

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of August 15, 2002

1. Call to Order

Chair Marty Beasley (DOA) called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M. in Room 212 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was presented with eleven agency/organization representatives present.

2. Roll Call

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Division of Administration

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism,

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

Department of Economic Development,

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality,

Joe Holmes, **Member**

House of Representatives

Kathleen Randall, **Member**

Department of Education

Sharon Southall, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Rhonda Barber, **Member**

Department of Transportation and Development

Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Kathrine Cargo, **Alternate**

Others Present:

3001 Inc.

Thomas Holden

C-K Associates

Brad Mooney

Datec Inc.

Rusty Golden

Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Mark Morrison

Department of Transportation and Development

Pam Dixon

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Doug Albert

Division of Administration

Ed Leachman

East Feliciana Parish Assessors Office

Robert McConnell

Image America Inc.

Keith Longshore

John Chance Inc

Mark Spivey

Louisiana Geographic Information Center

Craig Johnson

Dina Sa

Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness

Harvey Dickerson

Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office

David Gisclair

Louisiana State University

Rob Cunningham, SC & E

Pat Skinner, Ag Center

Thomas Dean, SRNR

New Orleans Regional Planning Commission

Lynn Dupont

Plaquemine's Parish

Victoria Caridas

SJB Group

Robert Geissler

Robert Walsh

St. James Parish

Bobby Lear

Toby Sandifer

US Army Corps of Engineers

Jude McCoy

USGS / National Wetlands Research Center

Pat O'Neil

3. Approval of July 18, 2002 Minutes

The July minutes were submitted and approved, with minor revisions, on a motion made by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA).

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Beasley (DOA) welcomed the Council's newest member, Sharon Southall with the Louisiana Center of Educational Technology (Department of Education). Chair Beasley then asked all of those present to introduce themselves.

The Louisiana Spatial Reference Center will have its opening ceremony at 4:00 pm the Faculty Club at LSU. Senator Mary Landrieu and LSU Chancellor Mark Emmert will speak at this event.

Kathrine Cargo, our representative from the Police Jury Association, is changing jobs and will therefore no longer be able to represent the LPJA at Council meetings. Craig Johnson (LAGIC) is working with LPJA to prepare a list of potential candidates.

Last month there was a meeting between LOSCO and the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness to prepare to move the LIDAR Project to LOEP. The LIDAR project is currently being funded by federal funds. LOSCO will receive \$2,000,000 next year in federal assistance and LOSCO will provide a 12.5% match. The state will need to find an additional 12.5% match to ensure that the federal funds continue and to make a strong case for future requests for additional funding next year.

Through the I-Team process the Steering Committee will attempt to establish priorities for the creation of various data sets. The I-Team Committee, in its earlier meeting today, identified elevation as one of the most critically important data sets for the State. Chair Beasley (DOA) asked, "Do we need a Council resolution of support for the I-Team's recommendation"? I-Team Coordinator, Sharon Balfour (DOTD), noted that the Steering Committee decided at the onset that any recommendations made by the I-Team would have to come to the Council for final approval. Ed Leachman (DOA) asked, "What is our timeline for requesting the funds". Chair Beasley noted that we would need to secure funding within the next six months, and preferably before the next federal fiscal year begins in October. Chair Beasley noted that he would ask the State Land Office to provide some matching funds out of their yearly surplus. He noted that it would be easier to make that request if he had a Council Resolution of Support for this effort. Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that The Council could propose a Resolution of Support for the LIDAR funding without involving the I-Team. David Gisclair noted that it is urgent that we dedicate these funds in this fiscal year. Bo Blackmon asked if Chair Beasley had a Motion of Support prepared. Joe Holmes (DEQ) then composed a Motion of Support, which the Council unanimously voted in favor of. Craig Johnson (LAGIC) agreed to work on the wording of the motion and circulate it by e-mail among the members for their review.

5. Presentation: Digital Imagery Products in Louisiana by Keith Longshore with Image America Inc.

Image America, based in Clayton, Missouri, is an aerial imagery company that specializes in digital panchromatic imagery with ground pixel resolutions ranging from six to twelve inches. Image America uses a “push broom” CCD Camera similar to those found in satellite based systems. Keith Longshore showed some digital imagery examples from recent projects in Louisiana including: Lincoln, Terrebonne, Natchitoches and W. Baton Rouge Parishes. They utilize an airborne Inertial Navigation System, onboard GPS as well as a mobile base station on the ground to assist with horizontal accuracy.

Mr. Longshore noted that one of their competitive advantages comes from their quick turnaround time because they have an all-digital product. In addition, they are competitive to traditional photogrammetry methods because they don’t create a surface model. Much of their current work involves re-flights of parishes with an existing planimetric base. They consider their imagery to be a standard product versus a professional service.

Mr. Longshore fielded a number of questions regarding the accuracy of the imagery and calibration standards for digital cameras. He noted that Digital America is not producing a photogrammetric product, and that the accuracy is as good as the DEM’s and DTM surface models provided by the client to correct the data. They also do start-up projects using the National Elevation Data (NED) set and ground control points matched with their imagery.

6. LAGIC Report

Metadata

LAGIC completed the seventh of a series of Metadata Workshops held at each of the eight Regional Planning and Development Districts throughout the state. The Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning Commission and the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce sponsored this workshop, held in Alexandria. Our next Metadata Workshop will occur on August 16th at McNeese State University in Lake Charles. This workshop is sponsored by the Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning & Development Commission and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Outreach Activities

LAGIC provided technical assistance to the following governmental agencies:

- Baton Rouge Planning Commission requested information on digital street network files available through various vendors (TIGER, ETAK, etc.)
- Jackson Parish Communications District requested assistance with the Digital Ortho Photo Quads for their parish 911 system.
- The Department of Social Services requested information on how GIS could be used to assist their Fraud Analysis investigations. A meeting was scheduled to discuss various GIS applications that might be helpful.

7. I-Team Report

Sharon Balfour, the I-Team Coordinator, reported that Colonel Mark Oxley, with the Department of Public Safety had made a presentation to the I-Team Steering Committee on Homeland Security and the data needs of the Department of Public Safety. Homeland Security is a critical issue for the I-Team and they appreciated Mr. Oxley's input. The Steering Committee will try to incorporate these data requirements in the overall plan.

I-Team publicity (press releases) and letters to agency heads will be distributed after it has been confirmed that the Governor has signed the Executive Order. A kickoff meeting of all I-Team participants will wait on the Executive Order as well.

The I-Team list serve is now available for the various data committees. A "cheat sheet" was developed with instructions on the most commonly used list serve commands.

The steering committee has accepted the recommendation of I-Team members to reorganize the data subcommittees. The Floodplains/Wetlands subcommittee will be dissolved. Floodplains will be moved to the Elevation subcommittee and Wetlands will be moved to the Landuse/Landcover Committee. The soils and geology data sets will be covered by the Landuse/Landcover Committee.

The Steering Committee has determined that the creation of the Elevation Data set is a high priority because of the need to encourage continued FEMA funding for the Louisiana LIDAR Initiative. To that end, the Steering Committee supports the efforts by State Lands to provide matching funds for the LIDAR project.

The I-Team timeline will be rescheduled due to the delay in signing of the Governors Executive Order. The first draft of the I-Team plan will now be due the end of January. The first draft should, at a minimum, contain the "as is" condition of all existing state data sets.

Ed Leachman noted that the Technical Committee would be evaluating web-mapping software on August 22nd at Pennington Conference Center from 9 to noon. LAGIC will post the web links for anyone who wants to evaluate the various web mapping capabilities prior to the meeting. Sharon Balfour (DOTD) noted that the next I-Team Steering meeting would take place on September 26th.

8. Old Business

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) passed around a status map showing the various LIDAR Task areas and their degree of completion. He noted that if LOSCO does not get the funding match from Office of State Land, then Task Nine would be eliminated. Task nine covers virtually all of Vermillion Parish and parts of the

following parishes: Iberia, Lafayette, Acadia and Jeff Davis.

LIDAR distribution has been slowed by a switch in servers at the ATLAS website. Mr. Gisclair answered a question regarding distribution of the uncompressed GEOTIFF data. LOSCO has consistently avoided getting into the CD replication business, and that is why the data is provided on the Atlas website (in MR SID Format) for download. Those who need uncompressed DOQQ or LIDAR data can find it at USGS EROS Data Center.

Mr. Gisclair noted that LOSCO is still evaluating different vendors capable of supplying updates to the DOQQ's in 2005. The problem with satellite vendors is the proprietary nature of their data, which runs contrary to state policies for open data access. Mr. Gisclair noted that digital imagery acquisition could provide cost savings but that digital camera calibration standards have not yet been developed. There was a discussion on nesting higher (1 foot) resolution imagery, for urban areas, among the (one meter) lower resolution imagery that will be collected statewide during the next DOQQ flyover in 2005. This would require a high level of coordination with local governments.

The DOQQ/LIDAR project has being moved to the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness. In the near future, Sean Fontenot (LOEP) will be responsible for the project.

A decision has not been made regarding where the LIDAR data will be stored. Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that this decision would need to be addressed through the I-Team process. A business case will have to be made as to how best to deal with these large data sets. The entire data set is over 20 terabytes.

9. New Business

National States Geographic Information Council Conference

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) noted that she would be attending the NSGIC Conference in Park City Utah on the week of September 9 –13 along with Craig Johnson (LAGIC). The Division of Administration agreed to cover Ms Balfour's travel costs. Craig Johnson will cover Ms Balfour's NSGIC membership dues through LSU. This arrangement will allow Ms. Balfour to attend the conference as the Louisiana representative to NSGIC.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 1:30 in the auditorium of the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology on the campus of the Louisiana School for the Deaf, 2888 Brightside Avenue in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A map will be posted to the LAGIC website.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) that was seconded by Sharon Balfour (DOTD).