

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of April 18, 2001

1. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M. in meeting room 2 at the Louisiana Municipal Association building located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was declared at 1:45 p.m., as eleven agency and 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 Agriculture & Forestry

Brad Spicer, **Member**

Department of Economic Development,

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality,

Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Health and Hospitals

Truman McDaniel, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Transportation & Development

Sharon Balfour, **Member**

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Jim Patton, **Member**

Division of Administration

Martin Beasley, **Alternate**

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Office of Emergency Preparedness

Terry Thompson, **Alternate**

Others Present:

City of Shreveport

Mike Hogan

Department of Economic Development

Andrew Kuyuro, **Alternate**

Department of Transportation and Development

John Wells

Division of Administration

Ed Leachman, ODBC

GCR and Associates

Andre Dehaan

Intergraph Corporation

Scott Bridges

Susan Nolen

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Josh Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana Municipal Association

Tom Ed McHugh, Director

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office

David Gisclair

Louisiana Public Broadcasting, LA Education Television Authority

Larry L. Ward

Louisiana State University

Farrell Jones, CADGIS

Rob Cunningham, CCEER

LA Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)

Bill Wiesepape, President

National Geodetic Survey

Bob Zurfluh

P.E.C.

Paul Tristani

PSI, Inc.

Chris Klahorst

Louisiana Senate

Kari Belvin

Tulane University

Dave Davis

3. Approval of March 2001 Minutes

The February 2001 minutes were submitted and reviewed by the council. Mr. Bo Blackmon (DNR) submitted a correction. A motion to approve the amended March 2001 minutes was made by Mr. Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Mr. Brad Spicer (LDAF). The March minutes were approved and will be available on the LGISC website within a week.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Balfour (DOTD) described the Implementation Plan Responses developed during the Strategic Planning Session in March 2001. Chair Balfour informed the

Council that the responses were submitted to the Chief Information Officer (CIO), Mr. DuBos, in March. Chair Balfour extended an invitation to Mr. DuBos to attend this Council meeting, which he declined due to a Senate committee hearing scheduled earlier in the day.

Chair Balfour asked if anyone present had attended the Senate hearing. Mr. Scott Bridges (Intergraph) and Mr. David Gisclair (LOSCO) offered their account of the hearing at Chair Balfour's request. According to Mr. Bridges and Mr. Gisclair, the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee passed Senate Bill 455, "ELECTRONICS", enabling the CIO and the Office of Information Technology (OIT). An amendment to establish a start date of July 1, 2001, was confirmed. Mr. Gisclair indicated that a second amendment might have been passed to extend the OIT implementation time line from one to three years. This information had not been confirmed. Mr. Gisclair also indicated that there were concerns among the senators about the cost of services rendered by the CIO and how these costs affect state agencies. Additionally, there were discussions about changing current Bid-Laws. Finally, Mr. Gisclair indicated that the CIO would investigate ways to retain Information Technology (IT) professionals in state government. No information regarding an amendment to include Planning Districts with the LGISC was available.

5. LAGIC Report

Joshua Kent (LAGIC) announced that LAGIC Director Johnson was currently in Nashville, Tennessee, attending a Metadata "Train the Trainer" session and NSGIC Mid-Year Conference.

Mr. Kent informed the council of current outreach efforts and projects in which LAGIC is participating. Ms. Dina Sa (LAGIC) updated the Council on the Gulf Wide Information System (GWIS) / Minerals Management Service (MMS) project currently wrapping up. Additionally Ms. Sa updated the Council on grant opportunities currently being investigated.

Mr. Kent informed the Council on LAGIC's participation with the LOSCO Environmental Baseline Inventory (EBI) version 2. The EBI contract participants include Mr. DeWitt Braud (LSU, G&A), Mr. Hampton Peele (LSU, LGS), Mr. Farrell Jones (LSU, CADGIS), and Mr. Rob Cunningham (LSU, CCEER).

Additionally, LAGIC is participating in a Contract opportunity with Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Peele for an enterprise web mapping application at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE), New Orleans District.

Mr. Johnson will be attending a National Science Foundation Grant Seminar on April 25 – 26, 2001, sponsored by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

6. Presentation by Mr. Tom Ed McHugh, Executive Director of the LA Municipal Association (LMA)

Chair Balfour gratefully thanked the LA Municipal Association (LMA) for their hospitality and introduced Mr. Tom Ed McHugh to the Council. Mr. McHugh introduced himself and the services offered by the LMA. Mr. McHugh specifically discussed the LMA as an organization that provides a vast number of services to its 303 municipal government members. LMA is known for its advocacy of municipal government issues. Some additional services offered by the LMA include municipal insurance, natural gas purchasing co-op, lobbying efforts, bond issues, technology training, and more. One of the specific services LMA has to offer municipalities is *LAMATS*, a program that offers technology to the local governments. Aspects of *LAMATS* include e-government and tax collection capabilities. *LAMATS* provides local governments increased ability to provide services to citizens while maximizing revenue opportunities.

7. Old Business

Legislation for the Appointment of New Members

Discussed earlier (Chair's Report). A copy of Senate Bill 455 was made available.

RS/GIS Workshop Report

Bo Blackmon (DNR) began by introducing Mr. David Davis, visiting professor from Tulane University in New Orleans. Mr. Davis is perusing information regarding the status of geospatial technology in local and state government. Mr. Davis will present his findings to NASA so that more services can be applied to local governments.

Mr. Blackmon reported to the Council that the Remote Sensing / Geographic Information Systems Workshop was a success. The quality of papers presented at the workshop was extraordinary. Nearly 200 people attended the workshop with many new attendees. The RS/GIS Workshop group is currently evaluating methods for attracting new vendors to next year's workshop. Additionally, the group is evaluating new meeting places for the 2002 workshop. New Orleans is currently on the list of possible locations, as is Pennington Conference Center, and the LSU Conference Center in Baton Rouge. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-April 2002.

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

Mr. David Gisclair (LOSCO) updated the Council on the status of the DOQQ and LIDAR projects. Mr. Gisclair presented handouts detailing the current status and expected completion date for the DOQQ images for Phase 2 (northern Louisiana). According to the contractor, there was a 12-pixel scanning error of the DOQQ photographs for the western edge of the state. This error, which was

only recently identified, will delay the final completion date to end of July 2001.

Mr. Gisclair also provided handouts for the status of the LIDAR project. The contractor has informed all parties involved that the cost of completion was greater than anticipated. As such, the contractor cannot continue without additional funding. Mr. Gisclair reiterated the need for the data and the importance of completing the current tasks. The contractor indicated that the cost-related problems are associated with the stringent standards imposed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Negotiations will take place between all parties in order to sufficiently complete the proposed tasks.

IRS-TM Image Update

Mr. Joe Holmes (LDEQ) reported that the Indian Remote Sensing – Landsat Thematic Mapper satellite data image merge is complete. Mr. Holmes announced that Ms. Sa and Mr. Kent of LAGIC have been tasked to assist LDEQ with the metadata production. Once completed, the image data will be available for distribution by parish.

Mr. Holmes addressed concerns regarding the extreme color variations in the merged imagery. The different colors are a result of the differences in seasonality attributed to the “Best of the U.S. (BOTUS)” dataset used for the merge. Additionally, the color / band combination is 4:5:3, which differs from the familiar 7:5:3 LOSCO satellite image of Louisiana.

7. New Business

CIO’s Implementation Plan:

Mr. Ed Leachman (ODBC) acknowledged that the CIO has received the recommendations submitted by the Council. In addressing the questions regarding the CIO’s response, Mr. Leachman reported that the CIO has yet to responded to any of the focus groups. Mr. Leachman continued by saying that the GIS Council response would take some time.

Mr. Leachman stated that he will recommend to the CIO that agency specific GIS production specifications and standards be kept separate from the IT standards the CIO will implement. Mr. Leachman assured the Council and agencies that GIS functions currently in use would not be replaced. Mr. Leachman continued by stating that all future upgrades are established on a “project-specific” basis. The standards pursued by the CIO are for agencies establishing a GIS for the first time. However, GIS standards for the PC Desktop category will need to comply with the IT standards established by the OIT.

Mr. Leachman explained that the IT standards imposed on the Desktop standards will ensure that the desktop will remain flexible enough to upgrade to an environment that will support *GIS Viewer* category applications (See Council Resolution LGISC-RC-20010321-06).

According to Mr. Leachman, this concept will benefit the E-Services standards for desktop GIS and similar map serving applications. A single vendor product will be chosen for the state web portal only, not for an agency at this time.

Mr. Leachman also reported that the CIO is expecting the Council to move forward on establishing GIS standards and procedures for providing data for the state and implementing GIS in all agencies.

Mr. Leachman confirmed that he would supply a summary to the CIO regarding the Council's IT recommendations. The summary will instruct the CIO on how to proceed with GIS needs in the state.

Mr. Scott Bridges (Intergraph) reiterated his company's concerns regarding single-vendor GIS specifications for the Desktop PC category. Mr. Bridges asked if selection of a single vendor qualifies as the State's endorsement of a single vendor. Mr. Leachman addressed these issues by stating that the Council made recommendations for multiple products. He continued, saying that if the CIO requires a single product then he would be responsible for that selection. Mr. Leachman stated that the product selection would require consideration based on function, cost, support, and training. Additionally, an evaluation of what other agencies are using and require is needed. Mr. Leachman stated that the decision had not been made at this time.

Mr. Leachman concluded by saying that his report to the CIO will be given to the Council for its review prior to its submission to the CIO.

Resolution to honor the service of Mr. Scott Leachman, former LPJA member

A motion to approve an amended resolution (LGISC-RC-20010418-00) to honor Mr. Leachman for his distinguished service was made by Mr. Bo Blackmon (LDNR) and seconded by Ms. Mattie Coxe (LMA). The resolution was accepted and will be presented to Mr. Leachman during the May meeting.

Membership Update

Chair Balfour reported that she has drafted a letter to be distributed to the Attorney General's office, Division of Administration, and Police Jury Association requesting that the agencies appoint a Council member. Sherel Martin (LAA) inquired if the Sheriff's Association had contacted Chair Balfour about membership and / or participation with the LGISC. Chair Balfour has not been contacted by the Sheriff's Association. Mr. Martin indicated that the association remains interested and will make an effort to attend a Council meeting soon.

SPOT Partnership with Louisiana

Mr. Bo Blackmon (LDNR) announced that he received information from SPOT Image Corporation regarding a partnership with Louisiana. This partnership

would make SPOT image data available universally throughout the state. Mr. Blackmon will provide the information to Chair Balfour.

NASA Broad Area Announcement (BAA):

Chair Balfour and Mr. David Gisclair informed the Council on the current NASA BAA funding opportunities. Chair Balfour announced that LA DOTD intends to pursue funding for Hurricane evacuation and stream gauges. Mr. Gisclair stated that LOSCO intends to pursue funding for the more costly elements of environmental sensitivity mapping. Hurricane evacuation routing techniques concluded the discussion

Geospatial Warehouse

Mr. Ed Leachman (ODBC) announced that the CIO has asked for a proposal that will build a geospatial warehouse of basic framework layers and add to it some additional data that will allow any agency to look at their data spatially. The framework layers will have to be “best-available” or “recognized.” The proposal will also extend to assist state agencies. Personnel will work with an agency in configuring/transforming their datasets into a format that will support geospatial hooks.

Chair Balfour indicated that the metadata development requirement has been a major obstacle in the Council’s recognition of datasets. Mr. Leachman indicated that this framework is only for displaying information, not legal uses. He reiterated the importance of having data, even if it were only “best available.”

Mr. Farrell Jones (LSU, CADGIS) and Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) informed the council that this concept is currently being implemented for LOSCO. Mr. Gisclair stated that the LOSCO EB-2 development plan incorporates many of the concepts of the geospatial warehouse.

Mr. Terry Thompson (OEP) asked Mr. Leachman if the CIO had any intention of establishing a statewide GIS office. Mr. Leachman responded that the LGISC along with LAGIC serves as the center for GIS policy and resources in Louisiana.

Chair Balfour asked if the LAGIC contract, currently funded by the Division of Administration, ODBC, could be amended to add more funding. Mr. Leachman indicated that this was possible and will investigate.

Mr. Leachman continued to address the necessity of the framework layers and its importance to the state. Chair Balfour asked Mr. Joe Holmes (LDEQ) how the hydrography framework layer was proceeding at LDEQ. Mr. Holmes indicated that development was limited to data availability. Discussion expanded to include the importance of the LIDAR dataset on an accurate hydrography dataset.

Discussion continued to include the detail associated with the 2000 TIGER

Census data. Mr. Gisclair stated that the Census Bureau intends to use DOQQs as the foundation for the 2010 TIGER files. Many of the members reiterated the need for higher resolution TIGER and its importance for Emergency 911 (E911). Chair Balfour announced that a sub-committee should meet to establish a list of data development priorities.

Mr. Thompson stated that there exists a need for an E911 system that can be used by many rural parishes. Mr. Rob Cunningham (LSU, CCEER) indicated that the current DOQQ images could be used to assist these rural parishes for E911 development. Mr. Bill Wiesepape (LAURISA) informed the Council that URISA plans an addressing seminar in August 2001. Mr. Wiesepape offered to supply E911 information and resources to LAGIC.

Mr. Holmes asked if it were possible to build an E911 file for a rural parish using DOQQs. Mr. Thompson indicated that this would be beneficial. Mr. Holmes stated that this could also be used as justification for the Legislature to fund a DOQQ update. Mr. Gisclair suggested that an Innovative Technology Grant could be used to fund LAGIC to test the concept. Ms. Coxe volunteered her assistance.

8. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th2001. The Council asked LAGIC to schedule the meeting for the Louisiana Municipal Association conference room 2.

11. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn by Mr. Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Ms. Mattie Coxe (LMA). The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30pm.