

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of March 20, 2003

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Dennis Eilers (CRT) called the meeting to order at 1:44 P.M., at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was present.

2. Roll Call

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Division of Administration

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Brad Mooney, **Alternate**

Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism,

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

Department of Economic Development,

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Education

Janelle Koenig, **Alternate**

Department of Environmental Quality

Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Health and Hospitals

Truman McDaniel, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Transportation and Development

Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Sheryl Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Aaron Norby, **Member**

Others Present:

AEGIS, Inc.

Allison Bonnette

Department of Public Safety and Corrections

Daphne Bencaz

Department of Social Services

David Jacobsen

Department of Transportation & Development

Pam Dixon

Kay Henderson, **Alternate**

Wanda Hill

Dora Michelli

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Doug Albert, **Alternate**

Division of Administration

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Louisiana Assessors' Association

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Morgan Herring

Louisiana Geographic Information Center

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana State Police

Mark Morrison

Louisiana State University

Rob Cunningham

Louisiana Cooperative Extension

Eugene Baker

Pat Skinner

Morris P. Hebert Surveyors

Micah Richie

St. James Parish

Bobby Lear

Toby Sandifer

US Army Corps of Engineers

Jude D. McCoy

3. February 2003 Minutes

The February 2003 minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA).

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Dennis Eilers, noted that one of his new responsibilities as Chair of the Council is to attend the LAGIC Oversight Committee meetings. He asked if any

Council members would be interested in serving as the LAGIC Contract Coordinator, as Sharon Balfour (DOTD) has asked to step down from that role at the end of the state fiscal year (June 30, 2003). Chair Eilers thanked Ms Balfour for her efforts in guiding LAGIC and the Council from their inception.

Chair Eilers (CRT) congratulated Jorge Icabalceta who was recently appointed as the new member to the Louisiana GIS Council from the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. Chair Eilers also noted that Victoria Caridas (GIS Coordinator, New Orleans City Planning Commission) was appointed as an alternate to the GIS Council by the Louisiana Police Jury Association.

7. Presentation: “Coastal Risk Atlas” by Jason Stradtner and Kelly Boyd of Neptune Sciences, Stennis Space Center, MS.

Ms. Boyd described the activities of the National Coastal Data Development Center (NSDDC) at Stennis Space Center. NCDDC is a section of the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) which is housed within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Among the pilot projects underway at NSDDC are: Harmful Algal Blooms Observing System (HASBOS), the Invasive Species Initiative and the Coastal Risk Atlas (CRA). Mr. Stradtner went on to describe how the Coastal Risk Atlas was developed and what its capabilities are. The CRA was initially developed as a tool for coastal communities in North Carolina to determine their risk for hurricane damage. Planners would use the data sets developed for the Atlas to determine ways to minimize hurricane damage by knowing the areas most likely to be affected by strong winds, tidal surges and coastal flooding. The CRA site links to a number of essential data sets for damage assessment including census information, the FEMA HAZUS analysis tool and other data sources. The NCDDC has taken that methodology and used it to develop a tool for coastal counties in Mississippi. They would like to use the same methodology, in the near future, with a Louisiana coastal parish.

8. LAGIC Report

Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that he gave a presentation at the LAA Conference on Cadastral Data Standards at the Sheraton in Baton Rouge on March 13th.

On March 17th LAGIC helped organize a presentation at the Louisiana Cooperative Extension. The Extension GIS Visioning Group asked for a demonstration of GIS applications at state agencies. A number of GIS Council members agreed to demonstrate their GIS applications and their web sites including Joe Holmes (DEQ), Bo Blackmon (DNR) and Brad Mooney (DA&F). DeWitt Braud and Farrell Jones demonstrated the Louisiana GIS CD and the

Atlas website respectively.

Mr. Johnson noted that LAGIC is assisting the RS/GIS Workshop put together two sessions on local government GIS applications. One session will be a panel discussion on issues facing Louisiana Assessors the other will be on GIS applications at the municipal level. Hugh Bender, former Director of TNRS, will speak during lunch on Wednesday April 30th on "Creating State and Local Government Data Partnerships".

LAGIC Director will be submitting a proposal to Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) under the 2003 Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) to fund metadata training and outreach. Mr. Johnson will apply for these grant funds to assist in the development of the Louisiana MAP Academy.

Mr. Johnson noted the following upcoming events: LAGIC has been asked to make a presentation at the River Region Caucus Meeting in St. Charles Parish on April 8th. He noted that he will be assisting with an Imagery Workshop at the CADGIS Lab on Friday, March 21st.

9. I-Team Report

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) gave a status report on the activities of the various I-Team subcommittees. She noted that I-Team members are working on their Data profiles and their Requirement Forms. The I-Team Steering Committee will meet next Thursday morning at Efferson Hall to finalize the I-Team Report.

Ed Leachman (DOA) mentioned that the major concern of the Steering Committee is to draft recommendations as to data priorities. Ms. Balfour noted the great job that Dina Sa (LAGIC) has done in pulling the various portions of the report together and cajoling the members to submit their comments.

10. LAGIC Oversight Committee

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) mentioned that the new Chair, Dennis Eilers, and the Vice Chair, Truman McDaniel, are now members of the LAGIC Oversight Committee which is chaired by Ms. Balfour who is the Project Coordinator for the contract between LSU and the Division of Administration. The Oversight Committee meets periodically to discuss issues relating to the contract such as budgets and contract modifications. She noted that Craig Johnson, LAGIC Director, will be writing a new draft contract, for review by the Committee. We will write a three year contract, funds have already been requested for the next state fiscal year starting in July. The contract is for three years but the budget is based on year by year appropriations. The Oversight Committee would like to increase the yearly base funding from the current level of \$175,000 a year that

has remained the same for five years. Ms Balfour noted that she would like to step down as LAGIC Project Coordinator by June 30th. She will leave that decision to the new Chair and the Council to decide on a new Coordinator. Chair Eilers noted that Ms Balfour has done an excellent job of setting up a structure for the management of the contract making it easier for another Council member to step in. He noted that we have a window of a couple months in which to decide how the Council should address this issue. Officially the Division of Administration is the Project Coordinator but DOA has deferred this task to the Council. Ed Leachman noted that the three year contract has worked well for both DOA and the Council and should be continued. Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that the Oversight Committee should make a recommendation to the Council on a new Project Coordinator. Sharon agreed that this should be discussed at the next Oversight meeting. Bo Blackmon recommended that Sharon Balfour describe the responsibilities of the LAGIC Oversight Committee and the role of the Project Coordinator. Ms Balfour noted that one of the tasks assigned to LAGIC was an inventory of GIS capabilities that is no longer a Council priority. She recommended that this task be coordinated with the Council of Information Service Directors (CISD) who complete a yearly inventory of IT activities among state agencies.

9. Old Business

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

Rob Cunningham, who assists LOSCO activities, gave the LIDAR/DOQQ status report. The LIDAR phases I, II and III have been compressed because the LIDAR project has been getting more funds from the FEMA Map Modernization Program. Some cooperating communities, Calcasieu and Rapides Parishes were moved to the front of the line because they are contributing funds to the project. Most of the state below 30'30" has been captured at this time. There is now an active QA/QC program to monitor activities. LOSCO will use these QA/QC techniques to go back and review the early data collection tasks. The data is being collected much more quickly because the process has been automated and the data has a great deal more definition because of the new processing techniques. Mr. Cunningham showed examples of the current LIDAR data product in comparison to some earlier LIDAR samples.

Mr. Cunningham was followed by Lynn Dupont, with the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, who described her efforts to coordinate local governments' acquisition of high resolution digital photography (6" pixel resolution) in the state's urbanized areas during the next DOQQ flight in the winter of 2004/2005. These urbanized areas have been augmented with areas with Homeland Security concerns. Ms Dupont (LAPDD) answered questions about the cost (currently unknown) for local governments to participate in the program. She noted that each of the state's eight metropolitan planning districts wants to participate in the effort.

Louisiana Map Update

Ed Leachman, (DOA) noted that the state is currently deciding on web standards, with a final decision due by the end of the month. The CIO has asked that LouisianaMAP not duplicate existing web services like DEQ's, DNR's or ATLAS, but link to them instead. He estimated that the initial phase will last about eight to nine weeks from the day a contract is signed with a vendor. The functional design must be agreed upon first. At this point, the Implementation Strategy is being designed and that will drive what geographic products are made available. The hardware and database software necessary for LouisianaMAP are in place. The I-Team will be responsible for deciding who will be maintaining the data layers so that the latest versions of the data are available to LouisianaMAP users. The ultimate goal is to be able to use the services provided by the state agencies and then provide software at the user end that can collect those services and integrate the results at the user's workstation. LouisianaMAP must also be able to provide rural users, that don't have access to high speed data connections, similar services.

Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

Gene Baker, Director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service at LSU, described the services provided by the Extension to the state. The Louisiana Cooperative Extension is chartered by the Department of Agriculture and housed within the land grant college (LSU) in each state. The purpose of the Cooperative Extension is to extend research based knowledge from universities to the public. This service is made possible by a network of offices and specialists in every parish in the state. The Extension uses an advanced communication network to provide compressed video conference capability and Internet 2 access to virtually all of its remote locations. The Extension is part of the LSU Ag Center, but it is the only entity with the LSU System that has an outreach component based in every parish in the state. The Extension has recognized the importance of geospatial data and has established a GIS Visioning group to make recommendations on ways to incorporate GIS technology into its daily business process.

LGISC Election Subcommittee

Kathleen Randall (House) was not able to make the meeting but asked if her committee report could be postponed until the next Council meeting. The Subcommittee had proposed a change to the bylaws that would have made the appointment of alternates a responsibility of the appointing authority for that agency not the member. This change would become effective upon adoption and would not affect existing alternates. A number of changes to the wording were proposed. The election subcommittee reworked the language of the proposal but it had yet resubmitted the change to the Council for review.

11. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17th at 1:30 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

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Summary of Action Items

Chair Dennis Eilers (CRT) asked if any Council member would be interested in serving as the LAGIC Contract Manager. Sharon Balfour, the current contract manager, has agreed to remain until June 30, 2003. It was agreed that the Oversight Committee would meet and make a recommendation to the Council on a replacement for Ms Balfour.

Jorge Icabalceta's status changed from alternate to member of the Council. He represents the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Victoria Caridas was named as an alternate representing the Louisiana Police Jury Association

Kathleen Randall (House) asked to postpone the Election Subcommittee Report for a month until the entire committee can review the recommended changes to the bylaws.

No decision was made on the request by the Louisiana Cooperative Extension for membership on the GIS Council. Gene Baker, Director of the Extension, explained the mission of his organization and their interest in GIS technology.