

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of November 15, 2001

1. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:43 P.M. in House Committee Room #3 in the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. A quorum was present.

2. Roll Call

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

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, SLO

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Sheryl Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts

Doug Mitchell, **Member**

Louisiana House

Kathleen Randall, **Member**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Kathrine Cargo, **Alternate**

Others Present:

Department of Transportation and Development

Jim Mitchell, **Alternate**

Division Of Administration, OES

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Intergraph Corporation Inc.

Scott Bridges

Louisiana Assessors Association

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)

David Gisclair

Louisiana State University

Rob Cunningham

Ouachita Parish Assessor's Office

Morgan Herring

US Census Bureau

Stephanie Spahlinger

3. Approval of October 2001 Minutes

The minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Kathrine Cargo (PJA) and seconded by Bo Blackmon (DNR).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Balfour (DOTD) thanked Ed Leachman (DOA) and Josh Kent (LAGIC) for posting the "GIS Day" Proclamation on the Office of Electronic Services website.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that the LAGIC Oversight Committee met on November 2nd for their quarterly review of LAGIC and its operations.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that there is a new working group that is meeting to write a "White Paper" justifying Louisiana's participation in the federal Framework Implementation Team (I-Team) Initiative. The working group hopes to have the "White Paper" complete before Christmas. All LGISC members will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft. Chair Balfour explained that the "White Paper" would be presented to the new CIO, Chad McGee, along with a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of geospatial data and the LGISC's responsibility for guiding the development of this data. We will ask the CIO for help in bringing local government and state agencies to the table.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) read a proposed Council Resolution in support of the Framework Implementation Team (I-Team) Initiative. Copies of the proposed resolution were distributed to all those attending.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) read a memo from Randy Fusaro, with the Census Bureau, detailing Census efforts to update the TIGER Line Files for a portion of

South Louisiana. Chair Balfour welcomed Stephanie Spahlinger with the Census Bureau in Dallas (Region 6) to the Council Meeting. Ms. Spahlinger is the contact for Betty Adamak in the Geography Division.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that ESRI would be hosting a one-day seminar on E-Gov at the Great Hall in Baton Rouge on Thursday, November 29th.

Chair Balfour (DOTD) distributed a sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between State Lands and the Louisiana GIS Council detailing a proposed custodial relationship for specific framework data sets. Chair Balfour noted that this was only a sample MOU. Mr. Beasley (SLO) asked would he be responsible for data layers that do not currently fall under the jurisdiction of State Lands. Chair Balfour replied that the data layers would be specified in the Memorandums.

5. LAGIC Report

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) noted that a LAGIC Oversight Meeting was held on November 2nd at DOTD and that a number of suggestions were offered on ways to improve operations.

LAGIC staff (Craig, Josh & Dina) celebrated "GIS Day" by teaching GIS to two social studies classes at the University Lab School on the LSU Campus. The students were very enthusiastic and especially interested in seeing aerials (DOQQs) of their neighborhoods with an overlay of the FEMA flood zones.

LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson reported that the next Metadata Workshop is 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. This will be a three-hour Metadata overview.

A full day Metadata Workshop is scheduled for early January at LSU with the Capitol Region Planning Commission. LAGIC has requested Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), from the Louisiana Chapter of APA, for any planner attending any of the LAGIC sponsored Metadata workshops.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that Ron Matzner, federal I-Team coordinator, would not be addressing Council members on the I-Team Initiative. He had a scheduling conflict. Mr. Johnson will contact Mr. Matzner about rescheduling his visit for early in 2002.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that LAGIC, working with Susan Gordon (LMA) and Mattie Coxe (LMA), has received approximately two dozen responses to the survey of GIS capability among Louisiana Municipal Association members.

There are over 300 municipalities in the state that received the initial survey, but the vast majority of municipalities are not using GIS technology. A follow up survey will be mailed to all those that state that they have, or are planning, to implement GIS technology.

Rich Bailey (LAA) asked if LAGIC would assist the Assessor's Association devise a survey on GIS capability. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) said he would provide a draft survey for the Assessor's to review.

6. Old Business:

CISD Presentation

Chair Balfour thanked Ed Leachman (OES) for allowing the Council to switch its scheduled CISD presentation time with the Office of Electronic Services. Chair Balfour thanked all those involved in the presentation: David Gisclair (LOSCO), Joe Holmes (DEQ), Brad Mooney (DEQ) and Josh Kent (LAGIC) among others. David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that at least two state agencies; Social Services and State Police came up to the speakers after the presentation to ask questions about GIS technology.

Federal/State GIS Working Group

Chair Balfour noted that the Federal/State GIS Working Group would meet in Ruston, Louisiana at Louisiana Tech on the morning of December 18th. The meeting would begin at 9:00am and be over at noon. The Working Group meeting will be followed by a Metadata Overview, presented by Craig Johnson (LAGIC). Chair Balfour mentioned that Dennis Eilers, (CRT) had offered the use of some cabins at Lake Claiborne State Park close to Ruston for any GIS Council members needing accommodations the Monday night prior to the meeting.

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the DOQQ (Digital Ortho Quarter Quad) program for the state of Louisiana, which is now complete. Over 2,895 DOQQs have been produced through the Innovative Partnership with the USGS. As of today, 3,538 Mr. Sid images are now available on the Atlas website. The remainder (an area around Bogalusa) will be posted over the next two weeks. In addition, Mr. Gisclair noted that there are now replacement panels for all of the images east of the 90-degree longitude that were in WGS 84 format. All 100k panels will now be in the NAD83 format. LOSCO will now be working on a State Plane Coordinate Version of the DOQQ images in compressed Mr. Sid format to meet the requests of engineering firms. This data set will also be available on the web.

LIDAR has 421 (DOQQ) panels in procurement with 26 panels in QA, as the first part of Phase 1. DNR (Coastal Restoration Division) has made a request to procure LIDAR data this winter out to the barrier islands. This task will be done

through a cooperative agreement between DNR and LOSCO. Chair Balfour asked Mr. Gisclair if LOSCO intended on procuring LIDAR data in the Atchafalaya Basin as Henderson Swamp is currently drained. Mr. Gisclair said he would look into that. In terms of flight status, LOSCO recently acquired another 284 panels of data. LOSCO will fly another 137 panels this winter to complete the flying in Phase 1, tasks 1-4. Future flights will use a newer sensor that should improve LOSCO's data production. LOSCO has not received any more panels for QA because the contractor is working on a sensor problem in the marsh areas. The 26 panels LOSCO does have are in the Amite River Basin and are currently being reviewed for quality by the Corps of Engineers.

The LIDAR files are very large (1 Gig per quarter quad) so there are distribution questions that have not yet been answered. LOSCO is trying to determine how this data can best be distributed on the web. One methodology would be to break the data into the four component products that the data will be delivered in: the raw data, the filtered data, the break lines and the contour lines. With the data sets being so large they may have to be broken down into quarter/quarter quads.

FEMA has elected to continue to fund the project. The anticipated FEMA match for Phase 2 should provide the funding for approximately 750 panels of LIDAR data. This next phase would cover everything south of 31 degrees latitude.

Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) stated that it is likely that the Technical Assistance Section of LOSCO will be moved to the Computer Data Center at LSU in the summer. This move should assist with some of the data storage problems anticipated by the acquisition of an additional 750 panels of LIDAR data.

Mr. Beasley (DOA) asked how much of the state will have been flown if all the anticipated funds were currently in hand. Mr. Gisclair replied that all of the state below the 31 degrees latitude with the exception of the coastal areas. Only the Davis Pond coastal area in the Barataria Basin will be flown as part of the Cooperative Agreement with DNR. Mr. Beasley (DOA) asked when it might be possible to get a sample of the LIDAR data so that state agencies can see how easy or difficult the data will be to work using various GIS software. Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that rendering even a small section of the data in 3D requires a considerable amount of computer processing power. Ms. Coxe (LMA) asked if the data would be used for planning applications in contrast to flood insurance rate determinations. Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that FEMA is primarily concerned with updating the flood maps. LIDAR will provide a consistent surface, which may have to be adjusted up or down by the National Geodetic Survey, depending on how far the benchmarks have shifted.

I-Team Resolution of Support

Chair Balfour (DOTD) explained the purpose of the Resolution and asked that

the document be distributed to everyone present. Chair Balfour (DOTD) asked for comments from the floor. Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that it has always been the responsibility of the Council to coordinate the common data bases, that are used for policy and planning purposes, in concert with the Office of Electronic Services. The I-Team is the method for realizing the goals of the GIS Council as spelled out in the Council's authorizing legislation. Among those goals are: the sharing of common data, the facilities for data sharing and outreach and training programs. Through the I-Team process the federal government is offering states opportunities for creative funding strategies for data creation. This Initiative will obviously benefit the feds but will also benefit states in the long run. The I-Team Initiative will put in place a process to ensure that the framework data will be created, maintained and accessible to all the entities in state government. This process will ensure that each state agency has responsibilities for certain data sets through the MOU agreements. We have an opportunity with the new CIO to advance these objectives if we can make a compelling case that this will benefit the state. Our plan is to come up with an I-Team approach, get the CIO's backing to this approach and explain the need to bring this up with the Governor to get his backing as well. We may need Legislative backing as well to make sure this effort occurs at the local level as well. The DOQQ Program is an example of the kind of successful inclusive effort that mobilized support at both the Governor's Office and at the local level. Chair Balfour (DOTD) noted that there is top down support at the Federal level through the I-Team Management Team to provide assistance to states. Mr. Leachman (DOA) recommended that the Council make a GIS presentation at one of the early meetings of the Executive Advisory Council, a group of department heads and assistant secretaries from each of the state agencies. Mr. Beasley (DOA) asked how do we get local government to participate as much of the data resides at the local level. Mr. Leachman (DOA) responded that the I-Team gives us the mechanism to bring in local government. It forces agencies to justify the cost of creating data layers and prioritize those layers that are most critical to all agencies. Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that the timing of the Initiative is opportune because the state has provided extensive data coverage's (Ex: DOQQs) to offer local government in exchange for the creation and maintenance of their local data sets. Chair Balfour noted that it was critically important for the Council to adopt this resolution, as the effort is needed and overdue. Kathleen Randall (House) motioned for adoption of the resolution, which was seconded by Mattie Coxe (LMA). The motion to adopt the Framework Data Implementation Initiative passed on a voice vote. Mr. Beasley (DOA) asked how the MOU process would unfold. Chair Balfour (DOTD) replied that the group writing the "White Paper" is simply making the case for I-Teams. It will be the I-Team itself that will flesh out the details of how these agreements would be enacted and who ultimately will be responsible for various data layers.

7. New Business:

Orthoimagery Data Standards Review

David Gisclair noted that the DOQQ Program managed by LOSCO has met or exceeded all USGS data standards for DOQQ imagery. Therefore, he recommended that we accept the FGDC Orthoimagery Data Content Standard as written. There was some discussion on what other cities and parishes are currently using for Orthoimagery. The council decided on a voice vote to accept the FGDC Orthoimagery Data Content Standard.

David also requested that the DOQQs, and the grid used to produce them, be recognized by the Council as the official Orthoimagery data layer for Louisiana. Joe Holmes, chair of the subcommittee, will process his request.

Cadastral Data Standards Review

Marty Beasley (DOA) reviewed, for the Council, the FGDC Cadastral Data Content Standard. Mr. Beasley distributed a flow chart of the cadastral standards showing what elements were of concern to FGDC. After his presentation a discussion began on existing cadastral data standards in Louisiana. Sheryl Martin (LAA) suggested that these standards be reviewed with the Louisiana Tax Commission that sets tax rolls database standards for all of Louisiana Assessors. The Council should not adopt the FGDC standards without researching what data standards Assessors are currently using. Mr. Bailey (LAA) mentioned that he is working with Craig Johnson (LAGIC) on a survey of Assessor data. It was decided that a Cadastral Data Subcommittee should be formed with the following members: Marty Beasley (DOA), Sheryl Martin and Rich Bailey (LAA), Mattie Coxe (LMA), Kathrine Cargo (PJA) and Craig Johnson (LAGIC). Mr. Beasley (DOA) will Chair the subcommittee. This committee will report back to the Council at the next GIS Council meeting in December.

8. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

Chair Balfour invited all present to attend the next Council meeting at the Louisiana Assessor's Offices on December 13th. This meeting will double as a Christmas party, thanks to the generosity of our hosts, Sheryl Martin and Rich Bailey.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by to adjourn by Mattie Coxe (LMA) and seconded by Bo Blackmon (DNR). The meeting adjourned as a Committee of the Whole at approximately 4:00 pm.