

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of August 21, 2003

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Dennis Eilers (CRT) called the meeting to order at 1:41 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 Culture Recreation and Tourism

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

Department of Economic Development

Gene Stephens, **Member**

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 Transportation and Development

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**

Division of Administration

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

Louisiana House

Kathleen Randall, **Member**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Susan Clark, **Alternate**

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

Applied Technical Services (ATS)

John Speice

Brown Cunningham Gannuch (BCG)

Andre Dehaan

Department of Health & Hospitals

N. Emery Layton, **Alternate**

Susan McClain

Department of Public Safety

Daphne Bencaz

Mark Morrison

Department of Transportation and Development

Pam Dixon

Neil Hohmann

Dora Michelli

John Wells

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Doug Albert, **Alternate**

Division of Administration

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

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Chris klahorst

GSA Engineers and Consultants

Gregg Gautreaux

Jefferson Parish Planning Dept.

Rene Maggio

Louisiana Geographic Information Center

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana State University

Rob Cunningham

Pat Skinner, Ag. Extension

South Central Planning

Richard Poche

St. James Parish

Bobby Lear

University of Louisiana Lafayette, RAC

Brent Yantis

US Army Corps of Engineers

Jude D. McCoy

Mike Liotta, LMD

USGS, National Wetlands Research Center

Pat O'Neil

3. July 2003 Minutes

The July 2003 minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Joe Holmes, (DEQ).

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Eilers (CRT) noted that he attended a recent coastal restoration meeting at the Corps of Engineers and had not heard any discussion of the use of GIS technology in their presentation. Bo Blackmon (DNR) and Marty Beasley (DOA) noted that coastal restoration scientists may not have mentioned GIS, but they do make extensive use of the technology.

Chair Eilers noted that the Urban Regional Information Systems Association will be holding their annual meeting in Atlanta in October. Chair Eilers asked if any one else was going to attend this conference. Lynn Dupont (LAPDD) noted that Kathrine Cargo (NOCD), who was recently named to the URISA Board of Directors, would be attending.

5. Presentation:

“Using Land Based Classification Standards (LBCS) in Jefferson Parish” by Rene Maggio, GIS Supervisor, Jefferson Parish Planning Department.

Mr. Maggio described the need in Jefferson Parish for an automated method of collecting land use data for planning purposes. The impetus for employing an automated data collection system was the parish's need for a comprehensive Master Plan. A complete survey of existing land use was a critical first step.

Jefferson decided to use the Land Based Classification System (LBCS) developed by the American Planning Association because it links multidimensional land use data to a Geographic Information System (GIS). The LBCS incorporates five different land use dimensions: activity, function, structure, site and ownership. All five dimensions are linked to the same polygon. Various levels of data can be collected for the same site from the most detailed to the least. The Parish GIS Department had a need to link points as well as polygons especially when mapping “mixed use” sites.

Among the challenges faced by the Jefferson Parish GIS Department were: modifying the LBCS to fit Jefferson's unique requirements, coordination between various departments and agencies and maintaining the data sets after they were collected. The collection of these data sets presents opportunities to the parish including revising existing zoning ordinances based on actual land use and increased ability to analyze numerous land use variables when making planning decisions.

6. LAGIC Report:

LAGIC submitted an annual report to the Oversight Committee which is available for review. We hope to have the executed LAGIC contract back from the Division of Administration by the end of the month.

LAGIC assisted with the logistics for the “Intro to GIS” Workshop which took place in the Rotunda of the new Coast and Environment Building on July 31st. This workshop was an official URISA certified workshop and attendees received a certificate from their professional organization for Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits. The “Intro to GIS” Workshop drew 43 participants from local government agencies throughout Louisiana.

The LAGIC Director attended an organizational meeting to form a chapter of the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA) in Louisiana. He was recently invited to join a panel discussion on the Land Based Classification System at the Louisiana Planning Council on October 2nd.

LAGIC received notice that its FGDC CAP Grant application was accepted. The \$25,000 award will be used to conduct Metadata Workshops at regional offices of the LSU Ag. Center, located throughout Louisiana. LAGIC will also be assisting the Baton Rouge City/Parish Planning Commission conduct a Metadata Workshop for their staff and other city/parish employees.

Sharon Balfour (DOTD), the current state Point-of-Contact for GIS information from the federal government, and Craig Johnson (LAGIC Director) will be attending the National States Geographic Information Council Conference in mid September.

7. LouisianaMAP and the I-Team Committee Initiative:

Ed Leachman (DOA) gave an update on LouisianaMAP and the Louisiana I-Team Plan. He noted that the I-Team Initiative has been very successful in identifying the state’s critical data infrastructure. Without the I-Team Initiative, it is difficult to imagine how this much data would have been collected.

The I-Team effort establishes an ongoing process to collect and manage our data requirements and then tie that effort to the state budget process. Through this system, data sets that are essential to a number of state agencies will be identified and have priority in the state budget process. This process will be a guide to how we allocate geospatial resources in Louisiana. Identifying and building these critical data sets requires planning, production and exploitation activities. The I-Team effort has allowed the state to view, from the perspective of the geospatial product and service life cycle, the needs of the user. LouisianaMAP, the Geospatial Portal, will point to various existing data resources

rather than creating new data sets. There has been a slight change of direction in LouisianaMAP. Rather than using the servers at Tech Park, the Office of E-Services will be using servers at DOA running on Windows 2003. The training and outreach planned for the LouisianaMAP Academy will also need to be flexible in responding to user needs.

The Council needs to make LAGIC more visible as a resource to the community. There is no reason that agencies can't contribute resources as needed to support LAGIC's activities. LAGIC needs to manage LouisianaMAP for the Council, as a natural outgrowth of the I-Team effort.

The Council will get a copy of the draft plan, which should be complete and available next week, for review and comment. Mr. Leachman (DOA) reviewed all ten critical state data layers and asked the data subcommittee chairs to comment on the status of their data sets.

In conclusion, the I-Team Initiative has allowed us to identify the critical state data sets and leverage resources by lining up federal, state and local government partnerships. The analysis generated by this process will allow the state to make better decisions when considering how to budget IT resources.

8. Old Business

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave a status report on the DOQQ/LIDAR project. LOSCO recently received 214 panels (quarter quads) of LIDAR data, consisting primarily of Calcasieu Parish and Rapides Parish. At this point in the LIDAR project, LOSCO has 660 panels of completed LIDAR data most of which is available on the ATLAS website. In Task Order #6 (Lafourche/Terrebonne area) 68 quarter quads are currently in final production and 46 quarter quads are in the final review stage before being shipped to the QA/QC contractor. The contractor is producing the final products for Task Order #7 and Task Order #5. Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked if we would have LIDAR data for every location where we have a DOQQ. David Gisclair replied that for the areas where we have land there will be LIDAR data, many DOQQ's cover water areas where LIDAR data is irrelevant. The data will not be clipped at the state boundary but there will be no DOQQ's entirely outside of the state boundaries. Twenty-nine parishes have had the one meter DOQQ's mosaiced for the areas that fall within their boundaries.

David Gisclair noted that three federal agencies have decided to acquire color infrared ortho photography for the entire state beginning in the winter of 2003/2004. A Joint Funding Agreement has been created between the US Army Corps of Engineers (New Orleans District), the Farm Service Agency (USDA) and the US Geological Survey (USGS) to fund the creation of digital ortho photography statewide. He noted that the customary federal/state cooperation in

data acquisition is lacking, as no state agencies were consulted about the project before the Joint Funding Agreement was signed.

Mr. Gisclair asked Pat O'Neil (USGS) if he would like to add to this discussion. Pat O'Neil noted that the driving impetus for this project is the federal customers who need color infrared imagery (CIR) film products for their various research efforts. They also require stereo coverage with 60% overlap. At this time, they feel that CIR stereo imagery statewide is lacking and therefore the need to collect this data starting December 1, 2003. Mr. O'Neil noted that it could involve two flying seasons if they are not able to collect all of the imagery in one season. The federal partners will fly to NAPP photography standards. The estimated cost will be 1.3 million dollars. The product will be in the public domain and there will be no data compression offered. Mr. O'Neil will be the PI on the project although the project will be managed from the Mid Continent Mapping Center in Rolla, Missouri. Mr. O'Neil was asked a number of questions regarding the methods that would be used to provide ortho rectification for the data set. He was asked if the 30-meter DEM's or the 5-meter LIDAR DEM's would be used in the rectification process. He replied that whatever source data provided the best final product would be used. He was asked what the anticipated methods of distribution would be. He replied it could be available on hard disk drive, available at any of the federal partners' offices or from EROS Data Center.

NSGIC Representation/State Liaison

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that Sharon Balfour (DOTD) was resigning as the State Liaison and NSGIC representative. The Council needs to appoint a new representative and Joe Holmes (DEQ) has volunteered to fill that position if the Council agrees. Bo Blackmon noted that LAGIC has been very active in NSGIC activities and the LAGIC Director will aid the person who agrees to be the federal liaison. The federal liaison is the sole point of contact between federal agencies and the state of Louisiana on geospatial issues. The nomination of Joe Holmes as state liaison was approved by voice vote on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Jim Mitchell (DOTD).

9. New Business

The Remote Sensing GIS Workshop will work towards awarding Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) for attending the workshop. A number of professional agencies within the state will need to let the RS/GIS organizers know if they are interested.

There has been an e-mail discussion among state agencies regarding the official Louisiana coastline boundary. Bo Blackmon suggested that all the state agencies decide on one official, legal Louisiana shoreline boundary. Marty Beasley (DOA) recommended using the boundary that is based on 1975

photography that a court declared the official state shoreline boundary.

Brent Yantis, RAC at ULL, will have a training session in late August on the hydrography data set. RAC has 26 currently signed up for the workshop, they can accept up to 40 participants. The workshop is being sponsored by the state Mapping Partnership Office to advance the NHD efforts in Louisiana.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that he will be attending the ASPRS meeting and will be making a presentation on LIDAR data production in Louisiana.

Josh Kent (LAGIC) showed some of the new screens available on the state web site, Louisiana.gov. He noted that the final design has not yet been finalized.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18th 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 4:03 pm.

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
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Summary of Action Items

A chapter of the **Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA)** has been formed in Louisiana. Craig Johnson (LAGIC) has been assisting the members with organizational challenges.

LAGIC received notice that its **FGDC CAP Grant application was accepted**. The \$25,000 award will be used to conduct Metadata Workshops at regional offices of the LSU Ag. Center, located throughout Louisiana.

David Gisclair noted that **three federal agencies have decided to** acquire color infrared ortho photography for the entire state beginning in the winter of 2003/2004. A Joint Funding Agreement has been created between the US Army Corps of Engineers (New Orleans District), the Farm Service Agency (USDA) and the US Geological Survey (USGS) to **fund the creation of digital ortho photography statewide**.

Pat O'Neil (USGS,) the PI on the ortho photography project, estimated that it will cost approximately 1.3 million dollars. The product will be in the public domain although there will be no data compression offered. He was asked what the anticipated methods of distribution of the data would be. He replied it could be either on hard disk drive, available at the federal partner offices or available from the EROS Data Center.

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that **Sharon Balfour (DOTD) was resigning as the State Liaison and NSGIC representative**. The federal liaison is the sole point of contact between federal agencies and the State of Louisiana on geospatial issues. The **nomination of Joe Holmes (DEQ) as state liaison was approved** by voice vote on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Jim Mitchell (DOTD).