

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of July 18, 2002

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

Chair Marty Beasley (DOA) called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M. as a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

### **2. Roll Call**

Attendance was confirmed by a sign in sheet.

### **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 McDaniel, **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 Assessors Association**

Sheryl Martin, **Member**

**Louisiana Municipal Association**

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

**Louisiana Police Jury Association**

Kathrine Cargo, **Alternate**

### **Others Present:**

**BG&C Inc**

Andre Dehaan

**Datec Inc.**

Rusty Golden

**Department of Health & Hospital (OPH)**

Gary Balsamo

**Department of Public Safety**

Daphne Bencaz

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Sharon Balfour

Pam Dixon

Kay Henderson

Neil Hohmann

Dora Michelli

Freddy Valdivia

John Wells

**Division Of Administration, OES**

Karen Patterson

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

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

David Gisclair

**Louisiana State University**

Cliff Mugnier

**Southern University**

Fulbert Nawambe

**Tulane University, CBR**

Stephanie Smith

**Wyrdston Inc.**

Wendi French

**3. Approval of May and June 2002 Minutes**

The May 2002 Minutes were accepted without edits, on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Dennis Eilers (CRT).

The June 2002 Minutes were accepted without edits, on a motion by Mattie Coxe (LMA) and seconded by Kathrine Cargo (PJA).

**4. Chair's Report**

Chair Beasley (DOA) noted that Sharon Balfour received a letter from Cecil Picard, Secretary of the Department of Education, requesting that the Department be accepted as a member of the GIS Council, and appointing Sharon Southall as the voting member. There was discussion regarding the need for a resolution to accept the Department as a member. There was additional discussion on the need for a 2/3rds vote off all members to accept a new member. There is no provision in the bylaws for vote by e-mail or voting on the website. Further complicating the issue is the problem of statutory members, such as the Dept of Justice, that do not currently have an appointed member.

Should these non-participating members be counted in determining the votes of “all” members? Bo Blackmon (DNR) stated that non-participating members should not be counted when determining whether 2/3rds of the members had voted because there is no one from that agency presently qualified to vote. There was a motion to accept the Department of Education as a member by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and a second by Mattie Coxe (LMA), followed by a motion to delay acceptance of the Department of Education membership by Joe Holmes (DEQ) until the next meeting in August with a second by Kathrine Cargo (PJA), Chair Beasley asked if the Council would like to change the bylaws on what constitutes a quorum. Currently the bylaws don’t differentiate between an active agency, one with an appointed member, and an agency with a vacant member. The vacant member is counted equally in determining whether a quorum exists or whether 2/3rds of the members are present in order to change the bylaws. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) stated that statutory changes to the legislation could be made if the Council feels that it is important to do so. An amendment could be submitted to the Division of Administration either eliminating the Attorney Generals Office as a member of the Council or give the Council the authority to remove members based on non-participation. John Wells (DOTD) suggested an amendment that states that if an agency has a vacant membership for more than six months they lose their right to vote. Jorge Icabalceta (DW&F) noted that we should warn agencies before taking away their right to vote. Sharon Balfour reminded the Council that members that were included in the original statute could not be removed simply by changing the bylaws. Chair Beasley asked if we should draft legislation that states, members who are absent for a specified amount of time (six months or one year) could be removed from the Council at its discretion. The legislative amendment to the statute would allow future membership and attendance decisions to be written in the bylaws, giving the Council more flexibility.

Chair Beasley noted that the Federal/State GIS Working Group would be meeting in New Orleans on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August at the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers. Sharon Balfour, the I-Team Coordinator, will be giving a presentation on the Louisiana I-Team Initiative.

#### **5. Presentation: Web Mapping Activities at the Department of Public Safety by Joshua Kent with the Louisiana Geographic Information Center.**

Rhonda Barber, with the Department of Public Safety (DPS), approached Ed Leachman with the Division of Administration for assistance in developing a method for mapping the location of hazardous chemicals. The State Police maintains the Tier II database with the location of hazardous facilities and chemicals. The database for East Baton Rouge was selected for this pilot project. The data had to be geocoded to make it useful in a mapping context. The project set out to prove two concepts. First, that the Tier II data could be geocoded and second that it could be provided to DPS employees over the web

using a thin client (Ex: Internet Explorer) in a user friendly environment. Joshua Kent, LAGIC Data Manager, assisted DPS in both the geocoding process and in developing the web interface. Besides the Tier II data, the web mapping application displayed geocoded fire stations, aerial imagery, transportation features, hydrology, FEMA flood zones etc.

## **6. LAGIC Report**

### **Metadata Workshops**

LAGIC Director, Craig Johnson reported that LAGIC conducted a Metadata Workshop in conjunction with the Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning Commission and the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce on June 27<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, Louisiana. This workshop was the seventh in a series of workshops funded by a Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) CAP Grant Program to train Louisiana's eight regional planning agencies and the cities and parishes that fall within their jurisdiction. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that LAGIC has scheduled a Metadata workshop in Lake Charles on August 16<sup>th</sup> at McNeese State University.

### **LAGIC Outreach**

Mr. Johnson noted that LAGIC is working with Susan Gordon of the Louisiana Municipal Association and Council member Mattie Coxe on a survey of GIS capability. The survey will be mailed out to every municipality in Louisiana with a population of more than 10,000 as well as those municipalities, with less than 10,00 people, that responded positively to an earlier survey asking if they employed GIS technology.

Mr. Johnson noted that LAGIC is also working with Gulf Engineers and Consultants (GEC) to supply DOQQ's to parishes that responded to an earlier GIS Survey. The imagery will be delivered to 32 parishes, as initially promised.

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

I-Team Coordinator, Sharon Balfour (DOTD), noted that the I-Team Executive Order has not yet been released. She also mentioned that the CIO requested that the TIF funds, earmarked for the I-Team Initiative, not be spent until the start of the new fiscal year July 1, 2002. The two-year TIF grant will not begin until July 1, 2002, although the status report to the Governor is still due in September. Ms Balfour has requested that each of the Data Subcommittee Chairs provide a framework data layer profile based on the outline provided to them.

The Federal Geographic Data Committee has begun a review process of data standards called "standards light" to accelerate the development of data standards. There will be a national I-Team newsletter beginning in August. Ms Balfour asked Joshua Kent (LAGIC) if he would add a line to the Louisiana I-

Team website making it easier for individuals to sign up to be on a data subcommittee and contact the subcommittee chair.

Several subcommittees have scheduled meetings including the Technical Committee, which is meeting on the morning of Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> at Efferson Hall. The Land Use Land Cover and the Floodplain/Wetland Subcommittees will hold a joint meeting at the Regional Application Center (Abdullah Hall) in Lafayette on the morning of Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. The Elevation and Geodetic Control Subcommittees will be meeting as soon as they can find a convenient date and location. LAGIC has offered its meeting area to any of the Subcommittees that need a meeting room.

At the next I-Team Steering Committee meeting, August 15<sup>th</sup>, Colonel Oxley (DPS) will give a presentation on Homeland Security. This presentation will be critical to the Steering Committee, which needs DPS guidance on the most essential data layers needed for Homeland Security in Louisiana.

Chair Beasley (DOA) noted that data profiles have been posted to the national I-Team website. These profiles should prove helpful to any of the data subcommittees. Please review and post your comments.

## **8. Update on the NOAA CORS Program**

Tim Osborne (NOAA) could not make the meeting, so Chair Beasley asked if Bob Zurfluh (NGS) would comment on the NOAA project. Mr. Zurfluh noted that three CORS stations are being installed: Boothville (near the mouth of the river), Nichols State in Thibodeaux and McNeese State University in Lake Charles. Chair Beasley noted that Bob Zurfluh (NGS) has retained the same phone number even though he has moved to the new Claiborne State Office Bldg. with the Office of State Lands.

## **9. Old Business:**

### **DOQQ/LIDAR Update**

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave an update on the DOQQ and LIDAR projects. LOSCO is proceeding with the mosaic of the DOQQ's into a parish file. LOSCO is meeting with the LSU Data Center to discuss data storage issues related to DOQQ's and the LIDAR data. He noted that USGS is devising calibration standards for digital cameras, which will make it easier to specify a fully digital image product. That will be compatible with the national map. There was some discussion on the future of the National Aerial Photography Program due to the conflicting needs of the Farm Security Administration (Leaf-on) and the various state transportation agencies (Leaf-off).

LOSCO has received one hundred fifty three panels of LIDAR data. One hundred and one panels are on the ATLAS website (atlas.lsu.edu), thirty eight panels have been delivered to ATLAS but are not yet on the web and the remaining fourteen panels will be delivered next week. By the end of December, Phase 1 should be completed. Funds are available to complete Phase 1.

LOSCO has been asked to attend a meeting to discuss moving the LIDAR program to the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP), Mr. Gisclair noted that he would keep the Council informed of any changes in the management of the LIDAR program.

## **9. New Business**

Bo Blackmon mentioned that someone he spoke to in Union Parish will be contacting LAGIC in the near future for advice on implementing GIS in their Assessors Office.

August 2<sup>nd</sup> the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors (LSPS) will have a one-day seminar in Houma on Aerial Photogrammetry for civil engineers, land surveyors and architects.

Kathrine Cargo mentioned that LAURISA would have a one-day workshop in New Orleans in late August on Data Mining. The location is still to be determined but the cost will be reasonable.

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

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

Thursday, August 15, 2002 at Efferson Hall at 1:30 on the LSU Campus

## **11. Adjourn**

A motion was made by to adjourn by Kathrine Cargo (PJA) and seconded by Mattie Coxe (LMA). The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.