

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of March 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 Economic Development

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality

Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Health & Hospitals

Truman McDaniels, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Public Safety

Rhonda Barber, **Member**

Department of Transportation and Development

Jim Mitchell, **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 Senate

Glenn Koepp, **Member**

Others Present:

Bellsouth Inc.

Paul Provenza

Coastal Environments Inc.

David Alford

Department of Transportation and Development

Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**

Digital Globe

Brett Thomassie

Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.

Carlos Perez

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)

David Gisclair

Louisiana State University

DeWitt Braud

Rob Cunningham

Hampton Peele

Office of Electronic Services, Division of Administration

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

St James Parish

Bobby Lear

US Geological Survey

Pat O'Neil

3. Approval of February 2002 Minutes

The minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Joe Holmes (DEQ).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Beasley (DOA) welcomed Jim Mitchell (DOTD) as a new member to the Council and thanked Sharon Balfour (DOTD) for all of her hard work and her many contributions to the Council. Chair Beasley asked the Council to recognize Sharon's efforts by applause. Chair Beasley noted that Ms Balfour would remain involved with the Council by remaining Chair of the ITeam Steering committee and as an alternate for DOTD.

Chair Beasley wrote a letter to both US Senators asking that they support the supplemental appropriation bill for the USGS. He asked that they be funded commensurate with their new "Homeland Security" responsibilities. Brad Spicer, GIS Council member representing the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, hand delivered the letters to both senators. Glenn Koepp, Louisiana Senate, asked why we didn't also send letters to our entire congressional delegation. Chair Beasley noted that there were other appropriation bills circulating in the House so it might not be the most appropriate time to request USGS funding, and that he didn't want to appear to be sending a form letter.

5. LAGIC Report

Mr. Johnson, Director of LAGIC, noted that LAGIC held a Metadata Workshop in conjunction with the Louisiana Assessors Association (LAA) Conference in Shreveport in mid March. He thanked Assessors Sheryl Martin and Rich Bailey, GIS Council member and alternate respectively, for their assistance in providing a room and promoting the workshop. Twenty-two assessors and their staff members attended the workshop. They received Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Credits from LAA for completing the workshop.

Mr. Johnson reminded Council members that another full day Metadata Workshop is planned for Thursday, April 4th in Lafayette at the NASA/ULL Regional Applications Center. CEU credit, from the American Planning Association will be awarded to those planners who complete the workshop. This workshop is one of the eight Metadata workshops funded by FGDC throughout the state of Louisiana to teach Metadata through the Regional Planning agencies in Louisiana.

In addition to the Metadata Workshop in Shreveport, LAGIC gave a presentation on the results of the GIS Capability Survey of Assessors that was completed just a week before the Conference. LAGIC received responses from 44 of the 70 Assessors in the state. The Survey asked Assessors to state the status of their GIS and asked a number of other questions such as: whether they used a Parcel Identification Number (PIN), whether their PIN incorporated geographic coordinates, whether they used a relational database etc. The complete results will be available on the LAGIC website soon. Over 40 people attended the presentation, which was held on the second day of the conference.

LAGIC did a presentation on March 20th for the Louisiana Government Information Network (LaGIN) at the State Library. The presentation described the activities of the Louisiana GIS Council, LAGIC and an update on the Louisiana I-Team Initiative. Approximately 25 people attended the presentation, which lasted about two hours.

6. Distribution of RS/GIS Workshop Posters, by DeWitt Braud

DeWitt Braud (LSU) presented to the Council a copy of the latest RS/GIS Workshop Poster that was created by the Louisiana Geological Survey. He encouraged members to come forward to pick up posters to post in their offices and university labs. Mr. Braud reminded members that the RS/GIS Workshop will take place from April 9th through the 11th. He described many of the topics that will be covered at the Workshop and noted that, for the first time, the GIS Council will have their monthly meeting in conjunction with the Workshop.

7. I-Team Committee Report, by Sharon Balfour

Ms Balfour (DOTD), Chair of the I-Team Steering Committee, noted that the Steering Committee met that morning to discuss subcommittee membership and mentioned that the Steering Committee has added a few suggested names. Bo Blackmon, DNR) asked if we had heard anything from the Governor regarding the Executive Order supporting the I-Team Initiative that was given to the Governor in January? Ms. Balfour noted that the Executive Order was still on the Governor's desk. Chair Beasley asked if the Governor's staff was aware of the I-Team Kickoff being planned for the RS/GIS Workshop. Ms. Balfour explained the background of the Executive Order and the "White Paper" that was written to justify Louisiana's involvement in the I-Team Initiative. Ms. Balfour explained that we selected chairs for the different data subcommittees. Ms. Balfour then passed around a sign-up sheet for the various data subcommittees.

Ms. Balfour described the agenda for the I-Team "Kickoff" presentation. She noted that the "Kickoff" would occur between 2:30 and 4:00 on Wednesday, April 10th. Ms Balfour listed the I-Team speakers in Session #8:

National I-Team Concept

Ron Matzner, Office of Management and Budget

National Map, Geospatial One-Stop and other Initiatives

Karen Siderelis, GIO, USGS

Executive Level Support to the Louisiana I-Team

Chad McGee, Chief Information Officer State of Louisiana

I-Team Support by Federal Agencies within Louisiana

Calvin "Pat" O'Neil, USGS, Mid-Continent Mapping Center and National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA.

The Role of LGISC in the Louisiana I-Team Initiative

Marty Beasley, Louisiana GIS Council, Baton Rouge, LA.

Private Sector Participation in the Louisiana I-Team Initiative

Scott Leachman, Weyerhaeuser, Ruston, LA.

Jorge Icabalceta (DWF) asked what data layers are being considered by the Louisiana I-Team. Ms. Balfour mentioned the seven framework layers (geodetic control, ortho imagery, elevation/bathymetry, transportation, hydrography, governmental units and cadastral data) plus land use/land cover, demographics, flood plains/wetlands and the newest data layer addition: utilities and critical infrastructure.

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that the objective is to have a strategy for each data layer. The strategy will include a plan for the funding, creation, maintenance and distribution of each data layer. The Requirements Committee will determine the priority of each layer depending on the needs and requirements of the various agencies and entities. The intent is to take advantage of the available funding by coordinating between federal, state and local governments to eliminate duplication of effort. The intent is for the strategy to change as opportunities and threats become known. Each layer will have an integrated product team to determine the best resolution, geographic coverage, custodianship, etc.

Mr. Icabalceta (DWF) asked how someone with limited GIS experience could participate in the I-Teams. Bo Blackmon (DNR) stated that his experience in issues relating to fisheries and wildlife habitat would be very valuable to a number of the data subcommittees, such as hydrography, land use/land cover, etc. One didn't have to be a GIS expert to become involved with the I-Teams.

8. Digital Data Subcommittee Reports:

Digital Data Committee Chair, Joe Holmes (DEQ), stated that reports on the **DOQQ Grid** and the **Geodetic Control Points** data sets that were submitted to the Digital Data Committee will be postponed until the May or June Council meetings.

9. Old Business

Technology Innovation Funding Proposal

Chair Beasley asked Ed Leachman (DOA) how the Office of Electronic Services (OES), Technology Innovation Funding (TIF) Proposal stands and what would occur at the TIF Committee meeting on Friday, March 22nd. Mr. Leachman explained that the TIF proposal would cover certain aspects of the Louisiana I-Team Initiative. The TIF would help build the Geospatial Portal (LouisianaMAP) that would make this data available and provide outreach to train users of the portal and the geospatial data. The Proposal requested funding in the amount of \$472,000 that would be provided over 24 months in a series of three steps. Chair Beasley and Ed Leachman will make the presentation to the TIF committee tomorrow explaining how these framework data sets will become available on the internet for non-GIS users and how various state data sets with some geospatial component will be integrated in a way that can be displayed using the portal. The grant will allow the GIS Council to build I-Teams in an accelerated manner, and will fund a computer system that will allow Internet access to this data. Chair Beasley, asked Mr. Leachman if he had made any headway regarding funding an I-Team coordinator. Mr. Leachman stated that the CIO is waiting to see if the OES Proposal is funded before making any other decisions.

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the LIDAR project. There are 42 LIDAR DEM panels are now available on the ATLAS website. Mr. Gisclair explained that he is working with Farrell Jones (LSU) on providing additional LIDAR data through the Atlas website in a similar method as the DOQQs that 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. The two foot contours are not yet available but they will be soon. Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked what is the maximum resolution of the data. Mr. Gisclair noted that the contours will be in two foot intervals with a .38 feet RMS error.

Chair Beasley asked if the surveyors in his agency (State Lands) could have some raw data to evaluate the accuracy of the data for their purposes. Mr. Gisclair stated that this would be possible.

Ms Balfour (DOTD) asked if the LIDAR funding was renewed. Mr. Gisclair noted that the LIDAR funding was doubled from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. Mr. Gisclair stated that his main concern was having the digital storage space to house the huge data sets. Mr. Gisclair noted that the Governor's Office would like to have the state flown again in 2005 for a number of reasons.

10. New Business:

State Representative on FGDC and NSGIC

Sharon Balfour noted that she is currently the state representative on the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) and the Louisiana contact with the FGDC. Now that she is no longer a member of the Council she asked if the Council should select someone else. Chair Beasley asked if Sharon would like to continue in that capacity. She said she would serve if it were the Council's decision to reappoint her. Bo Blackmon (DNR) moved that a vote be taken, and Glenn Koepp (Senate) seconded the motion. The motion to ask Sharon Balfour to continue in her current role as state representative passed by voice vote.

Quad Update

Mr. O'Neil (USGS) noted that there are now a number of map revisions in progress to produce new quadrangles and digital raster graphs (DRG's) for Louisiana. There was a discussion on how to notify those that are serving quads either online (ATLAS) or in hard copy (DOTD) that these new revisions are available. Mr. O'Neil mentioned that USGS Cooperators automatically receive updates. In Louisiana, only DOTD is an officially recognized USGS Cooperator. Pam Coffey is the contact at DOTD for those revisions.

Mr. O'Neil noted that he makes frequent presentations on the status of quad updates at local and regional GIS meetings including the quarterly Federal/State GIS Working Group meetings and the annual Remote Sensing GIS Workshop. He also mentioned that the USGS Website posts information on the availability of Quad and DRG's by state <http://mapping.usgs.gov/>.

11. Presentation: "Quick Bird", by Brett Thomassie with Digital Globe

Chair Beasley introduced Mr. Thomassie with Digital Globe. Mr. Thomassie gave a PowerPoint presentation on Digital Globe's products and services. Brett is located at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi where he directs Civil Government Programs and is responsible for all state and local government contacts in a thirteen state region encompassing the southern United States. Digital Globe's corporate office is in Longmont, Colorado.

Current status of the Quickbird: it is in orbit and collecting panchromatic (2' resolution) and four band multispectral imaging (at 5' resolution). The satellite is pointable and covers the same area on the earth, at nadir, every eighteen days. Mr. Thomassie showed a number of examples of both the panchromatic and multispectral products including merges of the two products. As they have only been collecting data for a couple of months they do not have a large inventory of historical data but they are currently collecting data for a number of clients and will be taking custom orders by this summer. Mr. Thomassie showed some comparisons with other available imagery products: Space Imaging, Orbi Image, Image Sat. He also showed how Digital Globe imagery pricing structure can be very competitive with other imagery providers.

12. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

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

- Thursday, April 11, 2002 at the Pennington Conference Center
- Thursday, May 16, 2002 at Efferson Hall on the LSU campus

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by to adjourn by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Jim Mitchell (DOTD). The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.