

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of June 21, 2001

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:50 P.M. as a Committee of the Whole at the Louisiana Municipal Association Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as a quorum was not present.

### **2. Roll Call**

Attendance was confirmed by the sign in sheet. (A quorum was achieved during the meeting when Mattie Coxe, (LMA) arrived.)

#### **Member Agencies/Organizations Present:**

**Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism**

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

**Department of Economic Development,**

Gene Stephens, **Member**

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Joe Holmes, **Member**

**Department of Health & Hospitals**

Truman McDaniel, **Member**

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Sharon Balfour, **Member**

**Division Of Administration**

Marty Beasley, **Member**

**House of Representatives**

Kathleen Randall, **Member**

**Louisiana Assessors Association**

Sheryl Martin, **Member**

**Louisiana Municipal Association**

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

#### **Others Present:**

**Louisiana Police Jury Association**

Rob Cox, Nominated as a member

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Andrew Venuto

**Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.**

Jerri Daniels

**GCR and Associates**

Andre Dehaan

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Craig Johnson

Dina Sa

**Louisiana State University**

Rob Cunningham, CCEER

Hongwei Zhao

**Office of the Louisiana Data Base Commission**

Ed Leachman

**Shreveport, City of**

Mike Hogan

**University of New Orleans**

Aimee Preau

**US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District**

Ralph Scheid

**USGS**

Calvin "Pat" O'Neil

### **3. Approval of May 2001 Minutes**

The May 2001 minutes were deferred until a quorum was present. They were approved as amended on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Kathleen Randall (House).

### **4. Chair's Report**

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) noted that Senate Bill #455 (authorizing the Office of Information Technology) passed the House and was sent to the Governor for signature.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted the recent resignation of the state CIO. A search will begin for a replacement. She mentioned that she had placed copies of an article, about the CIO, at the table in the back of the room. Ed Leachman (ODBC) stated that his department intends to carry on with the completion of all ongoing projects, especially the new state geo-spatial portal.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) stated the need to send letters to various state agencies asking them to submit the names of potential members and alternates for the council. We should send a letter to the Louisiana Planning Council to find out what names they have submitted to the Governor.

**Chair Balfour (DOTD) mentioned that she and Joe Holmes had visited Glen Daigre (DOA), former Council member, in the hospital who had heart surgery. She noted that he was doing well.** Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that the GIS Manager position at DOTD would be re-advertised because the time period had lapsed between the job announcement posting and the hire date.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) received an invitation from ESRI to attend a GIS Leadership conference being held in conjunction with the ESRI Users Conference in San Diego. She will not be able to attend. She had requested that all such side meeting invitations be sent to Joe Holmes as he will be attending the ESRI meeting.

Chair Balfour received a copy of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Initiative discussed at a recent conference in Cartagena, Columbia. A Spatial Data Infrastructure Cookbook was produced. It can be found on the web at [www.gsdi.org](http://www.gsdi.org).

Chair Balfour noted that the FY 2002 budget for USGS has not been slashed as previously predicted.

## **5. LAGIC Report**

LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson reported on the aims of the Geo-Data Alliance. Chair Balfour opened the discussion to the group where a variety of items were discussed. Dina Sa (LAGIC) stated that she felt that we should be careful about the costs associated with membership. Joe Holmes asked what the goals of the organization were and how they differ from other organizations. Mr. Johnson recommended to the GIS Council that LAGIC become an affiliate member of the Alliance (\$50 per year). Joe Holmes (DEQ) moved that a vote be taken and Mattie Cox seconded it. The vote was favorable for joining the Alliance as an affiliate member.

Director Johnson then reported on the Mississippi Valley GIS Partnership. The organization, which is collecting digital data from the states bordering the Mississippi Valley, has requested that the Louisiana GIS Council become a member. Unfortunately, their meetings have been held in Memphis and Vicksburg and no funds are currently available for travel. Larry Handley, USGS, is the only Louisiana resident attending the meetings on a regular basis. The discussion centered on the cost of travel and the lack of assistance for these expenses. No action was taken.

As requested by the Council, Mr. Johnson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the I-Team Initiative being proposed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). At the conclusion of the presentation, the Council decided to invite Ron Metzner (OMB) to make a presentation to the Council at the July or August Council meeting.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that the annual National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) conference would take place in St. Louis from September 7-11, 2001. He also noted that LAGIC would be conducting a Metadata Workshop in New Orleans in October (10/11/2001) at the University of New Orleans.

## **6. Presentation: The National Map by Calvin “Pat” O’Neil, National Wetlands Research Center, USGS**

Mr. Calvin O’Neil, USGS, described in his presentation the National Map Project being proposed by USGS. The National Map is a plan for providing current, seamless national digital data coverage by the Year 2010. The National Map will include:

- high resolution digital ortho-rectified imagery
- high resolution surface elevation data
- vector data for topography, transportation, structures and boundaries of government units and publicly owned lands
- geographic names
- land characterization data classifying land cover types

The goal of the project is to provide data nearly real time (within seven days) over the internet. The goal is to be able to combine data from the National Map with other data sources including federal, state, local and private industry. USGS will seek partnerships and business arrangements to develop and operate the National Map. Mr. O’Neil (USGS) said that it might not happen immediately, but that the goal of real time data was an ideal that would spur USGS into action.

Ralph Scheid (COE) asked if any state agencies are using the 1:65,000 map sheets produced by the Corps. Chair Balfour stated that most agencies are probably unaware of their existence. Calvin O’Neil asked if they were available in digital form to which Mr. Scheid (COE) replied that there are no digital versions of these map products.

A summary of “The National Map” proposal was handed out. Chair Balfour will draft a letter of response to the USGS on this proposal and send it to Council members for their comment before sending it to the USGS.

## **7. Presentation: Digital Charting by Ralph Scheid, New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers**

Ralph Scheid, Corps of Engineers (COE), made a presentation on the Corps’ Electronic Charting Initiative. The Corps is creating a navigation data set that will be the base map for future electronic charts as well as a complement to their existing paper charts of inland waterways. Electronic navigation is now so prevalent it is found on tugs and barges. The international maritime community is also moving to electronic charting. The term “S57” describes a geo-spatial exchange set for the distribution of digital charting data created by the International Hydrographic Office. New Orleans District got involved in the Corps Pilot efforts for electronic charting because of their experience mapping the Atchafalaya River. Some less expensive digital charting systems use scanned

quad sheets, but they have no intelligence related to obstacles, dock information, etc. The system that the Corps is developing is attributed with a variety of information, and employs Differential GPS for high positional accuracy. Mr. Scheid (COE) showed the results of a digital charting in the area around Morgan City, Louisiana.

The Corps will be awarding a contract for the digital charting of the Mississippi River soon.

The Corps will be focusing on the Red River because the lack of digital charting is affecting the ability to send cargo down river during high river periods, due to an inability to see navigation hazards. As the Corps needs to create a Hydro Book for the Red River, that data will also be used to create a digital chart. The Corps efforts are encouraging NOAA to implement digital charting in the regions where they have jurisdiction. The benefits of the Corps digital charting efforts are many including increased safety, increased commerce and possible economic start-ups. The Corps is currently looking for ways to partner with other agencies to provide a comprehensive set of highly accurate digital charts for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

Ralph Scheid (COE) mentioned that the Corps is working with LAGIC on an Open GIS project being funded by the Topographic Engineering Group that is still in development. He would like to demonstrate the results of those efforts when they are complete later this fall.

## **8. Old Business:**

### **Digital Data Committee**

Joe Holmes (DEQ) convened the Digital Data Committee last week to discuss recommended standards for the sharing and distribution of digital data. The Committee agreed upon the following formats and recommended procedures:

Documents- for compression of documents WinZip is an acceptable and commonly used format

Imagery – Mr. Sid provides a common format if data loss is not a concern. When archiving images, a format that preserves original image data like LZW is preferable.

Key Words – it is important to use keywords to describe data sets so that there is no confusion over data content.

### **DOQQ/LIDAR Update**

Chair Balfour gave the update on the DOQQ/LIDAR projects. She mentioned that the DOQQ's should be complete and shipped by the end of June. The data in State Plane format will take an additional 90 days. LIDAR is still in progress.

**Metadata Keywords**

A discussion of metadata keywords was postponed until the July meeting because the discussion leader, Josh Kent, was ill.

**FGDC Data Standards**

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that the FGDC has a list of recommended data standards for a variety of data types. A list of these data sets was made available in a handout at the back of the room. A longer discussion of relevant data standards will occur at the July Council meeting.

**9. New Business:****Limits on Number of Speakers**

Dina Sa (LAGIC) asked if the Council could limit the number of speakers to one per meeting to limit the length of the meeting. Ms Sa also requested that a coffee fund be setup so that members could have coffee available at meetings.

**Geospatial Portal**

Ed Leachman ( ODBC) noted that it would be premature to request a letter of support from the GIS Council for the Geospatial Portal Project. It would be better to wait until a scope of work for the Portal project is complete and the Council can review it.

**GIS Capability Survey**

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that he was working with Mattie Coxe (LMA) on a survey instrument for Louisiana Municipal Association members. The survey will look at GIS capability and digital data needs.

**Census Data Update**

Joe Holmes mentioned that there are now census products available on the Census Bureau's website at <http://www.factfinder.census.gov> . Mr. Holmes also mentioned that DEQ is now serving the IRS/TM merged data in Mr. Sid compressed format by Parish on their newly updated GIS website. He asked for comments from users of the website on its format and ease of use.

**Street Centerline Update**

Mattie Coxe (LMA) asked if we could convene a group to look into the availability of grant funds to complete TIGER street centerlines (using DOQQ's) for the areas of Louisiana not being covered by the Census Bureau in their updating program. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that he had invited a speaker from the Census to address the Council at our September or October meeting on this issue.

**10. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:**

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) proposed the following dates for the next three GIS Council

meetings at the Louisiana Municipal Association office:

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Thursday, August 23, 2001

Thursday, September 20, 2001

A quorum was not present, so a motion to permanently change meeting days to Thursdays could not be voted on.

## **11. Adjourn**

A motion was made by to adjourn by Marty Beasley (DOA) and seconded by Joe Holmes (DEQ). The meeting adjourned as a Committee of the Whole at approximately 4:30pm.