Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of February 21, 2002

1. Call to Order
Chair Marty Beasley (DOA) called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M. in the conference room at the Louisiana Municipal Association Building in Baton Rouge. A quorum was present.

2. Roll Call
A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Darren Boudreaux, **Alternate**
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Dennis Eilers, **Member**
Department of Economic Development
Gene Stephens, **Member**
Department of Environmental Quality
Joe Holmes, **Member**
Department of Natural Resources
Bo Blackmon, **Member**
Department of Public Safety
Rhonda Barber, **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 Office of Emergency Preparedness
Terry Thompson, **Alternate**
Louisiana Police Jury Association
Rob Cox, **Member**

Others Present:

    Association of Louisiana Technology Companies (ALT-C)
        Mike Stagg
    ATS Inc.
        John Speice
    BCG Inc.
        Andre Dehaan
    Coastal Environments Inc.
        David Alford
    Department of Environmental Quality
        Kurt Johnson
        Brad Mooney
        Paul Zundel, **Alternate**
    Department of Public Safety
        Daphne Bencaz
    Department of Transportation and Development
        Jim Mitchell, **Alternate**
        John Wells
    Environmental Systems Research Inc.
        Traci Tracy
    Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.
        Carlos Perez
        Lisa Sachse
    Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)
        Craig Johnson
        Joshua Kent
        Dina Sa
    Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)
        David Gisclair
    Red River Waterway Commission
        John Loftin
        Mary Sharp
    St James Parish
        Jody Chenier
        Toby Sandifer
        Bobby Lear
    US Geological Survey
        Pat O'Neil

3. Approval of January 2002 Minutes

The minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Sharon Balfour (DOTD) and seconded by Kathleen Randall (House).

4. Technology Innovation Funding (TIF) Proposal – Joshua Kent (for Ed Leachman)

The Louisiana GIS Council and the Office of Electronic Services have submitted a proposal for funding through the Technology Innovation Fund. Joshua Kent (LAGIC) gave an overview of the Technology Innovation Funding Proposal (TIF), which he described as a means to provide funds for the development of the Louisiana I-Team Initiative and LouisianaMAP the state's geospatial portal. The proposal, which will provide funding for two years, will have three major components: the Louisiana I-Team Geospatial Data Implementation Plan, the LouisianaMAP Geospatial Portal and the LouisianaMAP Academy. The I-Team component will identify the core geospatial data layers that will be made available over the geospatial portal. The TIF will utilize a Requirements Management Services (RMS) to collect, organize and maintain a statewide needs analysis system for geographic information and services. Based on these needs, I-Team priorities will be established and a plan will identify essential framework data layers and make that data available on the portal. The RMS will also identify geographic services required to validate user needs. The portal will be implemented on an open web based infrastructure making it widely available to the entire Louisiana geospatial community. Framework data sets identified by the I-Team plan will be integrated within a data base management system. Clearinghouse technologies and data distribution standards established by the Federal government will be used to make the data available. The portal interface will be customizable by user types. Three types of user have been identified: basic, advanced and expert user. In order to provide these services in a meaningful way the LouisianaMAP Academy will be designed to provide training and outreach. The Academy, an extension of LAGIC, will develop the means to train users, whether basic, intermediate or advanced, in the uses and applications of the LouisianaMAP geospatial portal. The LouisianaMAP portal will simplify and unify access to geospatial data in three distinct layers; the data layer, the user layer and the application layer. LouisianaMap consists of three complimentary initiatives; the I-Team Initiative, the Geospatial Portal Initiative and the LouisianaMAP Academy Initiative. All three will contribute to the common project goal of providing reliable, consistent geographic information and services for the state.

Chair Beasley (DOA) noted that this proposal, which is due tomorrow, deserves the support of the Council because it will provide additional funding to meet the long-term goal of providing framework data in standard easily accessible formats.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) commented that this is a very important proposal because it creates a mechanism for the creation, maintenance and distribution of geospatial data in the state.

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) moved that we accept the proposal as described, which was seconded by Kathleen Randall (House). The vote was unanimously in favor

of the motion, which was accepted.

5. I-Team Steering Committee Report

Sharon Balfour (DOTD), Chair of the I-Team Steering Committee, noted that the I-Team Initiative began last summer with a series of meetings to discuss the Initiative and to decide whether Louisiana should participate.   These initial meetings culminated in a Council resolution to support the I-Team effort. The initial I-Team committee met just before the Christmas holidays to write a white paper and draft an Executive Order, which were presented to the CIO for his review. The Committee has met on a number of occasions since then to create an organizational structure, elect a Committee Chair and determine strategy. One of the challenges faced by the committee is to determine how to fund a full time I-Team Coordinator position.   The LAGIC Oversight Committee met to reprioritize the tasks of LAGIC to make the I-Team Initiative the first and most important priority for LAGIC staff. Chair Balfour asked for volunteers for different data subcommittees and passed around a signup sheet.

I-Team Chair Balfour noted that there is now an I-Team website at http://lagic.lsu.edu/I-Team which is also accessible from the Council Website. I-Team Chair Balfour also noted the I-Team Kickoff will occur on Wednesday, April 10th at the Remote Sensing GIS Workshop. The Steering Committee has invited speakers from Federal, State and other government agencies as well as the private sector to discuss the importance of the I-Team Initiative.

Joe Holmes (DEQ) moved that we support the I-Team Steering Committee in its efforts to promote the Louisiana I-Team Initiative; Marty Beasley (DOA) then seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, which was accepted.

Chair Beasley noted that the I-Team meetings would be scheduled for the morning before the GIS Council meetings so that those coming to the meetings from out of town will only have to drive to Baton Rouge once a month.

6. Chair's Report

Chair Beasley (DOA) asked the Council if we needed to schedule a Strategic Planning Session this year.   Mr. Icabalceta (DWF) felt it would be beneficial, noting that we are proposing a number of major changes to Council activities. Mr. Icabalceta felt we should review the TIF Proposal to see if it fits with the goals of the Strategic Plan.   Chair Beasley stated that he felt that the Council is currently involved in many activities.   A Strategic Planning Session would overload members who are also being asked to participate in I-Team Data Subcommittees. It was suggested that we wait until the TIF Proposal is funded and then revisit the Strategic Plan in May or June. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) noted that the Strategic Plan is on the website if anyone would like to review it.

Chair Beasley (DOA) asked if anyone had read the article on Certification of GIS Professionals in "GIS Solutions" Magazine. Chair Beasley outlined the GIS certification process as described in the article. The certification program is divided into three areas; educational attainment, professional experience and contributions to the GIS Profession. There will be a two-year period to institute the program beginning with a six-month period for public debate followed by a one-year pilot for testing and evaluation. This is a point-based system using self-evaluation; it does not include an examination. There will be a three year renewal program to allow GIS professionals to maintain their certification at one of five levels; beginner, novice, experienced, master, and expert. Chair Beasley noted that everyone should read the proposed certification plan on the URISA website www.urisa.org/certification because it will affect everyone who creates geospatial data.

Joe Holmes (DEQ) asked if you would have to be a member of URISA to participate. Chair Beasley said it was his understanding that you did not need to be a member of URISA to be certified. There was a general discussion of whether fees would be required and who would pay for recertification. Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted his concern is that GIS professionals come from a wide variety of backgrounds and educational experience, making it more difficult to determine whether that experience is relevant to their certification.

Mattie Coxe (LMA) noted that certification would not improve our ability to provide services to the public. John Wells (DOTD) noted that GIS Certification is only necessary to prevent the other professions from imposing their own certification requirements on the GIS community.

Sheryl Martin (LAA) noted that Louisiana Assessors have had an ongoing certification process through International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) for many years. Certification has been beneficial for the profession because it provides a common terminology for discussing cadastral issues.

7. LAGIC Oversight Committee

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) explained that she is Chair of the LAGIC Oversight Committee in her role as project manager of the LAGIC Contract. Ms. Balfour listed the other members of the Oversight Committee; Marty Beasley, Bo Blackmon, Joe Holmes, Ed Leachman, DeWitt Braud and Farrell Jones. The Committee meets periodically to review LAGIC's activities and if necessary reprioritize tasks. The Committee met before Christmas to review the tasks in the contract and again in January to align LAGIC tasks with the I-Team Proposal. The Committee asked the LAGIC Director to come up with a revised budget that would ensure all LAGIC employees are 100% funded to carry out the proposed LGISC tasks, such as the I-Team Project. That revised budget is included as part of the TIF Proposal. Among the other items discussed at the Oversight

meeting were the qualifications of an I-Team Coordinator and their job responsibilities. The latest proposal would have a state employee detailed to the I-Team project for the next two years. However, this proposal would require that someone in the Governor's office request approval of a Department Secretary to detail an employee.

8. Presentation: "Rivers of Light, Corridors of Opportunity", by Mike Stagg with Digitallouisiana

Mike Stagg is an economic development specialist with Digitallouisiana and cofounder of the Association of Louisiana Technology companies (ALT-C). Mr. Stagg stated that economic development in the 21st century requires three things; access to high speed networks, trained or trainable work force and state resources to attract outside investment. Mr. Stagg made the point that Louisiana has all three of the required items. Hundreds of miles of fiber optic cable have been laid along interstate highways, gas pipelines and rail corridors throughout the state. The state has agreements with all of the cable companies using state rights-of-way for access to this digital network. In addition, many of the state's universities are within a mile of these transportation corridors. The state is currently spending an estimated 50 million dollars a year for telephone service that could be redirected through fiber optic lines many of which are now owned by the state, because of the default of fiber optic service companies. The state should leverage this investment to create the digital infrastructure necessary to sustain the growth of a high technology sector. By identifying data and digital infrastructure needs, the I-Team Initiative will provide the missing link between these high-speed networks and the location of local and state government digital infrastructure. Mr. Stagg invited the state agencies to participate in "Tech Day" on April 2nd at the Capitol.

Kathleen Randall (House) mentioned that the I-Team Steering Committee has discussed adding Infrastructure as another critical digital layer.

There was some additional discussion on the issue of access to right of way data on gas and electrical transmission lines and how the events of September 11th might affect access to this critical infrastructure data.

9. 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 results of the survey will be presented at the Assessors Conference in Shreveport.

Mr. Johnson noted that LAGIC will be giving a presentation to LAGIN at the State Library on Wednesday, March 20th on the I-Team Initiative and recent developments in GIS in the state of Louisiana.

10. Digital Data Subcommittee Reports:

Cadastral Data Subcommittee

Marty Beasley (DOA), Chair of the Cadastral Data Subcommittee, reported on the meeting of the cadastral data group at LMA prior to the GIS Council meeting. Chair Beasley noted that the Cadastral Data Committee will become part of the Louisiana I-Team Initiative, Cadastral Data Committee and will meet before each GIS Council meeting. They will not make a recommendation on a cadastral data standard until they meet with full I-Team Cadastral Data Committee.

Geodetic Control Data Subcommittee

Chair Beasley noted that they are looking for a Chair for the Geodetic Control Data Subcommittee of the I-Team, as their proposed nominee, Bob Zurfluh, declined the offer. Chair Beasley stated that he is submitting a Geodetic Control Data set for the Digital Data Committee to consider it for recognition. Chair Beasley agrees to maintain that data set for the next two years until a long-term data custodian can be identified. All of this data is available on the web at the National Geodetic Survey website.

11. Old Business:

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the LIDAR project. There are 42 LIDAR panels delivered to the contractor that are currently in review. Mr. Gisclair explained that he is working with Farrell Jones (LSU) on providing LIDAR data through the Atlas website in a similar method as the DOQQs are currently being distributed. There will be a separate raster down loader for the DEMs created from the LIDAR data. The DEM files are larger than a DOQQ file and the contour files will be even larger. These are the two products that will be available on the web.

State Software Contract

Paul Zundel (DEQ) gave an update on his efforts to create a Master Contract through the State Procurement Support Team for GIS software from ESRI. Technical support will not be included in the master contract agreement but

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training will be included. All items will be on state contract.

Highway Data

John Wells (DOTD) noted that the state now has video of all state maintained highway routes. Sub meter accuracy latitude and longitude data for intersections and specific nodes are now available. Pictures are also available using a viewer on the DOTD LAN, but not yet available externally. The data is owned by the state but the software is licensed for internal use only.

12. New Business:

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that on March 13th from 10:00 – 2:00 at DOTD there would be a presentation by IBM regarding their Spatial Extender for DB2 database. With this new software you will be able to use DB2 with SQL commands and can use Arc SDE with a DB2 database. April 30th – May 4th there will be another workshop on using Arc SDE with DB2 at DOTD.

13. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

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

- Thursday, March 21, 2002 at the Louisiana Municipal Association
- Thursday, April 11, 2002 at the Pennington Conference Center

14. Adjourn

A motion was made by to adjourn by Sharon Balfour (DOTD) and seconded by Joe Holmes (DEQ). The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.