

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of July 19, 2001

1. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:52 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 a sign in sheet.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Economic Development,

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality

Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Health & Hospitals

Truman McDaniel, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Transportation and Development

Sharon Balfour, **Member**

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Jorge Icabalceta, **Alternate**

Division Of Administration, OES

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Others Present:

Andre Dehaan

City of Shreveport

Mike Hogan

Department of Transportation and Development

Kay Henderson

Dara Michelle

John Wells

Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.

Jerri Daniels

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)

David Gisclair

New Orleans Regional Planning Commission

Lynn Dupont

Shreveport, City of

Mike Hogan

University of Louisiana Lafayette, RAC

R. Brent Yantis

3. Approval of June 2001 Minutes

The May and June 2001 minutes will be deferred until the September Council Meeting when a quorum will be present.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) noted that amendments to Act #722 (creating the Chief Information Officer, the Office of Electronic Services and adding the Louisiana Planning & Development Districts as a new member) was signed by the Governor.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) welcomed to the Council the following new members and alternates: Rob Cox, Member of the Police Jury Association and Jorge Icabalceta, Alternate from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) mentioned that the first meeting of the Louisiana I-Team Feasibility Group was held at LMA and that a number of issues were raised as to the importance of the I-Team Initiative and the challenges faced by the State of Louisiana if it decides to participate. She compared the level of effort that would be required to the original GIS Task Force "White Paper". She noted that it would require a great deal of work and the involvement of the entire Louisiana GIS community. Chair Balfour (DOTD) recommended that we prepare a list of questions to pose to the federal I-Team Coordinator, Ron Matzner, when he comes to address the Council in November. She also recommended that we prepare a resolution for the next Council meeting on participating in the I-Team Initiative.

5. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson reported that LAGIC has become an affiliate member of the Geo Data Alliance (at a cost of \$50 per year). As an affiliate member, LAGIC will not be able to vote on Alliance issues but we will receive their newsletter and be placed on their list server.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) described the results of the I-Team Feasibility Meeting held at LMA. He stated that another meeting would be scheduled for late August and a larger number of people would be encouraged to attend.

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. He also noted that he will be participating in a Metadata Workshop at LUMCON in Cocodrie (Lafourche Parish).

6. Presentation: Metadata Theme Keywords, Framework Layers and FGDC Data Standards by Josh Kent and Craig Johnson (LAGIC)

Mr. Kent (LAGIC) described the work that was previously done by LOSCO and 3001 Inc. to develop an all encompassing data classification scheme to aid in the organization and search of geospatial data sets. Some of the limitations of the FGDC Framework Layers, as a global classification scheme, were discussed. Mr. Kent recommended that the LGISC Digital Data Committee adopt the Metadata Theme Keywords and write a "White Paper" describing the necessity of using standardized keywords to describe geospatial data sets.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) described FGDC efforts to use the Framework layers as the base for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. He described the link between past FGDC Framework efforts and the current I-Team Initiative. He also described the four-stage process by which FGDC endorses data standards. Mr. Johnson distributed a handout containing a list of existing endorsed standards and he status of all other data standards being considered by FGDC. He recommended that LGISC assign, for review, each standard to the individual on the Council most familiar with these data sets.

Chairperson Balfour (DOTD) asked for recommendations from the Council for data reviewers. It was noted that in the Fall of 1999 a list of suggested data custodians was prepared for the Council. This list specified individuals and agencies that would be the most likely data custodians for framework layers created by state agencies. This list was compiled for use in the original FGDC Framework Data Survey.

The following individuals were assigned to report back to the Council after reviewing FGDC data standards in their subject area:

| Framework Layer Data Standard Name/Description | Data Custodian Individual/Agency | Data Standard Review Month Report Date |
|--|--|---|
| Ortho Imagery | David Gisclair, LOSCO | November 2001 |
| Governmental Units (including Census) | Suggested: Karen Patterson or Marty Beasley | October 2001 |
| Transportation | Kay Henderson, DOTD | November 2001 |
| Cadastral | Marty Beasley, State Lands Office | November 2001 |
| Geodetic Control | Suggested: Bob Zurfluh, Roy Dokka or Marty Beasley | ? |
| Hydrography | Joe Holmes, DEQ | October 2001 |
| Elevation & Bathymetry | Suggested: Tim Osborne, Roy Dokka or Bob Zurfluh | ? |

8. Old Business:

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave the update on the DOQQ/LIDAR projects. He mentioned that the IP for the DOQQ Project will end by July 31st. There is an agreement in place with 3001 to complete the processing of the LIDAR data. They will be completing 30 panels a month through the end of February 2002. An Arc/Info 2' contour coverage is one of the deliverables. There are also elevation points in an ASCII file. Ed Leachman (DOA) asked what the data would be used for. Mr Gisclair (LOSCO) replied that, emergency evacuation routing in a flood or hurricane is one example. Mattie Coxe (LMA) mentioned the use of elevation data for noise studies.

Geospatial Portal

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that the Geospatial Portal Project remained a high priority for the Office of Electronic Services. Mr. Leachman (DOA) described changes in the Division of Administration due to the passage of amendments to Act #722; the creation of an IT Advisory Board, the appointment of IT Project Managers etc. Progress in IT projects will be essential for continued IT funding.

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.

9. New Business:

CISD Conference

Bo Blackmon (DNR) spoke with David Elder in the Department of Education regarding participation of the GIS Council in the CISD Conference in October (22-23). The Council would be allotted 55 minutes to present an overview of Geospatial projects within state government. Mr. Blackmon asked for volunteers to assist with the presentation. Mattie Coxe, David Gisclair, Joe Holmes, Craig Johnson and Josh Kent volunteered to help.

NASA BAA

Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that LOSCO's initial proposal to NASA in response to the Broad Area Announcement was accepted.

LOSCO will be looking at ways to make Environmental Sensitivity Index Mapping more cost effective. LOSCO will be working with LSU, APT Inc., 3001 Inc, RPI Inc., and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

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

Thursday, August 23, 2001 at LMA
Thursday, September 20, 2001, LMA
Thursday, October 18, 2001, location to be decided
Thursday, November 15, 2001 at the Capitol

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 Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Mattie Coxe (LMA). The meeting adjourned as a Committee of the Whole at approximately 3:45 pm.