

# **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of April 17, 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 Education**

Susan Gauthier, **Member**

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

Joe Holmes, **Member**

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

Truman McDaniel, **Member**

##### **Department of Public Safety**

Rhonda Barber, **Member**

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

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

##### **Department of Wildlife & Fisheries**

Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**

##### **Louisiana House**

Kathleen Randall, **Member**

##### **Louisiana Municipal Association**

Susan Clark, **Alternate**

##### **Louisiana Police Jury Association**

Aaron Norby, **Member**

##### **Louisiana Senate**

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

#### **Others Present:**

##### **Applied Technical Services (ATS) Inc.**

John Speice

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

Paul Zundel, **Alternate**

**Department of Public Safety and Corrections**

Daphne Bencaz

**Department of Social Services**

David Jacobsen

**Department of Transportation & Development**

Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**

Pam Dixon

Wanda Hill

Neil Hohmann

Dora Michelli

**Division of Administration**

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Karen Patterson

**Gulf Engineers and Consultants**

Bill Wiesepape

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center**

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

**Louisiana State Police**

Mark Morrison

**Louisiana State University**

Rob Cunningham

**St. James Parish**

Bobby Lear

**St. Charles Parish**

Kim Cheramie

Marney Stein

**Tulane University**

Stephanie Smith

**University of New Orleans**

Aimee Preau

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

Jude D. McCoy

**3. March 2003 Minutes**

The March 2003 minutes were approved as amended by voice vote on a motion by Marty Beasley (DOA) and seconded by Truman McDaniel (DHH).

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

Chair Eilers reminded GIS Council members about the Remote Sensing GIS Workshop in Lafayette from April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **5. Presentation: “New Census Data Applications for Louisiana”, by Karen Paterson, State Demographer, Office of E-Services, Division of Administration**

Ms. Paterson presented some newly compiled data from the Census called Louisiana Census Facts. Summary File #1 block level data, the smallest census geographic unit, is now available online for all of Louisiana for the year 2000. Summary File #3, sample data, has been available for a year; it is available at the block-group and census tract levels. Local governments, primarily municipal governments that are still challenging their census counts have to challenge using a housing unit count by block (found in the demographic profiles). Ms. Paterson described various methods of locating census information by parish, by city or by census unit. The Census has linked a number of different data sets so that you can lookup your census tract number by street address, including information on subdivisions, voting districts, legislative districts etc. As a reference tool they have included a link to American Fact finder which contains miscellaneous demographic information. More data profiles will be added in the near future including information on land use, transportation, employment etc. Ms Paterson then answered a number of questions from Council members.

#### **6. LAGIC Report**

Mr. Johnson reminded Council members of the benefits of attending the RS/GIS Workshop in Lafayette on March 29th. There will be 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 for local government. Hugh Bender, former Director of Texas Natural Resource Information Services (TNRIS), will speak during lunch on Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup> on “Creating State and Local Government Data Partnerships”. There will be GIS user group meetings for both Environmental Software Research Institute and Intergraph software users.

Prior to the official start of the workshop there will be a DOQQ Summit on Monday from 1:00 – 4:00 at the Regional Applications Center (RAC) in Lafayette. In addition ERDAS, the Image Processing Software Company, will hold two free half day workshops that same day at RAC.

LAGIC provided logistical help for an Imagery Workshop that was held at

CADGIS on March 31<sup>st</sup>, over 35 people attended. LAGIC made a presentation to the River Region GIS Caucus on the role of LAGIC and the GIS Council in promoting GIS technology and standards. This meeting took place in Hahnville at the St Charles Parish Courthouse on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

LAGIC has been asked to assist with the Geospatial One-Stop Project, a USGS initiative to identify geospatial data nationwide and make it accessible on the web.

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

Sharon Balfour (DOTD) gave a status report on the activities of the I-Team. She noted that I-Team members are working to finalize the I-Team Report. The Steering Committee hopes to soon have a draft document for the Council to review. 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.

## **8. Old Business**

### **DOQQ/LIDAR Update**

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave the LIDAR/DOQQ status report. Mr. Gisclair mentioned that LOSCO will be hosting a DOQQ summit at the Regional Application Center in Lafayette on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The purpose is to formulate a plan for the acquisition of Digital Ortho Quarter Quads (DOQQ's) for the entire state during the winter of 2004/2005. The meeting is important because there is a number of local governments have expressed an interest in participating and there is very little time left to secure funding commitments that can be budgeted and approved within the short time frame. Mr. Gisclair has been talking with local government associations regarding their participation in the DOQQ project. Ninety panels of LIDAR data are currently undergoing a quality assurance review by a FEMA contractor.

### **Louisiana Map Update**

Ed Leachman, (DOA) noted that the state is currently working on a style guide for state websites. These style guides help state agencies display a similar look and feel to their web sites. Mr. Leachman asked for comments on the style guide. The link to the site is: <http://www.louisiana.gov/lagov/styleguide.htm>.

Mr. Leachman described how LouisianaMAP would function in providing location based services. Hunters should be able to input latitude and longitude and pull up a color photograph of the area of interest. Technical capabilities should include the ability to view data, discover data and identify data. For example, the Department of Environmental Quality will provide a base map of mosaiced

DOQQ's that will be a web service to LouisianaMAP. In cases where a vendor may have a more developed geospatial product like geocoding; LouisianaMAP would link directly to that service. The state would like to have the best available geocoding product and it may not be economical for the state to provide that service internally. The state does not want to replicate existing services that are serving data sets, as long as those providing web services update and maintain their data sets. Mr. Leachman noted his concerns about any legislation that would limit the ability of LouisianaMAP to provide data to the public.

The Office of Electronic Services is waiting for Office of Information Technology to name the web application software that LouisianaMAP will employ.

LouisianaMAP will be running on Sun servers housed at Technology Park.

### **LGISC Election Subcommittee**

Kathleen Randall (House) noted that the election subcommittee has not had an opportunity to meet. The subcommittee will meet before the next Council in May to discuss the issues before it.

## **9. New Business**

### **Membership Request by the Department of Social Services:**

Chair Eilers (CRT) noted that there have been a number of membership requests to the Council over the last six months. He asked if the Council would like to create a membership committee. Mr. Beasley (DOA) noted that the entire Council should discuss the issue of membership rather than pass the issue to a committee. Mr. Mitchell (DOTD) noted that only issues that are extremely complicated or require research (by-law changes) should be handled by a standing committee, all other issues can be handled by the entire Council. The Council approved the request for membership by the Department of Social Services by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Mitchell (DOTD), seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA).

### **LMA Membership Changes**

Susan Clark (LMA) noted that there will be a change in alternates from the Louisiana Municipal Association. She and Joel Harrell will no longer serve. A new alternate will soon be recommended to the Council in a letter from the LMA.

### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 53**

There was discussion on the proposed legislation by the Louisiana Surveyors that would limit the surveying and mapping functions which may be performed by professional engineers.

### **House Bill No. 937**

There was discussion on the proposed legislation relative to the release of GIS data to a third party. In addition, this legislation allows governmental agencies to

charge a reasonable amount to cover the expense of creating the data and does not allow buyers of the data to modify it, and other specified limitations.

Bobby Lear, St James Parish GIS Coordinator, discussed the concerns of the River Parish Region GIS Caucus in pricing GIS data products. The Council suggested other methods, besides legislation, of solving that problem.

The Council also expressed concerns about the effect of this legislation on serving maps over geospatial portals such as the ongoing LouisianaMAP effort. The Council recommended that the Chair write a letter to the state Chief Information Officer (CIO) and inform him of the concerns of the Council regarding how this legislation might affect the Louisiana GIS community.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15th at 1:30 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of April 17, 2003

### **Summary of Action Items**

#### **Election Subcommittee:**

Kathleen Randall (House) asked to postpone the Election Subcommittee Report for a month until the subcommittee can review the recommended changes to the bylaws and other issues.

#### **Membership Request by the Department of Social Services:**

The Council approved the request for membership by the Department of Social Services by voice vote on a motion by Mr. Mitchell (DOTD), seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA).

#### **LMA Membership Changes**

Susan Clark (LMA) noted that there will be a change in alternates from the Louisiana Municipal Association. She and Joel Harrell will no longer serve. A new alternate will soon be recommended to the Council in a letter from the LMA.

#### **House Concurrent Resolution No. 53**

There was discussion on the proposed legislation by the Louisiana Surveyors that would limit the surveying and mapping functions which may be performed by professional engineers. No action was taken.

#### **House Bill No. 937**

The Council recommended that the LGISC Chair write a letter to the state Chief Information Officer (CIO) and inform him of the concerns of the Council regarding House Bill No. 937, and how this legislation might affect the Louisiana GIS community.