water Program, will be the alternate. Mr Johnson (LAGIC) noted that Mattie Coxe is now officially the member from the Louisiana Municipal Association and that Joel Harrell is the alternate.

Council Recognition

Glen Daigre, former member and officer, was recognized by an official resolution of the GIS Council recognizing his efforts to create the GIS Council and his efforts to promote GIS technology in the State. Mr. Daigre was presented with a framed copy of the resolution

9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

The next meeting date was scheduled for January 17, 2001, at 1:30pm at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, fourth floor conference room.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned as a Committee of the Whole at approximately 3:30pm.