

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of April 11, 2002

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Marty Beasley (DOA) called the meeting to order as a Committee of the Whole at 1:38 P.M., in the main auditorium of the Pennington Conference Center, a quorum was not present.

### **2. Roll Call**

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

### **Member Agencies/Organizations Present:**

**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 Municipal Association**

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

**Louisiana Police Jury Association**

Rob Cox, **Member**

### **Others Present:**

**3001 Inc.**

Jay Arnold

**CH Fenstermaker & Associates**

Cynthia Fierman

**Coastal Environments Inc.**

David Alford

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Fran Stewart

**Department of Public Safety**

Daphne Bencaz

Tim Sharkey, **Alternate**

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**

Kay Henderson

Wanda Hill

Dora Michelli

**Division of Administration**

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

**Department of Health & Hospitals**

Joseph Sejud

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

**Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)**

David Gisclair

**Louisiana State University**

DeWitt Braud

Rob Cunningham

Thomas Dean

Hampton Peele

David Petty

Pat Skinner

**New Orleans Regional Planning Commission**

Lynn Dupont

**St James Parish**

Jody Chenier

Bobby Lear

**US Census Bureau**

Betty Adamek

**US Environmental Protection Agency**

David Parrish

**US Geological Survey**

Larry Handley

Pat O'Neil

Chris Wells

**3. Approval of March 2002 Minutes**

Approval of the March minutes was postponed until May due to the lack of a quorum.

#### **4. Chair's Report**

The Technology Innovation Proposal that was submitted by the Office of E-Services and the GIS Council was approved and funded. The proposal will allow for the implementation of the Louisiana MAP Project; which will promote the I-Team Initiative, the Geospatial Portal and the Louisiana Map Academy.

The "I-Team Kickoff" session of the Remote Sensing GIS Workshop was successful in explaining the I-Team Initiative to those who were unfamiliar with the concept. I-Teams Data Subcommittees will begin their meetings in the near future.

The USGS budget this year will be cut by about 47 million dollars. The mapping programs will not be cut and their funding will remain at last years level. The GIS Council will monitor these events.

#### **5. Presentation: "Visualization of Survey Results", by Mike Eschman with Engima Technologies.**

Mr. Eschman presented some examples of 3D simulations that his company had prepared for public meetings under contract to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Engima Technologies, a Louisiana based LINUX solution provider, sells pre-configured appliances (servers and server clusters) to school systems, municipalities, federal and state agencies, engineering firms, public institutions and others. These server appliances provide Internet based libraries, live broadcast facilities and the ability to create time-motion movies from data warehouses. Mr. Eschman recommended viewing his website [www.engima.com](http://www.engima.com) to download some simple simulations.

#### **6. Presentation: "New GIS Initiatives", by Dr Fulbert Namwamba with the Southern University Center for Energy and Environmental Studies.**

Dr Namwamba, a professor of Urban Forestry, has been leading GIS development at Southern University for 2 ½ years. Dr. Namwamba described two initiatives he is undertaking that would be enhanced by support from the GIS Council.

The first initiative is a proposal to create a Center for Coastal Zone Studies and Remote Sensing at Southern under the auspices of the NASA Group 3 HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) University Research Centers. Dr. Namwamba requested a letter of support from the Council for the GIS program at Southern University. He would like to partner with other state universities with existing Coastal Studies programs, as well as state agencies with coastal programs. He asked if the Council could help identify partners for their program.

The second initiative, involves the hiring of summer GIS student interns from the Southern University GIS Program by various state agencies. He noted that Southern has many students in the GIS program that would make excellent student interns. He asked if any one of the state agencies present needed students workers this summer. There were many questions from Council members related to the cost of hiring student interns.

## **7. LAGIC Report**

Mr. Johnson, LAGIC Director, noted that LAGIC staff had conducted a full day Metadata Workshop in Lafayette on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the NASA/ULL Regional Applications Center. Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Brent Yantis, the Center's Director, for providing a facility for the training. He also thanked Helena Schaeffer, with the National Wetlands Research Center, for assisting with the training. The next metadata workshops will occur in Lake Charles and Alexandria, Louisiana in June and July.

Mr. Johnson noted that LAGIC had a display booth at the Remote Sensing GIS Workshop at the Pennington Conference Center. The booth featured information on the Louisiana I-Team Initiative including a status map, priority data layer descriptions, etc. At the booth, LAGIC had sign-up sheets for the various I-Team data subcommittees. Over 45 people signed up for one or more of the 12 data subcommittees.

At the conference, LAGIC distributed a demo C/D, designed by Joshua Kent. The C/D describes the products and services available through LAGIC and its role in the Louisiana geospatial community. By conference end, all of the 100 CD's that had been burned for the workshop had been distributed.

## **8. I-Team Steering Committee Report**

Sharon Balfour (DOTD), Chair of the I-Team Steering Committee, stated that all of the names of volunteers for I-Team data subcommittees would soon be entered into the database and available on the I-Team website. She noted that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at DOTD (Airport Office) at 9:00 am. She recommended that all data subcommittee chairs be present, as data subcommittee procedures would be discussed.

Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked what level of commitment would be required of data subcommittee members. There was a general discussion of what would need to be accomplished between now and November if the I-Team Initiative were to remain on schedule. An I-Team progress update is due to the Governor in September 2002. In November, the first draft of the I-Team Plan should be completed.

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that the Requirements Committee would be an essential element in designing the plan. He noted that the requirements software, used by many federal agencies, could be helpful in meeting those deadlines. A recommendation was made that the Requirements Committee include the Chairs of each data subcommittee.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked if “Soils” could be added to the list of priority data layers. Many of the Council members agreed that soils is a critical data layer, but felt it should be included in the Land Use/Land Cover data set.

## **9. Old Business**

### **DOQQ/LIDAR**

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the LIDAR data program. There are currently 42 panels of LIDAR data completed and they will be available on the ATLAS Website. Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked if DOTD would be on the distribution list for DEM’s and contour data. Mr. Gisclair stated that he is not anticipating distributing data to individual agencies, however he will post the data to the ATLAS site as soon as it is available. Mr. Gisclair mentioned the logistical problems of storing these large data sets.

Mr. Gisclair noted that one additional state data layer; marinas and boat launches, will be available on the LAGIC clearinghouse node as soon as it is complete. He also noted that DeWitt Braud is mosaicing DOQQ’s into parish files. One of the challenges he encountered, was mosaicing large parishes into a file that would fit on one CD. The files were compressed using Mr. SID software at various compression ratios, depending on the size of the original data set.

### **Office of Electronic Services, TIF Proposal**

Mr. Leachman (DOA) noted that the Technology Innovation Fund (TIF) Proposal was approved for funding. He recommended that anyone interested in reading the proposal download a copy from this site <http://www.state.la.us/ltif/index.htm>

## **10. Determine Next Meeting Data and Location:**

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

- Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Efferson Hall at LSU
- Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Efferson Hall at LSU

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned, as a committee of the whole, at 3:55 pm.