

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of January 17, 2002

1. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Balfour (DOTD) called the meeting to order at 1:42 P.M. in the conference room at the Louisiana Municipal Association Building in Baton Rouge. A quorum was present.

2. Roll Call

Attendance was confirmed by a sign in sheet.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Brad Spicer, **Member**

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 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 House
Kathleen Randall, **Member**

Louisiana Municipal Association
Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association
Rob Cox, **Member**

Others Present:

BCG Inc.
Andre Dehaan

Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Darren Boudreaux, **Alternate**

Department of Transportation and Development

Kay Henderson, **Alternate**

Jim Mitchell, **Alternate**

Dora Michelli

Digital Globe Inc

Brett Thomassie

Division Of Administration, OES

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Intergraph Corporation Inc.

Orlando McDowell

Lafayette Assessor

Kristie Cornell

Susanne Harrison

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)

David Gisclair

Louisiana State University

Rob Cunningham

Roy Dokka

Tony Lewis

NTSB Associates Inc.

Brad Daugherty

Ouachita Parish Assessors' Office

Morgan Herring

St James Parish

Bobby Lear

US Census

Meridith Gilliam

US Geological Survey

Pat O'Neil

Willamette Industries Inc.

Scott Leachman

3. Approval of December 2001 Minutes

The minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Dennis Eilers (CRT) and seconded by Brad Spicer (DA&F).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Balfour (DOTD) thanked Jim Mitchell (DOTD), Josh Kent and others who

assisted in the ICMA Web cast on Emergency Preparedness. Despite some audio difficulties, the 25 to 30 people in attendance learned a great deal about GIS use in emergency planning applications.

Chair Balfour mentioned that the I-Team Working Group worked diligently on a "White Paper" and a draft Executive Order, which were both delivered to the Governor's Office during the Christmas holiday. The draft Executive Order will establish the GIS Council as the I-Team and extends membership to the whole Louisiana geospatial community. The document designates an I-Team Coordinator and creates a Master Plan. Chair Balfour thanked the members of the drafting committee and Ed Leachman (DOA) for presenting the documents to Chad McGee, the State CIO. There will be a full day brainstorming session in the Ellender Room at the Capitol on Thursday the 24th to map out an implementation strategy.

Chair Balfour noted that there was currently a bill in the US Senate, introduced by Senator Edwards (N.C.), that would regulate location based services and applications. The bill is currently in committee.

Chair Balfour noted that the Louisiana Services Directory, under the direction of Joan McGee (DOA), received an award in the "Digital State Report".

5. Presentation: OMB Geospatial Information Initiative, "GI for the Nation" by Ronald Matzner, I-Team Initiative Coordinator

Mr. Matzner gave a PowerPoint presentation on the role of the I-Team Initiative to produce seamless, nationally consistent geographic information. According to Mr. Matzner, the I-Team is an important element of the President's E-Gov Initiatives and it supports the second Presidential Management Priority, integrating management performance with budget decisions. Mr. Matzner described an ambitious schedule for the I-Team Initiative between now and FY 2004. In 2004, data collection funding requests will need to comply with the goals of the I-Team Initiative. He emphasized the point that, state I-Teams will play a key role in developing consensus for national data content standards and data models. He also stated that along with data models and standards there is a need for semantic registries with rules that will allow rapid translation among local data sets.

Mr. Matzner outlined ways that the Initiative would provide support to state and local governments. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) would strive to develop data translators and solve common technical challenges. The Financing Solutions Team would help state and local governments build a business case to justify adequate future resources and explore other financing options. The Federal Partners Team would direct federal participation in the I-Teams and provide assistance in developing data models and data content standards.

Mr. Matzner noted that the events of September 11th drove home the need for integrating data at different scales and the challenges we face in creating seamless nationally consistent geographic data.

6. LGISC Election of Officers

Kathleen Randall (House), Chair of the LGISC Election Committee, presented the 2002 LGISC Election Report, which listed all the eligible nominees and their willingness to serve as Chair or Vice Chair of the LGISC. Ms. Randall then asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor for Chair. As no nominations were offered and the nominee for Chair was unopposed, Marty Beasley, (DOA) was elected Chair of the LGISC.

Ms. Randall then listed the eligible nominees for Vice Chair and took nominations from the floor. Joe Holmes (DEQ) was nominated, from the floor, by Mattie Coxe (LMA). Bo Blackmon (DNR) then withdrew his name leaving three eligible nominees: Joe Holmes (DEQ), Mattie Cox (LMA) and Truman McDaniel (DHH). A vote was taken by the membership, and Joe Holmes was elected Vice Chair of the LGISC. Conduct of the meeting was then turned over to the new Chair, Marty Beasley

7. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson reported that LAGIC conducted a Metadata Workshop at Louisiana State University on January 10th. This workshop was the fourth in a series of workshops funded by a Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) CAP Grant. Mr. Johnson noted that LAGIC will set up additional workshops throughout the state, with the next one scheduled for March 13th in Shreveport in conjunction with the Louisiana Assessors Conference. A Metadata Workshop is also scheduled for April 4th at the Remote Sensing Applications Center in Lafayette.

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that LAGIC was working with Rich Bailey (LAA) and Sheryl Martin (LAA) on a survey of GIS capability among Louisiana Assessor Association members. The members of the Cadastral Data Subcommittee will review the survey instrument. The results of the survey will be presented at the Assessors Conference in Shreveport.

Mr. Johnson reported that Chair Balfour and he gave a presentation to the Federal/State GIS Working Group meeting in Ruston on December 18th. In addition a Metadata Workshop was conducted that afternoon with over 45 people in attendance.

8. Subcommittee Reports:

Mart Beasley, Chair of the Cadastral Data Subcommittee, reported on the December meeting of the cadastral data group at the office of the Louisiana Assessor's Association. The group reviewed existing Louisiana cadastral data standards and provided LAGIC with comments regarding the Assessor GIS Capability Survey. Chair Beasley noted that he had submitted comments to the Eastern States Cadastral Group on their proposed standards.

Joe Holmes, Chair of the Digital Data Subcommittee, reported that the investigation of the Digital Ortho Quarter Quad Grid as a "recognized" digital data set was ongoing. There was additional discussion on the whether the compressed Digital Ortho Quarter Quad's meet the standard of a "recognized" digital data, set, as the original uncompressed data is not easily accessible to the public.

Chair Beasley submitted the national Geodetic Control Data Set to the Digital Data Subcommittee as a candidate for recognition. There were questions from the floor regarding the data sets vertical accuracy and whether the data was in geospatial format. The Louisiana Geological Survey agreed to examine the accuracy of the data set. Mr. Beasley reported that the Office of State Lands had converted the data to a geospatial format (shape file). Mr. Holmes stated that the committee would need a copy of the data set and the accompanying metadata records in order to consider it for recognition.

9. Old Business:

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the LIDAR project. There are 39 LIDAR panels currently in review. Mr. Gisclair explained that many agencies would want products not primary data. The LIDAR files are very large (1 Gig per quarter quad) so there are distribution questions that have not yet been answered. Coverage of the entire state will require approximately 14 terabytes of data storage. The contour map will be the first product on the web.

Office of Electronic Services (OES)

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that Geospatial Portal is being renamed LouisianaMAP, so that the name will be easier for the general public to understand what services are being offered. Mr. Leachman noted that the I-Team effort would complement LouisianaMAP by making more geospatial data available to the public.

The CIO would like to see agency budget requests tied closely to program baseline data requirements. The I-Team Initiative will help in these efforts by guiding the expenditures for data collection. Ron Matzner noted that the "Needs Analysis" effort, within the Louisiana I-Team Initiative, would assist in defining these programmatic needs. Mr. Leachman noted that the I-Team Draft Executive Order is now at the Governor's Office, where it will be reviewed.

10. New Business:

Louisiana Spatial Reference Center

Dr. Roy Dokka noted that in 1999 the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) recognized that the vertical component of the federal benchmarks in Louisiana was unreliable. Rather than relevel and recalibrate, NGS would rather fund a continuously operating reference system (CORES) for the collection of differential Global Positioning System data. Fortunately for Louisiana, Congress recently approved funding for the CORES network. For complete coastal coverage, Louisiana will need approximately 25 stations at an estimated cost of \$45,000 each. One million dollars in funding has already been released allowing construction work to begin on four of the CORES stations, which will be certified within the week.

Professor Dokka noted that the state NGS Advisor would have an office at LSU starting at the beginning of next year. An advisory group will be established to provide feedback on the needs of the Louisiana geospatial community. Dr Dokka invited members of the Council and agency representatives to participate.

11. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

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

- Thursday, February 21, 2002 at the Louisiana Municipal Association
- Thursday, March 21, 2002 at the Louisiana Municipal Association

12. Adjourn

A motion was made by to adjourn by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Dennis Eilers (CRT). The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.