

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of May 16, 2002

1. Call to Order

Chair Marty Beasley (DOA) called the meeting to order at 1:37 P.M. in Room 212 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge. A quorum was present.

2. Roll Call

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

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 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 Icabalceca, **Alternate**

Division of Administration, SLO

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Kathrine Cargo, **Alternate**

Others Present:

3001 Inc.

Rodger Phelps

CH Fenstermaker & Associates

Cynthia Fierman

Department of Public Safety

Daphne Bencaz

Department of Transportation and Development

Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**
Wanda Hill
Neil Hohmann
Dora Michelli
John Wells

Division of Administration

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Division of Administration, SLO

John Evans

Department of Health & Hospitals

Joseph Sejud

Forrest Lamb

Gulf Engineers & Consultants Inc.

Bill Wiesepape

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson

Dina Sa

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO)

David Gisclair

Louisiana State University

DeWitt Braud

Rob Cunningham

National Geodetic Survey

Bob Zurfluh

New Orleans Regional Planning Commission

James Harvey

Red River Waterway Commission

John Loftin

South Central Planning & Development Commission

Kevin Ghirardi

Scott Leger

Richard Poche

St James Parish

Jody Chenier

Bobby Lear

US Army Corps of Engineers

Rodney Greenup

US Geological Survey

Pat O'Neil

Weyerhaeuser Company

Scott Leachman

3. Approval of April and March 2002 Minutes

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

The April minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Kathrine Cargo (PJA).

4. Chairs Report

Chairperson Marty Beasley (DOA) noted that much of the Council's recent efforts have focused on the I-Team Initiative.

He mentioned that another recent topic of discussion has been the need for qualified student interns with GIS experience. He would like to see LAGIC assemble a list of qualified students that are available for summer work. He asked Craig Johnson (LAGIC) to work with Farrell Jones at LSU and Dr. Namwamba at Southern University to compile a list of potential interns for interested state agencies.

Chair Beasley welcomed Kathrine Cargo to the Council as the alternative member of the Police Jury Association.

5. Presentation: "VISIDATA", by James Lee, Department of Transportation and Development

Jim Wells (DOTD) introduced Mr. Lee. James Lee is an Engineering Tech within the Management Systems Section, which is within the Office of Planning and Programs for the Office of Highways (DOTD).

DOTD started collecting pavement condition data in 1990 on a statewide basis. DOTD is currently using a specially equipped vehicle with GPS receivers, and digital video cameras, the product produced by this procedure is known as VISIDATA. DOTD hired a contractor to produce video images and a GPS coordinate every 10.68 feet on 20,000 miles of Louisiana State Highway. The single video images alone, at a resolution of 600 x 480, require 1.7 terabytes of data storage for statewide coverage. These single images are mosaiced into a composite image, which covers an entire travel lane. These composite images are then used to diagnose the condition of the pavement. The crack patterns visible in the image are indicators of problems that need to be corrected or monitored. The Management Systems Group can then compile list of highway sections that need repair and submit this candidate list to the different highway divisions within the state.

The vendor has other software modules called Surveyor that allows measurements to be taken off the video images and Asset Manager that is used

to collect information on traffic signage. The Management Systems Group will now link the GPS data with the highway log mile linear referencing system.

6. LAGIC Oversight Committee

Sharon Balfour (DOTD), Chair of the LAGIC Oversight Committee, reported on the results of two recent meeting to discuss changes to the LAGIC contract in light of increased funding for the I-Team Initiative. The funding, made available through the Technology Innovation Funding (TIF) grant, was provided to further the aims of the I-Team by allowing LAGIC to concentrate staff efforts on the Initiative. Dina Sa (LAGIC) a staff member, who is currently working on other projects, will soon be working full time on I-Team tasks as Assistant Coordinator. LAGIC Contract language will be modified to reflect the changes in funding and in the priority of contract tasks. The amended contract will cover the period from July of 2002 to June of 2003. James Mitchell (DOTD) asked what the current overhead rate is on the contract. It was agreed that the overhead rate is currently 17%, although the rate has varied in the past.

7. LAGIC Report

Metadata Workshops

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that there is another Metadata Workshop scheduled for June 27th in Alexandria, Louisiana. This workshop, funded through a Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) grant, will be co-sponsored by the Kisatchie-Delta Regional Planning Committee and the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce. The workshop will be held at the Chamber offices, at 1118 Third Street, in downtown Alexandria. This workshop is the seventh in a series of eight workshops. A metadata workshop will be held in Lake Charles in July. Mr. Johnson is involved in discussions with Lake Charles planning professionals on a time and place for the workshop.

Graduate Student Assistance

LAGIC recently hired a graduate student, Harry "Jimmy" Wilson to assist LAGIC data manager Joshua Kent in administering the LAGIC network. Mr. Wilson, who is currently working for Professor Nina Lam in the Geography Department, will begin work part time starting on May 27th.

LAGIC Outreach

Mr. Johnson, was asked by Sharon Balfour the I-Team Coordinator, if he would make a presentation to a meeting of the Society of American Foresters in Alexandria on the I-Team Initiative. Mr. Johnson gave a half hour I-Team presentation, to approximately 35 members, on Tuesday evening, May 14th.

Council Chair Marty Beasley, asked Mr. Johnson to explain how LAGIC will be assisting the I-Team effort in outreach activities. Mr. Johnson replied that all LAGIC staff would be assisting the I-Team effort in various ways. Data Manager, Josh Kent will be assisting Ed Leachman with the design and construction of the Geospatial Portal. Research Assistant, Dina Sa will be Assistant Coordinator of the I-Team effort working closely with Sharon Balfour. Dina will be assisting the various I-Team data committees in their efforts. LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson, will be involved in outreach activities, like the recent I-Team presentation to the forest industry in Alexandria, Louisiana.

8. I-Team Steering Committee Report

I-Team Steering Committee Chair Sharon Balfour noted that prior to the GIS Council meeting there was a joint meeting of the I-Team Steering Committee and the Requirements Committee. Ed Leachman gave a presentation on the requirements process to all of the I-Team Data Subcommittee Chairs. These Chairs are tasked with defining the “as-is” situation on all of the various framework data layers. They will need to define what additional data layers are critical to performing certain tasks. What agency or entity should be custodian of various data layers and an update on the completion status of these data sets? In addition Data Chairs should identify data gaps; are there data sets that are critically important for geospatial analysis that are not currently funded by any one agency.

The process will occur in the following manner: the Data Chairs will complete their data surveys and then make their recommendations to the Steering Committee who will then instruct the Requirements Committee on common data needs. The GIS Council will be the last word in deciding what data layers are of critical importance. Committee Chairs were given a handout (“Care Package”) that explains the procedures for reporting to the Steering Committee. They were asked to appoint a documentarian (secretary) to take minutes at the monthly subcommittee meetings and forward that information to the Coordinator. The subcommittee reports should be forwarded to the Coordinator and/or her assistant at least a week in advance of the monthly GIS Council meetings.

The I-Team Coordinator noted that there might be gaps in representation in the various data committees. She recommended that the Council review the lists and make recommendations on individuals, private sector representatives and agencies that should be invited to participate. There will be a list server available for use by the committee chairs to make communication as simple as possible. The Steering and Requirements Committees will meet once a month in the morning before the GIS Council Meeting. The Data Subcommittee Chairs will set their own meeting schedules. Ms. Balfour (DOTD) expressed her wish that the organization being developed by the Steering Committee be helpful to the Subcommittee Chairs and that anyone who is not currently participating, do so.

One Council member asked if there was a timeline for completion of the Initiative. Ms Balfour noted that there is a timeline described in the TIF Proposal available on the LAGIC and LGISC websites. A status report is due to the Governor on September 18th and the first draft I-Team Plan is due in November. Chair Beasley noted that there is an official I-Team website for the nation available through a link at the LAGIC website. He noted that there are various groups working on data standards under the direction of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). Furthermore, Chair Beasley noted that the members of the different data subcommittees will communicate with each other primarily through e-mails and by posting information to the website. Joining a data subcommittee will not necessarily involve traveling to frequent meetings. The time commitment involved in joining a data subcommittee will vary with the different committees, but it should not be overly burdensome on Council members. Ms Balfour noted that the data subcommittees would need to make the business case for creating new data sets. These justifications for data acquisition will be an important element of the overall I-Team plan.

9. Old Business

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) and Rob Cunningham (LSU) described their recent trip to Colorado for the USGS Central Mapping Meeting, which occurs every two years. One of the major meeting topics was the “National Map”. According to Mr. Gisclair USGS has in the past insisted that geospatial data sets be built to a specific standard. It appears that they are willing to incorporate local geospatial data sets many of which are built to a higher standard than previous USGS mapping products. The details of how these data sets will be incorporated have yet to be decided. One approach would be to have state websites where this data could be hosted (i.e.; LouisianaMAP). USGS is considering establishing a Mapping Partnership Office in Louisiana to be housed at the Wetlands Center in Lafayette. 2010 is the projected deadline for creating the “National Map”. USGS has very little funding for mapping activities so the “National Map” will be a way for USGS to continue mapping by acting as a mapping repository for data created by state and local governments. John Wells (DOTD) noted that DOTD would also like to collect as much local government data as possible and would appreciate any help that GIS Council members can provide. David Gisclair mentioned that local governments will want to use the most cost effective technologies for data acquisition, such as digital cameras, and they will be collecting data before national standards for these new technologies have been developed. There was a general discussion of the desire by local governments to recover some of the costs of GIS data development by limiting the accessibility of value-added data. Kathrine Cargo (PJA) recommended the use of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU’s) between state agencies and local government to define data sharing arrangements.

Mr. Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that in the future ortho-imagery might be created at different scales for different areas of the state so as to be more cost effective. Anyone interested in these issues should join the I-Team Ortho-Imagery Data Subcommittee where these issues will be debated. There are some legislative mandates, such as the need for a photographic backdrop for redoing census boundaries by 2006 that will have to be considered in determining the data acquisition requirements for the next flight. Mr. Beasley (SLO) suggested that that we require those downloading DOQQ's or LIDAR data to first fill out a short questionnaire so that we can determine who is using the data and for what purpose. We might discover who would be willing to assist in funding the next photo acquisition. Bo Blackmon, (DNR) suggested that we discuss with Farrell Jones (CADGIS) the problem of collecting information on those who are downloading data off a website. John Wells asked if the State Plane version of the DOQQ's had been released. Mr. Gisclair said the LOSCO was still working on the conversion of those data sets. Mr. Gisclair provided a LIDAR Data status map and noted that 101 DEM's are now available for download on the ATLAS Website. Farrell is working on providing the two-foot contours for the Phase 1 area. There are 113 (quarter quad) panels of LIDAR data completed out of the 440 panels in procurement. The Phase 1 funding will be completed within the next month or so. Then Phase 2 of the LIDAR project will begin.

USGS Mapping Partnerships

Marty Beasley (SLO) asked Pat O'Neil (USGS) if he would describe how the Mapping Partnership Program would work. He asked Mr. O'Neil to describe how the Mapping Partnership Office in Lafayette would interact with the LouisianaMAP. Mr. O'Neil said USGS would have a geospatial portal to provide data from which it will incorporate a variety of data sets. All of the existing joint funding agreements between USGS and Louisiana will be honored, but there will not be new joint funding agreements because much of those funds are being used for Homeland Security needs.

LouisianaMAP

Mr. Leachman (DOA) said that his office now has an agreement for funding LouisianaMAP in the amount of \$472,000 through the TIF grant. One issue that DOA is debating is where to host their computer systems. The Technology Park is one of the preferred options, because the hardware is already in place to host a data center. Mr. Leachman has been evaluating requirements software for use by the I-Team in documenting the business requirements for creating data sets.

10. New Business

List of I-Team Data Subcommittee Chairs

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) noted that the Chairs of the various I-Team Data Subcommittees have been named including:

Steering Committee	Sharon Balfour (DOTD)
Requirements Committee	Ed Leachman (DOA)
Technical Committee	DeWitt Braud (LSU)
Cadastral Committee	Marty Beasley (SLO)
Elevation & Bathymetry	Rob Cunningham (LSU)
Geodetic Control	Roy Dokka (LSU)
Ortho Imagery	David Gisclair (LOSCO)
Wetlands/Floodplains	Larry Handley (USGS)
Hydrography	Joe Holmes (DEQ)
Demographics	Karen Patterson (DOA)
Governmental Units	Kathleen Randall (House)
Utilities & Critical Infrastructure	Terry Thompson (OEP)
Land use & Land cover	Brent Yantis (RAC/ULL)
Transportation	Sharon Balfour (DOTD)

Ms Balfour (DOTD) asked if anyone was interested in chairing the Transportation Data Subcommittee. Her responsibilities as I-Team coordinator and member of the Steering Committee did not leave her enough time to be an active Chair for the Transportation Committee as well.

Terry Thompson (OEP) noted that his National Guard Unit would soon be called to active duty and therefore he asked the Council to appoint someone else as Chair of the Utilities and Critical Infrastructure Committee.

New Digital Raster Graphs (DRG's)

Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked for ideas on updating the Digital Raster Graphs for the state of Louisiana. DOTD has a cost agreement for cost sharing with USGS to produce these maps, but with current funding and manpower only 16 quads are updated each year. He would like to see more quads updated each year.

Data Mining Workshop etc.

Pat O'Neil (USGS) announced a "Data Mining Workshop" to be held in Lafayette, Louisiana at the Regional Applications Center on May 29th and 30th. The two-day workshop will focus on the availability of national and local geospatial data.

Mr. O'Neil also announced the next Federal/State GIS Working Group meeting, which will take place at the Corps of Engineers District Office in New Orleans on the morning of Thursday, August 1st.

11. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location

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

- Thursday, June 20th at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus
- Thursday, July 18th at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.