

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of June 20, 2002

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

Chair Marty Beasley (DOA) called the meeting to order as a Committee of the Whole at 1:42 P.M. in Room 212 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge. A quorum was not present.

### **2. Roll Call**

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

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

#### **Department of Economic Development**

Gene Stephens, **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**

Kathrine Cargo, **Alternate**

### **Others Present:**

#### **Applied Technical Services Inc.**

John Speice

#### **Baton Rouge Planning Commission**

Mihwa Jang

Ellen Miller

#### **Brown, Cunningham & Gannuch**

Andre Dehaan

#### **CH Fenstermaker & Associates**

Cynthia Fierman

#### **DATEC Inc.**

Rusty Golden

**Department of Public Safety**

Daphne Bencaz  
Mark Morrison

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**  
Pam Dixon  
Dora Michelli

**Division of Administration, OES**

Karen Patterson

**Environmental Systems Research Inc.**

Traci Tracey

**Geographic Computer Technologies**

Shannon Norgaard

**Gulf Engineers & Consultants Inc.**

Jerri Daniels

**Intergraph Corp.**

Orlando McDowell

**Lafayette Parish Assessor's Office**

Kristie Cornell  
Suzanne Harrison

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Craig Johnson  
Dina Sa

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

David Gisclair

**Louisiana State University**

Rob Cunningham  
Cliff Mugnier

**National Geodetic Survey**

Bob Zurfluh

**New Orleans Regional Planning Commission**

Lynn Dupont  
Molly McGraw

**Roy O Martin Lumber Co.**

Dr. Kerry Livengood

**St James Parish**

Jody Chenier  
Bobby Lear

**US Geological Survey**

Pat O'Neil

**3. Approval of May 2002 Minutes**

Approval of the May 2002 minutes was postponed due to the lack of a quorum.

#### **4. Chairs Report**

Chairperson Marty Beasley (DOA) noted that he recently met with Dr Livengood (Roy O Martin Lumber), David Gisclair (LOSCO) and Craig Johnson (LAGIC) to discuss how the state and private industry can cooperate in Fire Control and Fire Suppression efforts. Chair Beasley introduced Dr. Livengood to the Council and mentioned that he would speak briefly about an upcoming GPS demo in the “New Business” portion of the meeting.

Chair Beasley urged Council members to review the URISA “GIS Certification” information on the [www.URISA.org](http://www.URISA.org) website. He noted that the draft of a GIS certification process is now in place and that they include three elements: education, experience and contributions. URISA has defined a system of points that are awarded based on these three elements. Council members should review and comment on these criteria before they are finalized.

Chair Beasley also noted that URISA is drafting a GIS Professional “Code of Ethics”, and that URISA is soliciting your comments.

Chair Beasley welcomed the speakers from the Baton Rouge Planning Commission.

#### **5. Presentation: “City of Baton Rouge, GIS Development”, by Ellen Miller and Mihwa Jang with the (Baton Rouge) City/Parish Planning Commission.**

Ellen Miller, Chief Planner, gave a brief history of the parish wide GIS effort beginning with a Needs Assessment, Feasibility Study and Relational Database Design. Twelve East Baton Rouge departments participated in these initial GIS studies directed by the Corps of Engineers. Out of these efforts came a Parish wide GIS Committee composed of representatives from Public Works, Permits and Inspections, Engineering, and Information Services. The Committee developed a four-year plan for the development of the base map. The next step will be to populate the GIS with parcel information, utilities and zoning data. Fiber Optic links between city departments should aid in data transfer and sharing. Mihwa Jang, GIS Coordinator for the Planning Commission, described the numerous data sets currently being collected for over 200,000 city parcels. Ms. Jang noted that a unique 10-digit Parcel Identification Number (PIN), tied to geographic location, was being generated for each parcel. The presenters were asked if they were creating metadata records for their geospatial data sets. They replied that they had not done so yet, but they were aware of the importance of metadata. They were also asked if they had plans to involve other city/parish agencies, such as the Assessor, Emergency Planning etc. They replied that they have invited all city/parish agencies to participate in the GIS Project but have not received as much cooperation and participation as they would like.

## **6. LAGIC Report**

### **Metadata Workshops**

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) mentioned that there is another Metadata Workshop scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> 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. The eighth and final metadata workshop in this series will be held in Lake Charles in July or August. Mr. Johnson is involved in discussions with Lake Charles planning professionals on a time and place for the workshop.

### **LAGIC Outreach**

Mr. Johnson mentioned that he would be meeting with Susan Gordon (LMA) and Mattie Coxe, the LMA representative on the Council, to design a follow up GIS Survey. This survey would be mailed to all those who responded to an earlier short questionnaire confirming that they were using GIS technology.

Mr. Johnson noted that he mailed the completed Survey of GIS Use Among Assessors to all seventy Louisiana Assessors. Five assessors who had not responded to the original request completed their surveys. The original report was updated with the five additional requests and distributed at the Council meeting. Unfortunately assessors, from some of the most populated parishes in the state, did not respond to the survey including: Orleans, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson and Saint Tammany.

In response to a question from Chair Beasley, Mr. Johnson noted that he recently met with Department of Education staff that expressed interest in becoming members of the GIS Council. Mr. Johnson explained the procedures for joining the Council. They asked if the GIS Council would like to hold its September meeting at the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology. The council concurred with this suggestion, and asked Mr. Johnson to follow up with Department of Education staff.

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

Chair Beasley, noted that he had received a number of responses to his e-mailed request to review his comments on cadastral data standards. He would like to receive some additional responses before compiling the final results.

Ms Balfour (DOTD), the I-Team Coordinator, gave a report on the following I-Team activities.

- She noted that she is working with LAGIC staff to create an I-Team membership database and list serve.
- She noted that LouisianaMAP, the geospatial portal being developed by the Office of Electronic Services and LAGIC, will be hosted at the Louisiana Technology Center.
- At this time, there has been no action taken on the Governor's Executive Order. The Executive Order requests that all state agencies and entities assist in the efforts of the Louisiana I-Team.
- There is a new Chair of the Utilities and Critical Infrastructure Committee, Sgt. Mark Morrison with the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Past chair, Terry Thompson's (OEP) reserve unit was called to active duty.
- The Steering Committee agreed on the need to meet with the Louisiana State Police (DPS), as soon as possible, because of the critical importance of Homeland Security Issues to the Louisiana I-Team Initiative. DPS will be invited to attend a special joint meeting of the Steering and Requirements Committee.
- Chair Balfour noted that the Chairs of the Data Subcommittees should coordinate with each other regarding responsibilities for overlapping data layers. Subcommittee Chairs will be responsible for deciding whether existing data layer committees should be split (Ex: Floodplains & Wetlands) their recommendations would be brought to the Steering Committee for a vote.
- Chair Balfour noted that the Chairs of the Data Subcommittees would decide on the division of responsibilities within their committees, how often they would meet and how the group would communicate with each other.
- Chair Balfour asked for volunteers for the various data subcommittees.

## 9. Old Business

### DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that LOSCO has moved to Room 208 in the Frey Computing Services Building on the LSU Campus. Mr. Gisclair's new LSU phone number is (225) 578-7817. Due to the move, the monthly DOQQ/LIDAR progress report will be delayed until next month's Council meeting.

Mr. Gisclair mentioned that he met with a lumber industry representative and others to discuss private industry participation in the next aerial photography flight of the state. With sufficient private industry and governmental agency participation it might be possible to schedule another flight in 2005.

There will be a discussion on the benefits of digital aerial photography versus traditional photoproducts. A meeting is scheduled next week at Stennis Space Center to discuss calibration standards for digital cameras. Cliff Mugnier (LSU) noted that the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

(ASPRS) has drafted standards on digital photography products. These draft standards which are open for comment, can be found on the ASPRS website.

John Wells (DOTD) asked if the next Orthoimagery flight might use various scale photography depending on the population density. Mr. Wells (DOTD) noted that much of the photographic data collected by the parishes is at a much higher resolution than the existing DOQQ's. Would it be possible for rural areas to be collected at one-meter resolution whereas urban areas would be collected at one or two foot resolution. David Gisclair noted that this would better meet the needs of users but would require a great deal more cooperation and coordination. He noted that higher spatial accuracies could be obtained if photography were paired with LIDAR data taken on the same flight. Mr. Gisclair noted that these are the types of issues that will be discussed by the ortho-imagery subcommittee. Final subcommittee recommendations on Orthoimagery and LIDAR products will be made based on subcommittee discussions. Therefore it is essential that anyone who is concerned about these issues attend the subcommittee meetings.

## **10. New Business**

### **Timber Industry & GIS**

Dr. Kerry Livengood with Roy O Martin Lumber Company explained the timber industry's interest in using GIS technology for fire control and fire suppression. He noted that timber companies share digital property boundary files among themselves so that they know on whose land a fire is occurring. In addition GIS data provides a base map for use in calculating both the area of a fire and its' perimeter.

Base map data in combination with GPS equipment will be used to track and direct expensive forest fighting equipment, such as bulldozers. Dr. Livengood demonstrated how a combination of handheld PC and GPS could be employed on a bulldozer to track its path around a fire and direct the driver around obstacles. The forest industry would like to see a cooperative agreement where all of the people fighting fires; private companies, state agencies and local governments would be able to log on to a website and get information, real-time regarding the status of any fire as well as fire fighting resources.

In response to a question by Chair Beasley (DOA) Dr Livengood noted that he recently met with Dr. Dean of LSU to discuss the potential of LIDAR data. He noted that LIDAR data could be extremely helpful to land managers in determining forest inventory. Tree heights could be calculated by subtracting canopy height from bare ground. Saving money that would otherwise be spent on expensive field surveys. He suggested that the forest industry might be willing to contribute to statewide aerial photography or LIDAR coverage under certain conditions; rapid turnaround of the photo products (digital?) and that industry could be assured of a consistent product available every five years. He

noted that the Forest Industry currently pays eight cents an acre tax every year to the state for fire protection resources.

### **CORS Update**

Cliff Mugnier (LSU) noted that the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) have been busy throughout the southern portion of the state performing absolute gravity observations at over a dozen locations selected for the Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS). These stations will be used to provide a network of high accuracy GPS reference points.

### **11. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location**

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

- Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus
- Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus

### **12. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.