

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of September 20, 2001

1. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:43 P.M. at the Louisiana Municipal Association Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a quorum was present.

2. Roll Call

Attendance was confirmed by a sign in sheet.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Brad Spicer, **Member**

Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism

Virginia Smith, **Alternate**

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, SLO

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Rob Cox, **Member**

Others Present:

Department of Transportation and Development

Kay Henderson

John Wells

Division Of Administration, OES

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.

Bill Wiesepape

Intergraph Corporation Inc.

Orlando McDowelle
Scott Bridges

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson
Joshua Kent
Dina Sa

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)

David Gisclair

Red River Waterways Commission

John Loftin

Students

Hongwei Zhao
Jason Knowles

3. Approval of June & July 2001 Minutes

The June 2001 Minutes were accepted by Brad Spicer (LDAF) and seconded by Mattie Coxe (LMA).

The July 2001 Minutes were accepted with one revision by Sharon Balfour (LDOTD) and seconded by Bo Blackmon (LDNR).

4. Chair's Report

Bo Blackmon (LDNR) asked if he could introduce a Geography student, Jason Knowles, looking for GIS work in Louisiana. Jason described his training and experience to the Council.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that she and Craig Johnson (LAGIC) attended the annual National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) meeting in St Louis in September. Among the issues that were discussed were I-Teams, partnership with Geo Data Alliance, NASA programs and a new dues structure for NSGIC membership.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) mentioned that there would be a Council of Information Service Directors (CISD) Meeting at the Radisson in Baton Rouge on October 22nd and 23rd. The GIS Council agreed to give a presentation to the Conference on the efforts of the GIS Council and a demonstration of GIS technology.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that the National Geodetic Survey came to Baton Rouge for a meeting at DNR in preparation for a report due to Congress on whether to add the states of Louisiana and Wisconsin to the National Height Modernization Study. Chair Balfour (DOTD) asked if the Council should officially support the efforts of NGS by sending letters to our Congressional Delegation

informing them of the importance of the study to the Louisiana geospatial community. The practical effect of the study would be to add approximately a dozen continuously operating base stations through out the state allowing for more accurate vertical and horizontal GPS measurements. Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that the data would be helpful in linking the LIDAR data to an accurate ground control position. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) mentioned the upcoming observance of “GIS Day” on November 14th. Chair Balfour noted that the GIS Council would be submitting a request to the Governor to sign a “GIS Day” Proclamation. A number of members suggested that a “GIS Day” public announcement be sent to the newspapers in each of the major media networks in the state.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) announced that DOTD now has a GIS Manager; Jim Mitchell (currently with LSU) will begin work October 1st.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that a bill HR2426, currently in Congress, codifies the NASA Broad Area Announcement (BAA) program and would extend the program until 2006. She asked if the GIS Council would like to support this bill by sending letters to our Congressional representatives. Chair Balfour will circulate a draft letter for review.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that the Louisiana I-Team Feasibility Group met briefly before this Council meeting and mentioned that the federal I-Team Coordinator, Ron Matzner, would be coming to address the Council in November. She noted that the I-Team’s would be made up of many more people than just the members of the GIS Council. I-Team’s would include state and local governments as well as universities, non-profits and the private sector.

5. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson reported that LAGIC will be conducting a Metadata Workshop at the University of New Orleans on October 11th. This workshop is the first of a series of workshops funded by a Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) CAP Grant Program to train Louisiana’s eight regional planning agencies and the cities and parishes that fall within their jurisdiction. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that he participated in a Metadata panel at a metadata workshop taught by Helena Schaefer (NWRC) at LUMCON in Cocodrie (Lafourche Parish). LAGIC will set up additional workshops throughout the state, with the next one planned for Ruston in North Louisiana. Mr. Johnson will coordinate the workshop with GIS Council members (Rob Cox, Doug Mitchell & Rich Bailey) in the Ruston/Monroe area.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that Randy Fusaro, with the Census Bureau, was invited to speak at the October GIS Council Meeting. She was asked to

speaking about the Census Tiger Street Centerline Updating Program in the New Orleans area. Travel plans are more difficult to confirm, after the terrorist activities that occurred last week, but we have scheduled her for October. In addition to Randy Fusaro, Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that Ron Matzner, the I-Team Coordinator for FGDC and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), has been invited to speak at our November 15th meeting at the Capitol. Mr. Matzner will be describing the efforts other states are making towards implementing the I-Team Initiative. Chair Balfour (DOTD) mentioned that Ron would be staying over Thursday night so those that would like to meet with him after the Council meeting may have the opportunity to do so. At the very least, we would like to have the I-Team Feasibility group meet with Ron to discuss any concerns you have regarding Louisiana's participation in the I-Team Initiative.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that there is an Introduction to LIDAR Seminar on Wednesday, October 17th in Houston, being hosted by the Sanborne Mapping Company. There is a cost involved, and Mr. Johnson has the phone and e-mail address for anyone interested in the workshop.

Chair Balfour had two announcements regarding the Department of Economic Development, a GIS Council member agency. Gene Stephens is recovering from surgery so he will not be here today. Furthermore Andrew Kuyoro, the DED alternate, is no longer with that agency.

Kay Henderson (DOTD) described some of the things that DOTD has done for GIS Day including visiting schools, setting up computers for hands-on demonstrations with the GIS C/D. The use of the Capitol Rotunda was suggested as a possible location for GIS displays. Chair Balfour requested that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kent put together the Council GIS Day activities.

8. Old Business:

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the DOQQ and LIDAR projects. The Partnership between LOSCO, USGS, NRCS and FSA etc to complete the 2,830 Color Infrared Digital Ortho Photography for the state of Louisiana is now complete. LOSCO elected to produce some of the images over water and some forested areas not covered by USGS. There are now 3,500 DOQQ's in MR SID format (50 to 1 compression ratio) complete on the ATLAS website, with only 38 images in the Bogalusa area missing. Most of the images are also available as uncompressed GEOTIFF's (868 c/d's) that are being duplicated at the GIS Department at DEQ. DeWitt Braud is mosaicing the DOQQ images of each parish. LOSCO has requested of USGS a re-flight in 2005.

LIDAR has 421 (DOQQ) panels in procurement with 20 panels complete. The LIDAR files are very large (1 Gig per quarter quad) so there are distribution

questions that have not yet been answered. The product will meet the FEMA specifications and produce 2' contour lines. Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) estimated that it would take five years to complete this project. The Corps (New Orleans District) would like to review the results of LIDAR processing when it's available.

Geospatial Portal

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that the Office of Information Technology (OIT) has a nationwide search underway to find a Chief Information Officer for the State. There is a team at OIT that will review resumes, make recommendations and set up interviews with the Commissioner of Administration and the Governor's Office.

The Office of Electronic Services (OES) is busy putting together its proposal for Technology Innovation Funding for the state's Enterprise Information Portal, the latest buzzword for state websites. The proposal would take Info Louisiana from a passive website to an active website where users will have an account. When users logon the account will be updated with all of the new information that has become available since the last time they logged on. Their preferences will be noted from past visits to the website. OES has a proposal to do this, but they have yet to determine who will host this portal because it employs new technology that we currently don't have the staff to support. The processing needs will also increase as we offer new services. Unfortunately, the Return on Investment (ROI) is difficult to calculate when you are always offering new services. One way that we can make savings is to reduce the number of e-mails and phone calls by improving the capability for self-service on our websites. Automating government services is moving process workers to knowledge workers. A large portion of the new active website is the geospatial portal piece. Mr. Leachman would like to see non-GIS people to be able to do some level of geospatial processing over the Internet. For example, a group recently asked him for a map of US Congressional Districts and the supporting demographics but it was not easily available online. This information should have been more easily accessible online. We should be able to find thirty or forty data sets that could be used to perform geospatial queries in an interactive manner. We expect to have a new portal by next May.

Bo Blackman (DNR) asked if the new CIO would be satisfied with the information we provided last spring. Mr. Leachman (OES) replied that he doesn't know but would hope that we wouldn't have to duplicate what was previously done.

I-Team Meeting

Next I-Team meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18th at 11:30, just before the GIS Council meeting. The location will be announced later.

Federal/State GIS Working Group Meeting

Federal/State GIS meeting will be held on Friday, September 21st at 9:00 am at the DOTD Main Building, 1st floor auditorium. Among the items that will be covered at the meeting include the Topo/Bathy Demonstration Project at Port

Fouchon, the Spot Image State Coverage Proposal, the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Review, and the Louisiana I-Team Initiative.

DNR will be moving to their new building from December 14th to December 17th.

9. New Business:

Strategic Planning Session

Chair Balfour suggested that we hold a Strategic Planning Session at LUMCON in Cocodrie. Ms Balfour asked Mr. Johnson to check into the costs of staying at LUMCON and other associated costs (food, etc.). Thursday and Friday were the preferred days with an overnight on Thursday.

Nimnda Virus

Josh Kent (LAGIC) announced that virtually all servers at LSU were down because of the Nimnda Computer Virus, which launches a denial of service attack. We may want to switch to digital signatures, like pgp, to prevent the spread of this type of computer virus. Mr. Kent will be testing this new digital signature system over the next two weeks.

CISD Conference

Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked if we could do a run through of the CISD Conference at the October GIS Council Meeting. A meeting will be held at the Conference Room at DOTD Airport Office Building on Tuesday afternoon from 1- 5pm to plan for the CISD presentation.

LOSCO Move

Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that LOSCO's office would be moved to the Fry Compute Science Building at LSU after the first of the year.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

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

Thursday, October 18, 2001 at the Ag Center, LSU

Thursday, November 15, 2001 at the Capitol, House Committee Room #5

Thursday, December 13, 2001 at the Louisiana Assessors Office

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 3:35 pm.