Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of June 19, 2003

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
Chair Dennis Eilers (CRT) called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M., at the Rotunda Conference Room of the Energy Coast and Environment Building 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 Culture Recreation and Tourism,
Dennis Eilers, **Member**
Department of Education
Susan Gauthier, **Member**
Department of Health and Hospitals
Truman McDaniel, **Member**
Department of Labor
Ramona Robichaux, **Member**
Department of Natural Resources
Bo Blackmon, **Member**
Department of Public Safety
Rhonda Barber, **Member**
Department of Transportation and Development
Jim Mitchell, **Member**
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**
Louisiana Assessor's Association
Sherel Martin, **Member**
Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts
Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**
Louisiana Municipal Association
Mattie Coxe, **Member**
Louisiana Police Jury Association
Victoria Caridas, **Alternate**
Louisiana Senate
David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

BCG Inc.
Andre Dehaan
C.K. and Associates
Victor Leotta
Perry Lopez
Scott Nesbit
Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism
Cliff Melius
Department of Environmental Quality
Sue Smith
Department of Health & Hospitals (OPH)
N. Emery Layton, **Alternate**
Gary Balsamo
Department of Labor
Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Daphne Bencaz
Department of Transportation & Development
Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**
Pam Dixon
Wanda Hill
Neil Hohmann
Dora Michelli
John Wells
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Doug Albert, **Alternate**
Division of Administration
Ed Leachman, **Alternate**
Gulf Engineers and Consultants
Bill Wiesepape
Louisiana Geographic Information Center
Craig Johnson
Joshua Kent
Louisiana Municipal Association
Matt Cowart, **Alternate**
Louisiana State University, Ag Center
Henry Capello
Orleans Parish Communications District (911)
Kathrine Cargo
Reich and Associates
Bill Reich
St. James Parish
Bobby Lear

US Army Corps of Engineers
Jude D. McCoy
USGS, National Wetlands Research Center
Chris Wells

3. May 2003 Minutes

The May 2003 minutes were approved with edits, by voice vote on a motion by Matt Cowart (LMA) and seconded by Marty Beasley, (DOA).

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Eilers (CRT) thanked Bob Allen for providing the room for our meeting and for giving members a tour of the new building.

Truman McDaniel (DHH) introduced Emery Layton, the new alternate from the Department of Health and Hospitals. Emery described his background as an Environmental Engineer with the Safe Drinking Water Program. He recently received some GIS training through a contractor, PSI. He is looking forward to learning more about GIS technology through his participation in the Council.

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. Ms Balfour received a standing ovation from all in attendance.

5. Presentation:

"Old and New Approaches to State Park Inventories", by Dennis Eilers of the Office of State Parks, Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism, and Victor Leotta and Perry Lopez of C.K. and Associates.

Chair Eilers (CRT) asked the Council to move from the Rotunda Conference Room to the Rotunda Auditorium for the presentation. He described how the Office of State Parks had conducted State Park inventories in the past, using hard copy poster boards and engineering drawings laid out on large tables. He described current efforts by his office to store all of this information in a GIS, so that it can be displayed, modified and used to inventory state park assets. He then introduced members of a team of consultants that are assisting the Office of State Parks in these efforts. Perry Lopez, with C.K. and Associates, demonstrated some of the capabilities of the new system using a proposed plan for the new Bogue Chitto State Park. Mr. Lopez demonstrated how various data

layers have been compiled including the DOQQ's, LIDAR elevation data, soils, etc. He demonstrated how these various data layers could be used to analyze the best available sites for campgrounds and scenic views etc. Mr. Eilers outlined how the Office of State Parks will continue to employ GIS technology to develop Resource Management Plans for the natural resources i.e.; flora, fauna, soils, archaeology and hydrology etc. and in future planning efforts.

6. LAGIC Report:

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) noted that he recently met with representatives of the Corps of Engineers and the National Coastal Data Development Center on ways to share data and cooperation on the Geospatial One-Stop effort. He also met with members of the River Region GIS Caucus, and asked for their assistance inventorying local geospatial data for the Geospatial One-Stop Program.

LAGIC has submitted a grant application for the Federal Geographic Data Committee CAP Grant Program. The proposal, if funded, would provide for a series of regional metadata workshops.

LAGIC is housed in Suite #313 on the third floor of the Howe Russell Bldg. We will soon be acquiring additional office spaces in the same suite of rooms allowing us room to expand.

7. I-Team Committee Report:

Sharon Balfour (I-Team Chair) noted that the I-Team Plan is almost finished. The Executive Summary and the Implementation sections are being finalized. A draft plan should be completed by the end of the summer. At a later date, the draft will be available to Council members for review and comment possibly in PDF format.

8. Old Business

DOQQ/LIDAR Update
David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave the DOQQ/LIDAR update. Mr. Gisclair noted that he now has a preliminary estimate from Digital Globe on the cost of statewide coverage for a Color Infrared / Pan Sharpened Merge Product that would provide a consistent base map product for the 2010 Census. It would probably take two leaf-off seasons of cloud free imagery to secure complete coverage of the state. Mr. Gisclair has not had an opportunity to talk with his federal partners regarding their interest in participating. The projected cost would fall between $2.8 and $3.5 million. There would be some restrictions on the scene size and the number of bands available to the public versus the financial partners. Other arrangements would have to be negotiated to cover the municipal areas at the higher resolutions that they require.

Progress is being made in the processing of LIDAR data. Work is currently underway for Task 12 (Calcasieu Parish) and Task 6 (Terrebonne Parish). New standards for break lines, an essential step in the creation of contour lines, have slowed the data processing effort.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked why USGS is not using the new 2' contours produced by the LIDAR Initiative for updating quad maps. DOTD is a partner in the USGS Quad update process but DOTD may reconsider its participation in this process, if USGS fails to use the latest data available for updates. No one at the meeting had a definitive answer as to why USGS does not use the most recent contour data for quad updates. There was a general discussion of the USGS quad updating project and to what degree state agencies benefits from these efforts. Mr. Mitchell noted that the National Hydrography (NHD) dataset might be a better use of DOTD's data development funds.

LouisianaMAP
Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that the Office of Electronic Services (OES) has just awarded a contract to Innovative Emergency Management (IEM) for assistance designing the Louisiana*MAP* web pages, one part of the Louisiana.gov effort. In Phase 1, Louisiana*MAP* will provide a window into the mosaiced DOQQ's stored at DEQ, similar in format to the way images are stored on the Louisiana GIS CD/ROM. OES had settled on a requirements management software package, Rational RequisitePro by IBM. HP Open View software will be used as the enterprise network management tool. All of the management software will be housed on Sun servers at Technology Park.

House Bill No. 937
This proposed legislation dealt with the issue of the release of GIS data. It would have allowed governmental agencies to charge a reasonable amount to cover the expense of creating geospatial data and would have prevented buyers of the data from modifying or reselling it to a third party, and other specified limitations. The Council was concerned that the proposed legislation would make it difficult to share data through a portal. This bill has been pulled from committee and is not currently being acted on.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 155 (substitute for HR 53)
This original proposed legislation, by the Louisiana Surveyors Association, would limit the surveying and mapping functions which may be performed by professional engineers. The scope of that bill has been greatly 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. The current status of this bill is unknown.

LAA Legislation

Mattie Coxe (LMA) noted that the Louisiana Assessors Association (LAA) has proposed legislation that would raise the salaries of the state's assessors. Ms Coxe was opposed to an across the board raise to all assessors, especially those that do not share their data with the Louisiana Tax Commission. Sherel Martin (LAA), Assessor for St Mary Parish, noted that there are a dozen assessors in the state that do not have the staff or the budget to comply with the requirement that they provide a digital tax roll to the Tax Commission. Sherel Martin noted that LAA is considering sponsoring legislation that would create a state property tax to fund GIS and Computer Aided Mass Appraisal (CAMA) technology for all Louisiana Assessors. Kathrine Cargo (NO Communications District) noted the difficulties that she has encountered in New Orleans accessing data from her local assessors. Mattie Coxe (LMA) described similar difficulties accessing data from the East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office.

9. New Business

David Gisclair noted that LOSCO has been working with the University of Louisiana Lafayette in compiling National Response Center (NRC) data on historical oil spills in Louisiana. Unfortunately, much of the data lacks geographic coordinate information.

Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked if anyone had a conflict with the proposed date for the 2004 Remote Sensing/GIS Workshop. The RS/GIS Workshop will take place on April 20 – 22, 2004 in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that DOTD has posted a couple new websites of interest. One of the websites will use meteorological data to color the highways on the site, to warn of flooding and other hazardous travel conditions.

Kathrine Cargo (NO Communications District) informed Council members that LAURISA would be holding an "Introduction to GIS Workshop" at the new School for the Coast and Environment Auditorium (LSU) on Thursday, July 31st from 9:00 – 5:00. This will be a URISA sanctioned workshop.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17th at 1:30 in Room #212 Efferson Hall (LSU). Maps and directions can be found on the LAGIC website.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

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Summary of Action Items

Vice Chair Truman McDaniel introduced the following **new alternate from DHH: Emery Layton**. Mr. Layton described his background as an Environmental Engineer with the Safe Drinking Water Program.

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. Ms Balfour received a standing ovation from all in attendance.

Sharon Balfour (I-Team Chair) noted that a **draft of the I-Team Plan** will be made available to Council members for review and comment possibly in PDF format later this summer.

Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked if any Council members had a conflict with the proposed **date for the 2004 Remote Sensing/GIS Workshop**. The RS/GIS Workshop will take place on April 20 – 22, 2004 in Lafayette, Louisiana. Please contact Bo Blackmon at BOB@dnr.state.la.us if you know of a scheduling conflict.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that **DOTD has posted a couple new websites** at http://dotdgis.dotd.state.la.us, including one that shows the potential effect of weather events on traffic flow.

Kathrine Cargo (NO Communications District) informed Council members that the Louisiana Chapter of URISA would be holding an "**Introduction to GIS Workshop**" at the new School for the Coast and Environment Auditorium (LSU) on Thursday, July 31st from 9:00 – 5:00. This will be an officially sanctioned URISA workshop. Contact Lynn Dupont (LAPDD) at ldupont@norpc.org or by phone at (504) 568-6611.

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