

# **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of September 19, 2002

## **1. Call to Order**

Chair Marty Beasley (DOA) called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. in the LCET Lab Room on the Campus of the Louisiana School for the Deaf, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was presented with twelve 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 Education**

Sharon Southall, **Member**

#### **Department of Environmental Quality,**

Joe Holmes, **Member**

#### **Department of Health and Hospitals**

Truman McDaniel, **Member**

#### **Department of Natural Resources**

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

#### **Department of Public Safety and Corrections**

Rhonda Barber, **Member**

#### **Department of Transportation and Development**

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

#### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

Jorge Icabalceta, **Alternate**

#### **Louisiana Assessors' Association**

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

#### **Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts**

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

### **Others Present:**

#### **Carey Technology Inc.**

Cynthia Fierman

#### **DATEC Inc.**

Rusty Golden

#### **Department of Education, LCET**

Monica Bradsher

Susan Gauthier

**Department of Health and Hospitals**

Gary Balsamo  
Todd Page

**Department of Social Services**

Barbara Lewis

**Department of Transportation**

Kay Henderson  
Neil Hohmann  
Dora Michelli

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

Doug Albert

**Division of Administration, OES**

Ed Leachman  
Karen Paterson

**Environmental Systems Research Inc.**

Traci Tracey

**GDT Inc.**

Walt Simpson

**Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.**

Bill Wiesepape

**Intergraph Corporation**

Orlando McDowelle

**Lincoln Parish**

Aaron Norby

**Louisiana Assessors' Association**

Morgan Herring

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center**

Dina Sa  
Craig Johnson  
Josh Kent

**Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office**

David Gisclair

**Louisiana State University**

Rob Cunningham  
Farrell Jones  
Pat Skinner

**St James Parish**

Bobby Lear  
Toby Sandifer

**Terrebonne Parish**

Jack Gardner

**3. Approval of August 15, 2002 Minutes**

The August minutes were submitted and approved, on a motion made by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Dennis Eilers (CRT).

## 4. Chairman's Report

Chair Beasley asked the members to review the Digital Globe Proposal for QuickBird Imagery Products that was submitted by Brett Thomassie to Calvin "Pat" O'Neil, the federal/state liaison. A copy of the proposal was e-mailed to all of the GIS Council members for review. Chair Beasley asked for comments. Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that DNR primarily uses Color Infrared photography for coastal applications rather than panchromatic imagery. David Gisclair (LOSCO) recommended that we get a copy of the actual contract versus a proposal. In this situation the verbiage of the contract itself may, or may not, be a deciding factor in whether to accept the proposal. Joe Holmes (DEQ) commented that the pricing structure in the proposal is based on a volume discount subscription service, which would be very difficult to maintain when the costs are shared by a variety of federal and state governments that can only budget one year at a time. There was some additional discussion on the meaning of a degraded image and under what circumstances the imagery could be shared with the public. Chair Beasley said he would compile all of the responses and provide a GIS Council response to the proposal.

Chair Beasley welcomed Walt Simpson with Geographic Data Technology (GDT). Mr. Simpson is providing evaluation copies of GDT's Dynamap software at the training lab at DOTD. The data is primarily transportation line data with various attributes. Mr. Neil Hohmann invited council members to drop by DOTD to evaluate the Dynamap software and described a recent grant proposal that DOTD submitted to the federal government using this software. Mr. Simpson then gave a brief description of GDT.

Chair Beasley (DOA) welcomed the Council's newest member Lynn Dupont; Ms Dupont will be representing the Louisiana Planning and Development Districts as an alternate. Ms. Dupont works for the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission in GIS and Environmental Planning.

Chair Beasley noted that Ms Balfour (DOTD) was not able to attend this meeting but that she will give a report on the recent National States Geographic Information Council Conference in Utah at the next Council meeting.

## 5. Presentation: "GIS in the Louisiana Classroom" by Susan Gauthier and Monica Bradsher of the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology (Department of Education)

Ms Gauthier introduced Council members to the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology (LCET) and the Louisiana INTECH Professional Development Program for teachers. Louisiana INTECH is a 56-hour staff development program to teach teachers how to integrate technology into the classroom. In particular she noted that INTECH is divided into study areas, with GIS and GPS being the most relevant to the Social Studies curriculum. Ms.

Gauthier noted that there are Teaching, Learning and Technology Centers

(TLTC's) throughout the state that assist INTECH in spreading technology to schools in their regions.

Ms Gauthier explained how LCET is planning a "GIS Day" project that would begin November 20<sup>th</sup> and conclude Educational Technology Week (last week in January). The "project's" goal would be to collect information needed by state agencies and the Louisiana Red Cross on the readiness of schools to be used as shelters and data needed for planning evacuation routes. The "project" would provide students with a real world product, promote an awareness of GIS and GPS technology and be fun for the kids. The "project" would also be a contest to see which schools in each district could finish first yet collect all the data needed by emergency planning professionals.

Ms Gauthier noted that if any vendors would like to provide prizes for students or schools to contact Monica Brasher at LCET. If you are interested in having students collect a particular piece of information about schools that is needed by your agency, please contact Craig Johnson at LAGIC.

## **6. LAGIC Report**

### **Metadata**

LAGIC completed the eight and final Metadata Workshop in a series of workshops sponsored by the Federal Geographic Data Committee through their Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP). The Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning Commission and McNeese State University hosted the last workshop, which was held at McNeese State University in Lake Charles on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

In total, 118 people attended Metadata Workshops throughout the state. They included federal, state and local government employees as well as private consultants and academics. The local regional planning commission, the Louisiana Chapter of the American Planning Association and various local governments and universities, hosted each workshop.

### **Outreach Activities – GIS Day**

LAGIC is working with the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology, the Louisiana Red Cross, the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Department of Transportation and Development to sponsoring a GIS Day "Kickoff" on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Louisiana State Capitol. LCET is designing a GIS Day project that will be completed by elementary, middle and high schools throughout the state.

In addition to the GIS Day "Kickoff", LAGIC has sent a letter to the Governor requesting his signature on our annual "GIS Day in Louisiana" Proclamation. LAGIC will assist any governmental agency wanting to post information about their GIS Day activities.

LAGIC recently faxed an updated survey of GIS capability to dozens of Louisiana municipalities. The Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) has asked LAGIC to critique a web based form that they are creating to keep LMA up to date on changes in the use of technology among Louisiana cities and towns. They have also asked if LAGIC would give a presentation to their members on GIS “Best Practices” for municipal governments.

Craig Johnson, LAGIC Director, attended some of the National States Geographic Information Council Conference in Utah. He will give a report on a NSGIC proposal “Saving Lives and Saving Money” under New Business

Mr. Johnson noted that the following GIS related workshops will be occurring in the area during the next two or three weeks:

**“Wading into New Waters, The Potential of Digital Medical Records”**, Monday evening September 23, 2002. At the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge.

**“Legal Applications of Geospatial Information”**, National Remote Sensing Law Center on September 27<sup>th</sup> at University of Mississippi School of Law.

**ESRI User Conference Recap**, on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton in New Orleans.

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

Ms. Dina Sa, assistant I-Team Coordinator, mentioned that she has been busy compiling the results of the Data Layer Profiles and assisting in the editing of the I-Team report to the Governor. At the request of the CIO, the report will be presented to the Governor after he signs the Executive Order.

Ms. Sa also noted that there would be an I-Team Steering Committee meeting on the morning of Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms Balfour, I-Team Coordinator, will be back to Chair that Steering Committee Meeting.

## **8. Old Business**

### **Elevation Data Layer Funding**

The Council passed a motion at the last meeting supporting the use of State Land funds matching federal funds for the continuation of the LIDAR program. The Council motion, which was presented to State Lands, will be used to make the case for continued funding.

### **DOQQ/LIDAR Update**

Rob Cunningham, LOSCO, mentioned that Phase 1 of the LIDAR project has been submitted (SW Louisiana) and should be complete by the end of the year. Phase 2, consists of 660 LIDAR tiles, which will complete the remainder of the

coastal zone plus Calcasieu and Rapides parishes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has decided to have an independent company act as project manager on the LIDAR project, which will add overhead costs and slow the project due to more rigorous QC procedures. FEMA has decided that 25% of the tiles should go through QA/QC at an additional cost of \$600,000. LOSCO has no objections to the QA/QC process if it does not mean that less LIDAR data will be produced. LOSCO does object to funds targeted for data production being diverted to QA/QC. To date there has been no QA/QC of the Louisiana LIDAR tiles.

### **Louisiana Map Updates**

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that this summer the Office of E-Services has been evaluating standard platforms to do web applications on. That task held up the design, because it added 3-4 months of additional work. Mr. Leachman asked that the I-Team Technology Group begin work with him on completing the initial look of the interface (the Consolidation Phase). Designing the one doorway into the state's geospatial assets. Mr. Leachman stated, that we need to get started on that task as soon as possible.

Mr. Leachman noted that the hosting environment would be Technology Park. DOA has completed an MOU with Technology Park. The next step is to add the application platforms and then the final piece is the Geospatial web server. Mr. Leachman noted that we had some excellent vendor demonstrations of web serving capability at Pennington in August. The vendor has not been determined yet. State agencies will have to go through a rigorous process for evaluating "big ticket" IT items such as enterprise databases, office suites etc.

One of the primary services will be a locational service that allows users to find a particular government service or information (flood zones, DOQQ, streets and addresses etc.). The portal will use Louisiana Framework data to find answers to common questions. One of the concerns, voiced by a number of attendees, was the ability of LouisianaMAP to use locally created address data and keep it maintained. There has to be a procedure in place to add local data and keep it current.

## **9. New Business**

### **Remote Sensing/GIS Workshop**

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that there was a "Kickoff" meeting of the organizers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Remote Sensing/GIS Workshop. The Workshop will take place from April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> at the new Cajundome Convention Center. The Session moderators will invite speakers to submit an abstract on a particular theme.

### **Resolution: "Building the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Support of Public Safety"**

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) described the contents of a white paper that was endorsed by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) at their annual meeting in Utah. The paper, entitled “Saving Lives and Saving Money an Urgent Call to Build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Support of Public Safety”, will be distributed to each of the state GIS contacts for review by their GIS Councils. The document points out the need for statewide coverage of specific critical data sets in order for state and local governments to fulfill their responsibilities to provide public safety. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) asked all present to review the resolution and be prepared to vote on it. Marty Beasley (DOA) noted that NSGIC has asked that each state council review the document and either endorse it or reject it, but do so as soon as possible. A vote on this resolution will occur at the next Council meeting in October.

Mr. Beasley (DOA) also noted that he received a Cost Allocation Structure Spreadsheet from NSGIC describing the costs of completing various critical data sets, broken down by data set and by state. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) commented that this document was initiated by Bill Burgess (State of Maryland) as part of Maryland’s I-Team effort. The data was then extrapolated for all 49 other states using some of the formulas provided by the state of Maryland as well as data provided by other states. The estimate for completing all of the listed data sets for the entire state of Louisiana was approximately 98 million dollars.

**Motion: “To Adopt the Guidelines for Louisiana Digital Geospatial Metadata”**

Josh Kent (LAGIC) was asked by Bo Blackmon (DNR) to review the current Louisiana Metadata Standard and report to the Council. Mr. Kent (LAGIC) recommended that the Council review the summary of past metadata resolutions entitled “Guidelines for Louisiana Digital Geospatial Metadata”. The “Guidelines for Louisiana Digital Geospatial Metadata” (LGISC-G-20020919-00) were adopted by the Council on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Lynn Dupont (LAPDD).

**Resolution: “To Adopt the Federal Geographic Data Committee’s Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata ”**

Mr. Kent reported that in June of 1996 there was a motion passed to adopt the existing version of the Federal Geographic Data Committee’s Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata with some exceptions. The exceptions noted some gaps in the FGDC Content Standard that were covered in Louisiana’s own standard. Later revisions to the Federal Standard now make it unnecessary to include those exceptions. Therefore, Mr. Kent (LAGIC) recommended that the Council review the draft resolution supporting the Federal Content Standard. Marty Beasley (DOA) reiterated the point that we should review this draft resolution, which is posted to the LGISC website under Documents, Resolutions (LGISC-rc-20021017-00), amend it where necessary and vote on it at the next GIS Council meeting in October.

### **Louisiana Chapter of URISA**

Kathrine Cargo (New Orleans Communications District) noted that the Louisiana Chapter of URISA (LAURISA) is co-sponsoring a Town Hall Meeting with the Louisiana Spatial Data Reference Center. LAURISA Board members will be calling Council members to ask for help in distributing this information. The meeting will occur in New Orleans in October and later this fall in Shreveport, time and place to be determined.

### **Introduction: Aaron Norby**

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) introduced Aaron Norby, recently hired as GIS Coordinator for Lincoln Parish and an authorized ESRI trainer.

### **10. Determine Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in Room 214 at Efferson Hall on the Louisiana State University campus. A map will be posted to the LAGIC website.

### **11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 on a motion by Rich Bailey (LAA) that was seconded by Joe Holmes (DEQ).