Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of February 21, 2001

1. Call to Order
Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:42 P.M. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife & Fisheries Building Baton Rouge, Louisiana.   A quorum was declared at 1:45pm as ten agencies /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**
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> **Department of Environmental Quality,**
>> Joe Holmes, **Member**
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> **Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism**
>> Dennis Eilers**, Member**
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> **Department of Natural Resources**
>> Bo Blackmon, **Member**
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> **Department of Transportation & Development**
>> Sharon Balfour, **Member**
>
> **Division of Administration**
>> Martin Beasley**, Alternate**
>
> **House of Representatives**
>> Kathleen Randall, **Member**
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> **Louisiana Municipal Association**
>> Mattie Coxe, **Member**
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> **Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness**
>> Jim Wilks, **Alternate**
>
> **Louisiana Police Jury Association**
>> Scott Leachman, **Member**

Others Present:

> **CF Fenstermaker Inc.**
>> Cynthia Feirman
>
> **Department of Economic Development**
>> Andrew Kuyuro, **Alternate**
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> **Department of Environmental Quality**
>> Paul Zundel
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> **Department of Transportation and Development**
>> Eric Jeansonne
>> John Wells

Division of Administration
Ed Leachman, ODBC
Larry Lott, OIS
Environmental Systems Research Institute
Traci C. Tracey
Gulf Engineers and Consultants (GEC)
Jerri Daniels
James Larry
August Rowland
Adam Werth
Iberville Parish Assessor
Don Hart
Todd Guerin
Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)
Craig Johnson
Josh Kent
Dina Sa
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office
David Gisclair
Louisiana State University
DeWitt Braud, Geography
Roy Dokka, Geology
Cliff Mugnier, Civil Engineering
Hampton Peele, LGS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Tim Osborn
National Geodetic Survey
Bob Zurfluh
Planning Systems Inc.
Chris Klahorst
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Brent Yantis, RAC
University of New Orleans
Aimee Preau
US Army Corps of Engineers
David McDaniel
Jay Ratcliffe
US Geological Survey
Pat O'Neil

3. Comments from Louisiana's new Chief Information Officer, James Dubos

The CIO will establish an Office of Information Technology as an entity within the Division of Administration answering directly to the Commissioner of Administration. Several sections will be established under OIT including E-Services, which will be managed by Ed Leachman. Mr. Leachman will remain as the Liaison between the Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council and the Division of Administration. The Council should direct its questions through Mr. Leachman.

OIT is directed to establish "Enterprise Policies and Standards" for the executive branch of state government. Standards include desktop computers, networks, telecommunications, application development, security, hardware, software, etc.

Executive Branch Department IT directors will still have to work within their strategic plans, but will be expected to conform to the standards set by OIT. IT directors will still maintain control of their department's purchasing, etc. Present computer systems and applications will not be affected by this immediately, but as new systems/applications come on line they will be expected to follow the standards set by OIT. Funding will continue to come through standard department funding for conforming to OIT standards.

The CIO would like advice from the LGISC on the special needs of the GIS user community, as he has no previous experience with this technology. Then Mr. Dubos fielded questions from the meeting attendees.

These were the questions that were asked of the CIO by the Council and Others:

Question:	Bo Blackmon (DNR) How do you define standards?
CIO Answer:	There have been no efforts in the past to consolidate budgets; we would like to make sure that money is spent in the right way.
Question:	Bo Blackmon (DNR) We would like for you to participate in our GIS Council Strategic Planning Session.
CIO Answer:	Ed Leachman will be the liaison, anything you tell him will Reach me.
Question:	Bo Blackmon (DNR) As far as standards, will you go down to the systems level? Hardware/software?

CIO Answer: I will look at the recommendations of the Council on these Issues

Question: Kathleen Randall (House)
                How will you interface with higher education?

CIO Answer: I haven't spent enough time looking at this issue. There are no policies developed as yet.

Question: Mattie Coxe (LMA)
                How will you extend standards into local government?

CIO Answer: The policies and standards will be public, if local governments adopt these standards they will be able to interface more easily. There will be no local government standards set by OIT.

Question: Sharon Balfour (DOTD)
                As far as the legislative package, if the GIS Council comes up with suggestions for legislation...

CIO Answer: We would need these quickly. Now, we will just be dealing with the governance piece. We will be able to define rules within the governance piece after.

Question: Sharon Balfour (DOTD)
                The GIS Council has historically not recommended one vendor over another.

CIO Answer: The IT Directors within each Department will make these Decisions. Budgeting for these purchases will be done as a group. This will not affect Program monies not earmarked as IT.

Question: Roy Dokka (LSU)
                The GIS community has special needs faster processors, large data storage...

CIO Answer: We are asking you (the GIS Council) to tell us what you need.

Question: Sharon Balfour (DOTD)
                How will the legislation affect existing reporting structures?

CIO Answer:	Very little will change, the Executive level will work with the Boards and Commissions.
Question:	David Gisclair (LOSCO) No one (GIS) tool will do all tasks. How will these standards affect us?
CIO Answer:	We don't want 15 different data types...
Comment:	David Gisclair (LOSCO) Our concern is data interchange not platforms.
Question:	Mattie Coxe (LMA) On a local level we use different tools, often-mandated software doesn't meet our needs
CIO Answer:	I have been tasked with establishing platforms and standards for the state...
Question:	Bo Blackmon (DNR) Will we go through you on procurement issues?
CIO Answer:	Procurement will go through the IT Directors.

Chair Balfour thanked the CIO for coming to speak to us and answering our questions.

4. Approval of the January 2001 Minutes

The January 2001 minutes were submitted and reviewed by the council. A motion to approve the January 2001 minutes was made by Mr. Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Mattie Coxe (LMA). The January minutes were approved and will be available on the LSGIC website within a week.

5. Chairs Report

Chairperson Balfour (DOTD) introduced herself and Joe Holmes (DEQ) her new Vice Chair.

Ms Balfour allowed Roy Dokka (LSU) to make a statement regarding the proposed Geodetic Center. Mr. Dokka said the center would be established within a month. The Center has received some early funding to accelerate coastal charting in Louisiana. Mr. Dokka said there would be an announcement about the center at the May ASPRS Conference. Mr. Dokka distributed some

literature about the proposed Louisiana Topo-Bathy Demonstration Project.

6. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Director Craig Johnson discussed the Parish GIS Survey results and showed a map that showed the parishes that participated in the survey and the general state of GIS development in Louisiana among Parish governments.

Josh Kent (LAGIC) described his recently completed upgrade of the List server, and described a number of the problems that had to be overcome to have the service run correctly without compromising security.

Dina Sa (LAGIC) described the recent completion of a grant proposal to MMS that she developed.   Craig Johnson (LAGIC) briefly described two other grants that LAGIC was pursuing; a FGDC Cap Grant and a Web Mapping Proposal being reviewed by the Corps of Engineers.

LAGIC Director Craig Johnson discussed recently completed outreach projects including the Louisiana Assessors' Conference, the Louisiana Police Jury Association Conference and the Conference of Planning Councils. LAGIC will be setting up a booth at the RS/GIS Workshop and will be presenting a paper at the session on Local Government and GIS Applications.

7. Presentation: Tim Osborn, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Osborn described the creation of the Louisiana Geodetic Center, one of three Centers in the country, the others being in North Carolina and California. NOAA will be operating under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 10 universities to identify the geodetic control needs in South Louisiana. And elsewhere. For example, one of their first contacts was with Harris County in Texas. Harris County wanted to monitor subsidence with centimeter accuracy. Mr. Osborn will be meeting with the Louisiana Surveyor community at their May 16th conference.

8. Old Business

Appointment of New Members
Richard Poche of the Louisiana Planning and Development Council recently sent the GIS Council a letter requesting membership in the Council. The Council will review its bylaws to determine what steps would be necessary to include a non-state agency.

Formalizing Election Procedures

Kathleen Randall (House) passed out a handout with proposed changes in Council election procedures. Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked for clarification on the number of members that are needed to vote on a bylaw change. It was decided that we would discuss these issues in more depth at the March Strategic Planning Session, which will occur on March 21st at the Wildlife and Fisheries Bldg. 1st Floor Conference Room.

RS/GIS Workshop Update

Bo Blackmon (DNR) described the latest RS/GIS Workshop preparations. He suggested that members look at the Workshop website rac.louisiana.edu to find paper titles and view the array of sessions, social events and professional meetings. DeWitt Braud recommended that all members that would be able to post a RS/GIS flyer in their shop or lab do so. He has extra posters for anyone who will put them up where others can see them.

NASA SE Regional Workshop

Scott Leachman (LPJA) brought members up to date on the SE Regional Workshop in Memphis that was sponsored by NASA and attended by the following members of the Louisiana GIS community: Sharon Balfour (DOTD), Lynn Dupont (NORPC), Scott Leachman (LPJA), Craig Johnson (LAGIC) and Windell Curole (S. Lafourche Levee District). The three-day workshop was designed to allow NASA a better understanding of the data needs of state and local governments.

Federal/State GIS Working Group

Pat O'Neil (USGS) described the Federal/State GIS Working Group meeting that was held in Lafayette on February 13th. The purpose of the meeting, which occurs three or four times a year, is to develop coordination between Federal agencies and state and local governments. This meeting included a tour of the Remote Sensing Applications Center in Abadalla Hall. A workshop on the new USGS Earth Explorer software was held that afternoon.

Database Commission Update

Ed Leachman (ODBC) described the proposed Governance legislation for creating the Office of Information Technology. He assured the Council that the legislation will not change the structure of the Council or its relationship to LAGIC, but it will change to whom the Council reports to.

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the status of the Digital Ortho Quarter Quad and the LIDAR efforts. The 1998 DOQQ's for the central area of N. Louisiana are complete and have been made into Mr. Sid files. Tasks 5,6 & 7 have not been procured because the Corps has concerns about funding.

9 New Business

Workforce Development Workshop
Joe Holmes (DEQ) Vice Chair described a conference he attended in New Orleans looking at the issues of standardizing the GIS curriculum among universities. Creation of a Geospatial Information Technologies specialty may be helpful in giving students a clearly defined career path in this field.

Zsolt Nagy's Request – Telecommunications Inventory
Zsolt Nagy, with the State of North Carolina requested any information the State of Louisiana had regarding the placement of telecommunications facilities in the state. The request was forwarded to the Telecommunications OIT Focus Group leader at the Division of Administration.

USGS Funding Concerns
Chair Balfour mentioned a recent article in the February 16th edition of the Wall Street Journal, which mentioned the possibility of a 22% cut in funding for USGS.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st 2001, at 8:30am at the 1st Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building.

11. Adjourn

Their was a motion to adjourn by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Mattie Coxe (LMA). The meeting adjourned as a Committee of the Whole at approximately 4:15pm.