

**Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**  
Meeting of May 15, 2003

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Dennis Eilers (CRT) called the meeting to order at 1:45 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**

Susan Gauthier, **Member**

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Joe Holmes, **Member**

**Department of Health and Hospitals**

Truman McDaniel, **Member**

**Department of Social Services**

Pam Smith, **Member**

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

**Department of Wildlife & Fisheries**

Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**

**Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts**

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

**Louisiana Municipal Association**

Susan Clark, **Alternate**

**Louisiana Police Jury Association**

Victoria Caridas, **Alternate**

**Louisiana Senate**

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

**Others Present:**

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Sue Smith

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

N. Emery Layton

**Department of Labor**

Jonathan Helis

Ramona Robichaux

**Department of Public Safety and Corrections**

Daphne Bencaz

**Department of Social Services**

David Jacobsen, **Alternate**

**Department of Transportation & Development**

Neil Hohmann

**Gulf Engineers and Consultants**

Bill Wiesepape

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center**

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

**Louisiana Municipal Association**

Mark Cowart, **Alternate**

**Orleans Parish Communications District (911)**

Kathrine Cargo

**Slidell, City of**

Ian Beer

**St. James Parish**

Bobby Lear

**St. Charles Parish**

Marney Stein

**St. Tammany Parish 911**

Bill Price

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

Jude D. McCoy

**3. April 2003 Minutes**

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

## 4. Chairman's Report

Chair Eilers (CRT) introduced Pam Smith a new member representing the Department of Social Services. He asked if she would give a short description of how DSS plans on using GIS in their operations. She noted that Fraud Investigation was their pilot use of GIS but in the future they intend on using geospatial tools to assist clients in leaving welfare by locating jobs, child care, training centers and public transportation. Chair Eilers also introduced David Jacobsen, with the Fraud Recovery Unit, who will be the alternate from DSS.

Chair Eilers then introduced the new alternate from the Louisiana Municipal Association. Matthew Cowart, with the City of Hammond, introduced himself and described his desire to bring information from the GIS Council back to LMA and to be able to assist the many municipalities that will be using GIS.

Chair Eilers also introduced a prospective new member and alternate from the Department of Labor. Ramona Robichaux, prospective Council member from the Research and Statistics Unit, noted that the Department of Labor plans on using GIS to identify the locations of employers and their potential workforce. Jonathan Helis, prospective alternate from the Department of Labor, noted that Labor is already using maps to present economic statistics in a more meaningful way to management and other state agencies. Ms. Robichaux mentioned that they will be looking to employ GIS technology in other ways throughout the department.

Chair Eilers noted that Sharon Balfour (DOTD) received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award at the Remote Sensing GIS Workshop in Lafayette for her many contributions to the GIS community in Louisiana. The award is presented each year to those whose lifetime achievements merit special recognition.

## 5. Presentation: “GIS and Government Assistance Fraud, Feeds to Fight the Greed’s. Using GIS to Prevent Fraud”, by David Jacobsen, Fraud and Recovery Section, Department of Social Services

Mr. Jacobsen described one of the ways in which the Fraud and Recovery Unit of DSS is using GIS technology. DSS tracks the locations of stores doing an unusually high rate of food stamp business and noticed that many of these stores were in close proximity to Food Stamp offices. An individual selling their food stamp electronic benefit card for cash could conveniently pick up their food stamp card and then sell it to a nearby merchant, at \$.60 on the dollar. This merchant would then make fraudulent (non-existent) purchases with the card. A search of the business owner database clearly showed that many of the stores involved in this deception were owned by the same individuals or by one of their

relatives. In September 19, 2000, DSS and numerous law enforcement agencies in New Orleans and Baton Rouge conducted raids of the various stores and confiscated electronic benefit cards and arrested 15 individuals. It was later shown that over 4.5 million dollars in fraudulent food stamp funds were being laundered through overseas banks.

In the future, GIS will be used more extensively throughout the state to track fraudulent retailers and to identify spatial patterns that indicate food stamp trafficking. DSS hopes to use GIS department wide, not just for fraud detection but to provide important services such as identifying day care centers, stores that will provide assistance to handicapped clients and locate doctors that accept Medicaid payments.

## **6. LAGIC Report**

### **LAGIC Oversight Meeting**

A LAGIC Oversight Meeting was held in Lafayette during the Remote Sensing GIS Workshop to discuss changes to the LAGIC contract. The changes were approved and forwarded to the Division of Administration for review.

### **Outreach Activities**

LAGIC had a display booth the RS/GIS Workshop in Lafayette from April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Craig Johnson, LAGIC Director, provided logistical assistance to the conference and moderated a panel discussion on issues facing Louisiana Assessors. Joshua Kent, LAGIC Data Manager, gave a presentation on "GIS and Spatial Patterns of Serial Crimes" as well as providing photographic services for the conference.

LAGIC provided GIS technical assistance to the West Feliciana and West Baton Rouge Assessors' offices. Mr. Johnson is scheduled to meet with the East Baton Rouge Planning Commission to discuss GIS grants.

LAGIC has been assisting with the Geospatial One-Stop Project, a USGS initiative to identify local geospatial data and make it accessible to all. Craig Johnson, (LAGIC) has reviewed the data survey and discussed it with USGS and some of the local government representatives on the Council

The next GIS Council meeting will be held in the Rotunda of the new School of the Coast and the Environment on Nicholson Extension by Nicholson Drive. Bob Allen will conduct a short tour of the building before the Council meeting begins. Maps will be posted to the LAGIC website and parking will be available on site.

LAGIC is submitting a CAP grant proposal to the Federal Geographic Data Committee to fund metadata training and promote the Louisiana Map Academy.

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

Dina Sa (LAGIC) 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 have a final draft for the Council to review by early June.

## **8. Old Business**

### **DOQQ/LIDAR Update**

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave the LIDAR/DOQQ status report. Mr. Gisclair noted that by the end of May the LIDAR data for Calcasieu Parish (98 panels) should be complete and available on the Atlas Website. Rapides Parish will be next followed by Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. Another two million dollars worth of funding should be available next year to cover Phase III of the LIDAR Project.

Mr. Gisclair was asked the size of the 5 meter DEM versus the more familiar 30 meter DEM. He noted that the 5 meter data files will be at least 36 times as large as the current 30 meter DEM's. It will need to be stored in a binary format to allow it to be handled more efficiently. He noted that at some point researchers will want to use all of the data not just the bare ground data increasing the data storage issues.

Mr. Gisclair mentioned that LOSCO hosted a DOQQ summit at the Regional Application Center in Lafayette on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The purpose was 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 Department of Agriculture is reluctant to fund the collection of any digital imagery data because of the lack of digital camera calibration standards. LOSCO would consider using satellite imagery (minimum 1 meter resolution) for the image base instead of digital photography if the imagery would be at least as good as the resolution of the previous (1998) flight.

He noted that a traditional statewide photo base would cost approximately 2.5 million dollars versus 2 million dollars for a statewide flight using a digital camera. In addition, the turnaround time for the digital product would be much quicker. Other states are facing the same problem (New Mexico, Florida, New York etc.) as Louisiana in needing digital camera standards in order to secure federal cost sharing.

### **Louisiana Map Update**

Josh Kent, speaking for Ed Leachman, noted that the style guide had not been finalized. He mentioned that he will put a link on the LAGIC website to reach the Guide, which has been placed on the web so that others can review and comment. LouisianaMAP will be one of the first sites to use the style guide.

**LGISC Election Subcommittee**

Chair Eilers gave the Election Subcommittee report for Kathleen Randall (House) who was unable to attend. He noted that the election subcommittee had met and discussed four issues:

**The subcommittee discussed the criteria for deciding who is an eligible candidate for membership, what is a state entity and who is the appointing authority for various agencies?** The subcommittee decided that the Council needs to have a request from the highest appointed authority within that agency before considering membership. For example, rather than discussing membership for an individual university school or research center we should only act if we have a request for membership from the Board of Regents (the highest authority within state higher education).

**Do we need to clarify the appointment of alternates?** The election subcommittee recommends to the Council that we send a letter from the Chair to the appointing authorities notifying them that we are changing the procedures for appointing new alternates. Members will no longer appoint alternates as of a certain unspecified date. In our letter we will praise the services of the current alternates and asked that they be re-appointed. Existing alternates may remain on the Council at the pleasure of their appointing authority. Future alternates will need to be appointed by their appointing authority.

**How will Senate Bill # 23 affect the members of the GIS Council?** SB 23 is a “Sunshine Bill” that says, “everyone serving on a Board or Commission that needs senate confirmation must submit their resignations at the end of the Governors term and be re-appointed by the incoming appointing authority”. This will have the most impact on those members and alternates that are appointed by the Governor which includes all of the local government associations; LPJA, LAA, LMA and the LAPDD.

**How should we deal with non-attending statutory agencies?** The election subcommittee decided that it interprets membership to mean an individual that has been appointed as a member or alternate. An agency that does not have an individual appointed as a member or alternate cannot be included in deciding on whether the Council has a quorum for doing business.

**9. New Business**

**Membership Request by the Department of Labor:**

Chair Eilers (CRT) noted that the Department of Labor requested that the GIS Council consider their membership. The Council approved the request for membership by the Department of Labor by voice vote on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Jorge Icabalceta (DW&F).

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 155 (substitute for HR 53)**

There was a question regarding the proposed legislation by the Louisiana Surveyors that would limit the surveying and mapping functions which may be performed by professional engineers. The scope of the bill has been reduced. The current bill only allows owners of agricultural lands or their employees to perform topographic surveys of their own agricultural land for the limited purpose of providing requisite information to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), if NRCS agrees to accept their survey.

**Louisiana GIS CD Supplement**

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that the Louisiana GIS CD supplement (May 2003) is now available. The CD incorporates three new data sets and replaces one older data set. It includes the new LANDSAT image that was developed at DEQ by DeWitt Braud, the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) data, the Louisiana Marinas database (over 400 public and semi-private launches), the 2003 TM Imagery and the replacement BSA data. This CD is a supplement not a replacement to the original Louisiana CD.

**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. This bill has been pulled from committee and is not currently being acted on.

**10. Determine Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th at 1:30 in the auditorium of the new Energy Coast and Environment Building on the LSU Campus at Nicholson Extension where it meets Nicholson Drive (see the LAGIC website for map and directions).

**11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

**Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**  
Meeting of May 15, 2003

**Summary of Action Items**

**Chair Eilers introduced the following new members and alternates:**

Pam Smith, will be the new member representing the Department of Social Services and David Jacobsen will be the alternate.

Matthew Cowart, with the City of Hammond will be the new alternate from the Louisiana Municipal Association. .

**Election Subcommittee:** made four recommendations to the Council regarding procedural changes to the bylaws including:

1. The Council will only accept requests for membership from the highest appointing authority within a state agency. For example, a request for membership by a state institution of higher education would have to come from the Board of Regents not an individual academic institution or academic research center.
2. In the future, alternates will be appointed by the appointing authority not the member. A letter will be sent to the appointing authorities notifying them of the change and its effective date.
3. The Council takes "no action" on Senate Bill #23 which, if it passes in its present form, will effect the appointment of local government member and alternates to the Council.
4. The Council interprets the existing bylaws to state that a member is not an agency but rather an individual appointed by an agency to represent it. Therefore agencies without an appointed member or alternate will not be considered members in calculating quorums for council actions.

**Membership Request by the Department of Labor:**

The Council approved the request for membership by the Department of Labor by voice vote on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Jorge Icabalceta (DW&F).

Ramona Robichaux will be the new member and Jonathan Helis; the new alternate on the Council representing the Department of Labor.