Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of October 18, 2001

1. Call to Order
Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M. as a committee of the whole at Efferson Hall, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. A quorum was established at 2:03 when Dennis Eilers (CRT) arrived.

2. Roll Call
A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Culture Recreation & 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**
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Jorge Icabalceta, **Alternate**
Division Of Administration, SLO
Marty Beasley, **Member**
Louisiana House
Kathleen Randall, **Member**
Louisiana Municipal Association
Mattie Coxe, **Member**
Louisiana Police Jury Association
Rob Cox, **Member**

Others Present:

Department of Education, LCET
Monica Bradshear
Department of Transportation and Development
Debra Eldredge
Jim Mitchell
Division Of Administration, OES
Ed Leachman, **Alternate**
Intergraph Corporation Inc.
Orlando McDowell

Department of Environmental Quality
Brad Mooney
Paul Zundel
Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)
Craig Johnson
Joshua Kent
Dina Sa
Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)
David Gisclair
Louisiana State University
Rob Cunningham
Tulane University, CBR
Stephanie Smith
University of Louisiana (Lafayette)
Brent Yantis
US Geological Survey
Pat O'Neil

3. Approval of September 2001 Minutes

The minutes were deferred until a quorum was in attendance,

4. Chair's Report

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that the Federal Geographic Data Committee has created two new working groups; the Homeland Security GIS Working Group and the Imagery and Remote Sensing Task Force based in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Science and Technology. The remote sensing task force will be co-chaired by NASA and USGS. John MacGruder has been nominated to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to look at the need for coordination in the creation of data sets. Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that the Federal Homeland Security Agency has opened a Cyber Security Office.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) mentioned that Appropriation Bills for Federal Agencies are stymied, Congress may pass one large omnibus bill to provide stopgap funding for all federal agencies. E-Gov is still one of President Bush's goals, and received renewed interest in the wake of terrorist threats and the need for reliable data by the Federal Homeland Security Agency. The President's Management Council is looking at better managing $400 million worth of IT investments across 29 agencies.

NOAA Costal Services Center has a begun a pilot project in the state of Mississippi giving local governments in Mississippi the resources to develop GIS management capabilities. Perhaps LGISC should follow up on those efforts to see if Louisiana might be eligible for a similar program.

The Transportation Research Board has a joint project with NASA using remotely sensed data. They will be holding a conference in Washington, DC in December.

The results of the NASA State, Local and Tribal Regional Workshops last February is available on the Univ. of Arizona website. First list of BAA grant recipients was posted on this site. No agency in Louisiana was successful in applying for this grant. Additional rounds are proposed. Chair Balfour recommended that someone complete NASA's current remote sensing online survey. The National Research Council is holding a workshop on facilitating public sector use of remotely sensed data in January. The International County Management Association (ICMA) is looking at GIS privacy and security issues. Public Technology Inc. is looking for nominations for its 2001 Solutions Awards and is trying to link local transportation and public safety together. The results of a survey by the National League of Cities shows that cities are tracking terrorism and the NLC has prepared a guidebook for cities on dealing with terrorism that is available online.

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 would be made up of many more people than just the members of the GIS Council. The I-Team would include state and local governments as well as universities, non-profits and the private sector.

With the addition of Mr. Dennis Eilers (CRT), a quorum was present. Chair Balfour asked that members review the minutes from September. The September 2001 Minutes were accepted without edits, motion made by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA).

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that letters of support were sent to each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation in support of HR2426, a bill that codifies the NASA Broad Area Announcement (BAA) program and would extend the program until 2006. In addition, Louisiana congressional representatives received letters of support from the GIS Council for the proposed Height Modernization Study.

5. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson reported that LAGIC conducted a Metadata Workshop at the University of New Orleans on October 11th. This workshop was 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 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. This workshop will take place immediately following the Federal/State GIS Working Group. A Metadata Workshop is also scheduled for early January at LSU with the Capitol Region Planning Commission. LAGIC was able to secure Continuing Education Credits (CEU's), from the Louisiana Chapter of APA, for all planners attending the workshop. Marty Beasley (DOA) asked what metadata software we were using in these workshops. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) replied that we are using both SMMS from RTSE Inc and Corps Met software. We were also showing students what software resources were available online including LAGIC's Metadata Workbook.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that at the next Council meeting Ron Matzner, federal I-Team coordinator, would be addressing Council members on the I-Team Initiative.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that LAGIC was working with Susan Gordon (LMA) and Mattie Coxe (LMA) on a survey of GIS capability among Louisiana Municipal Association members. There are over 3,000 municipalities in the state that would receive the initial survey. A follow up survey will be mailed to all those that have, or are planning, a GIS.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC), mentioned that previous GIS Day plans are being revised when it was determined that the DNR Lobby might not be the best location for a public "GIS Day" display. Current plans are for LAGIC to conduct a GIS Day presentation at a local public school.

Pat O'Neil described some of the events that Lafayette is planning for GIS Day including a map gallery and presentations by federal agencies and local GIS service companies. Chair Balfour requested that Mr. Kent (LAGIC) create a link on the Council's website to the Acadiana GIS Day site. Chair Balfour asked if any other agencies had GIS Day activities that we could announce. Mr. Icabalceta (DWF), mentioned that Wildlife and Fisheries will have a GIS display in their lobby. Joe Holmes (DEQ) said they also would have a display in DEQ's lobby. Mr. Mitchell (DOTD) noted that they had not planned on a display but that DOTD was creating a display for an Engineering Conference that might be suitable for GIS Day.

6. CISD Presentation

The Council of Information Service Directors is holding their annual meeting next week. The Council has agreed to make a presentation on Monday, October 22. Chair Balfour (DOTD) will explain what the GIS Council does followed by David Gisclair (LOSCO) with a demonstration of GIS technology. A 45-minute dress rehearsal for the presentation followed. After the presentation Chair Balfour asked how the presentation could be improved. A number of recommendations were made on how to improve it, from minor editing changes to deleting certain

topics that could not be adequately covered in the allotted time.

7. Old Business:

Reorganization of the Office of Information Technology

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that the Office of Information Technology (OIT) has a new (interim) Chief Information Officer for the State. Chad McGee, formerly with the Governor's Office, was assigned by the Governor's Office to lead statewide IT efforts. He will continue the IT standards and focus group work that was completed last spring. He will also continue the centralization and consolidation efforts that were underway at OIT. In addition, he will focus the OIT Planning and Budget Oversight Group (Information Resources Section) will work with each state agency to ensure that their IT budget is coordinated with their overall IT plan in preparation for the legislative budget process.

Now that Chad McGee is acting CIO, Dr. Doescher returns to his position as statewide IT Director and assistant to the CIO. There are now four offices within the Office of Information Technology: the Office of Computing Services (Randy Walker), the Office of Telecommunications (Bud Lanier), the Resource Section (which will consist of seven analysts) and the Office of Electronic Services (Ed Leachman), which will all report to the Office of Information Technology. These four sections were created (or renamed) as part of Act 772, which created the position of CIO.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked Mr. Leachman (OIT) if the state is negotiating a statewide ESRI (GIS software) contract. Chair Balfour noted that was the next order of business.

ESRI Statewide Contract

Paul Zundel (DEQ) noted that he was asked by Procurement Support Team (PST) to meet with the GIS Council and create a committee of ESRI software users to design a statewide licensing agreement for ESRI products. The Southeast Regional Manager for ESRI sent Mr. Zundel a copy of the statewide contract that was developed for the state of Texas. David Gisclair (LOSCO) asked if this involved all GIS software, to which Mr. Zundel replied that it just referred to ESRI software users only. Mr. Zundel recommended that we allow the state attorneys to negotiate the details of the contract rather than individual agencies. When that document is completed then the GIS Council would review it and make any needed adjustments. Mr. Johnson asked if local governments could take advantage of this contract. Mr. Zundel replied that if they could buy off state contract then yes they would be eligible to participate. Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) asked if existing ESRI software contracts, such as the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) contract, would be renegotiated. Mr. Zundel said he believed that existing agreements would be changed to the new statewide purchasing contract. Mr. Mitchell (DOTD) noted that LSU has an educational site license, which costs $25,000 for all ESRI products. Other state educational

institutions, that cannot afford the site license, would purchase software using the ESRI statewide purchasing agreement.

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the DOQQ and LIDAR projects. The Digital Ortho Photography for the state of Louisiana is now complete. The ATLAS website now hosts all 3,580 Digital Orthophotos.

LIDAR has 421 (DOQQ) panels in procurement with 26 panels in QA. The LIDAR files are very large (1 Gig per quarter quad) so there are distribution questions that have not yet been answered. Initially the contour map will be the first product on the web, including break lines. There are approximately 8 million elevation points per quarter quad in ASCII format. The contour lines will match up at the panel seams between quarter quads. Mr. Gisclair explained that FEMA is the customer because this data will be used to create the new D-FIRMS (digital flood insurance rate maps). Mr. Gisclair noted that the vertical accuracy of the LIDAR data will be the USGS specified 15 cm using the current sensor and the horizontal accuracy would meet the standards of the 1:12,000 USGS quarter quad. Mr. Beasley (DOA) recommended that the LIDAR technicians document their work so that other agencies will be able to learn from their experiences saving valuable time.

GIS Day Proclamation

Governor Foster signed our GIS Day proclamation on October 2nd. The Proclamation can be found on the LAGIC website.

I-Team Meeting

Next I-Team meeting will be held before the next GIS Council meeting. The date and location will be announced later.

Federal/State GIS Working Group Meeting

Pat O'Neil (USGS) stated that the next Federal/State GIS meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 18th at 9:00 am to noon at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, Louisiana. Among the items that will be covered include forestry issues, agricultural issues, and other issues facing North Louisiana. Mr. O'Neil asked if The GIS Council would give a presentation. Chair Balfour noted that Dennis Eilers (CRT) had offered the use of cabins at Lake Claiborne State Park. Chair Balfour asked that anyone going should let her know in advance so she could reserve the appropriate number of cabins.

Digital Standards Review

Joe Holmes (DEQ) reviewed the National Hydrography Data Content Standard for Coastal and Inland Waterways. DEQ is the custodial agency for state hydrographic data, but the standard relates to navigation safety not water quality;

therefore, it would be inappropriate for DEQ to review it.

Marty Beasley (DOA) said he would review the Content Standard for Cadastral Data and report on the standard at the November GIS Council meeting.

8. New Business:

Strategic Planning Session

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that we have tentatively selected a date for a Strategic Planning Session at LUMCON in Cocodrie. Mr. Beasley (DOA) asked if we thought it is necessary to have a Strategic Planning Session, and if so, is it necessary to go out of town. Chair Balfour recalled that past in-town meetings had better attendance than out-of-town meetings. However, there were more distractions in-town and more members come and go. It was decided that Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) would send members a copy of the last Strategic Planning Session before the next Council Meeting. The document would be reviewed to determine if another meeting was required in the near future.

9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

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

- Thursday, November 15, 2001 at the Capitol, House Committee Room #3
- Thursday, December 13, 2001 at the Louisiana Assessors' Office
- Thursday, January 17, 2001 at LMA

10. 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 4:29 pm.