

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of July 17, 2003

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Truman McDaniel (DHH) called the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M. The meeting was held in Room #212 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A quorum was present.

2. Roll Call

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Brad Mooney, **Alternate**

Department of Environmental Quality

Joe Holmes, **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 Social Services

Pam Smith, **Member**

Department of Transportation and Development

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Jorge Icabalceca, **Member**

Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Susan Clark, **Alternate**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Aaron Norby, **Member**

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

BCG Inc.

Andre Dehaan

Center for Geoinformatics

Cliff Mugnier

Coastal Environments Inc.

Lori Cunningham

Steven Ward

City of New Orleans, Planning Commission

Victoria Caridas, **Alternate**

Department of Health & Hospitals

N. Emery Layton, **Alternate**

Susan McClain

Department of Labor

Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**

Division of Administration

Karen Paterson

Gulf Engineers and Consultants

Bill Wiesepape

Louisiana Geographic Information Center

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana State University

Thomas Dean

Orleans Parish Communications District (911)

Kathrine Cargo

St. James Parish

Bobby Lear

US Army Corps of Engineers

Jude D. McCoy

USGS, National Wetlands Research Center

Pat O'Neil

3. June 2003 Minutes

The June 2003 minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Jorge Icabalceta, (DW&F).

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Eilers (CRT) was unable to attend. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Truman McDaniels (DHH). Mr. McDaniels noted that this would be his last year on the Council, as he will be retiring in a year. He mentioned how much he has enjoyed his long association with the Council. He especially enjoyed the Grand Isle Strategic Planning Meeting that occurred early in his term on the Council.

5. Presentation:

“The SONRIS Website”, by Bo Blackmon, GIS Manager, Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Blackmon described the capabilities of DNR’s Strategic Online Natural Resources Inventory System (SONRIS) website. SONRIS GIS contains many of the most requested DNR and other agency data sets such as the location of oil and gas wells, mineral lease boundaries, coastal restoration projects, coastal monitoring data etc. SONRIS links a wide variety of data types including imagery, documents, reports and databases. The public internet site has over 35 geospatial layers, while the internal (Intranet) site has over 50 layers. Most Divisions within DNR use the GIS web sites in their every day work processes. For example, the Office of Mineral Resources uses the SONRIS GIS data to generate plats for lease sales and custom geospatial analysis reports. Users can select a variety of raster backdrops including aerial photography, satellite imagery and maps. Besides assisting governmental agencies, SONRIS has saved private industry and coastal scientists in Louisiana millions of dollars by providing free internet accessible information saving time, travel and project expense. Mr. Blackmon now spends much of his time working with and training users within and outside of DNR in the capabilities of the SONRIS GIS website.

6. LAGIC Report:

LAGIC submitted a new contract, which was reviewed by the Oversight Committee and is now under review by LSU. We hope to have the executed contract to the Division of Administration by this Monday (7/21/03).

LAGIC will be assisting with the logistics for the “Intro to GIS” Workshop which will take place in the Rotunda of the new Coast and Environment Building on July 31st. This workshop is an official URISA certified workshop and attendees will receive a certificate that can be presented to their professional organization for Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits.

The LAGIC Director was asked to assist in forming a Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA) Chapter in Louisiana.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked “What is the role of the Council in the LAGIC contract”? Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) and Mr. Blackmon (DNR) answered that, “through the Oversight Committee the Council guides LAGIC activities”. Mr. Mitchell also wanted to know what deliverables are in the contract and what is the yearly contract amount? Mr. Johnson agreed to send Mr. Mitchell a copy of the draft contract and the most recent quarterly report.

Mr. Icabalceta (DW&F) asked if there were enough funds to continue the I-Team tasks beyond the end of the latest one-year contract. Mr. Johnson noted that he will be looking for additional grant funds to allow LAGIC to continue the I-Team effort at its current pace.

7. I-Team Committee Report:

Dina Sa (I-Team Assistant Coordinator) noted that the I-Team Plan is being reviewed by Ed Leachman (DOA). The Executive Summary and the Implementation sections are complete. The draft plan, which is currently 150 pages, should be complete by the end of the summer. A draft of the plan will be available to Council members for review and comment possibly in PDF format.

Mr. Mitchell suggested that at some point there should be a working session of the Council to review the final document. He noted that under the I-Team Transportation Committee there are a number of sections that are not specifically highway or airport related that DOTD may not yet have had an opportunity to review. He would like to review any section of the Plan that might potentially impact his department, before it is finalized.

8. Old Business

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave the DOQQ/LIDAR update. Mr. Gisclair noted that he now has a proposal from Digital Globe to procure statewide satellite imagery coverage for 2005. One of the first questions that need to be addressed is, whether it would be better to purchase multispectral imagery or a Color Infrared/Pan Sharpened Merge product instead. In addition, would the cost justify using satellite imagery versus traditional aerial photography. Mr. Gisclair noted that he has not had an opportunity to talk with his federal partners regarding their interest in participating. It is not yet certain whether the federal partners would have any objection to using the various Digital Globe products, as they did with the digital camera product (no widely accepted camera calibration standard). The projected cost would fall between \$2.8 and \$3.5 million, and potentially more for the bundled package. Traditional film coverage would cost approximately half as much, but not provide the versatility of multispectral imagery. If multispectral imagery is acquired, there would be some licensing 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 1' horizontal accuracy that they require. Cost sharing arrangements would have to be negotiated with each of the local governments. Cliff Mugnier (GeoInformatics) asked if Digital Globe's Pan Sharpened Ortho produced from satellite imagery was more expensive than the

traditional film ortho? Mr. Gisclair replied that “digital camera products are significantly cheaper because they do not require all of the steps involved in producing hard copy; chemical processing of the film, scanning the film etc”.

Progress is being made in the processing of LIDAR data. The quads for Calcasieu Parish (Task 12) are scheduled for delivery to ATLAS and Barataria Basin (Task 5) will be coming online soon. The 116 quarter quad panels covering Rapides Parish should be complete by the end of August. LOSCO has received an offer from Lincoln Parish to provide cost sharing in Phase III on the creation of D-FIRM maps for the 46 LIDAR panels that make up Lincoln Parish. Although Lincoln Parish was not scheduled to be flown until much later, its offer to share the cost of D-FIRM data production would help advance its placement in the LIDAR acquisition schedule.

Mr. Gisclair met with Steve Kopp (ESRI) in San Diego to discuss the challenges of displaying LIDAR data because of their 3-dimensional nature and the large size of the associated data sets.

LouisianaMAP Update

Karen Paterson noted that the Office of E-Services (DOA) is working diligently on the design of LouisianaMAP, as it will be the featured part of the state portal. There are still some internal architecture questions that need to be answered before the design can be finalized.

9. New Business

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.

Joe Holmes (DEQ) noted that Jim Mitchell (DOTD) was honored at the ESRI Conference in San Diego with a “Special Achievement in GIS” award for his efforts as GIS Manager at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Bo Blackmon asked all Council members to mark their calendars. The Louisiana RS/GIS Workshop will take place on April 20 – 22 at the Lafayette Cajundome Convention Center.

Joe Holmes (DEQ) noted that he spoke with representatives of the Texas Natural Resource Information System (TNRIS) regarding their desire to capture hydrologic data, at a scale of 1:24000, covering the area on the Louisiana/Texas border north of the Toledo Bend Reservoir. The area covers approximately 44

quads and would be useful to the Louisiana DEQ in its efforts to obtain complete digital coverage of hydrologic units throughout the state. Louisiana's cost would be \$64,000 which would require state partners to participate in the cost-sharing. There was some discussion of other areas of the state that the Forest Service is currently mapping. There was also some discussion on the projected cost of completing the digital hydrologic units for whole state at a scale of 1:24000. A figure of \$440,000 was suggested by Pat O'Neil (USGS) to complete the digital hydrologic layer for the state, not including the quarter of the state already covered by Forest Service mapping efforts.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) asked why the USGS does not use the most recent digital data when updating the quad maps. Pat O'Neil (USGS) noted that adding new digital data is expensive and time consuming because it requires extensive formatting changes to incorporate it in the existing digital dataset.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21st 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 3:32pm.

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Summary of Action Items

Joe Holmes (DEQ) noted that he spoke with representatives of the Texas Natural Resource Information System (TNRIS) regarding their desire to **capture hydrologic data, at a scale of 1:24000, covering the area on the Louisiana/Texas border north of the Toledo Bend Reservoir**. The area covers approximately 44 quads and would be useful to the Louisiana DEQ in its efforts to obtain complete digital coverage of hydrologic units throughout the state. Louisiana's cost would be \$64,000 which would require state partners to participate in the cost-sharing. Please contact Joe Holmes at joe_h@ldeq.org if your agency is interested in participating.

LOSCO has received **an offer from Lincoln Parish to provide cost sharing in Phase III on the creation of D-FIRM maps** for 46 LIDAR panels that make up Lincoln Parish. Although Lincoln Parish was not scheduled to be flown until much later, its offer to share the cost of D-FIRM data production would help advance its placement in the LIDAR acquisition schedule.

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.

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.