

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of September 18, 2003

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair Dennis Eilers (CRT) called the meeting to order at 1:32 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 Spicer, **Member**

Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

Department of Economic Development

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Education

Janelle Koenig, **Alternate**

Department of Environmental Quality

Paul Zundel, **Alternate**

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 Icabalceta, **Member**

Division of Administration

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Rich Bailey, **Alternate**

Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

Louisiana House

Kathleen Randall, **Member**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Cox, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Aaron Norby, **Member**

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

Aero Data Inc

Randall Grip

Applied Technical Services (ATS) Inc

John Speice

C.K. and Associates

Perry Lopez

Coastal Environments Inc

Steven Wood

Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Brad Mooney, **Alternate**

Department of Health & Hospitals

Emery Layton, **Alternate**

Department of Labor

Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**

Roger Anderson

Department of Social Services

David Jacobsen, **Alternate**

Department of Transportation and Development

Pam Dixon

Wanda Hill

Neil Hohmann

Dora Michelli

John Wells

Division of Administration

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

Lafayette Parish Assessor's Office

Suzanne Harrison

Louisiana Geographic Information Center

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

Louisiana State University

Rob Cunningham

Cliff Mugnier, C4G

New Orleans Communication District

Kathrine Cargo

University of Louisiana Lafayette, RAC

Ram Peddu
Gary Sanchez
Brent Yantis

US Army Corps of Engineers

Jude D. McCoy
David McDaniel

USGS, National Wetlands Research Center

Pat O'Neil

Weyerhaeuser Inc.

Don McMahon

3. August 2003 Minutes

The August 2003 minutes were approved by voice vote on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Paul Zundel (DEQ).

4. Chairman's Report

Chair Eilers noted that the original agenda would be modified slightly to accommodate Mr. McDaniel's (USACE) schedule. Mr. McDaniel needs to be back in New Orleans for a late afternoon meeting. The LAGIC report will occur after the DOQQ project discussion.

Chair Eilers (CRT) noted that he recently viewed a documentary program on TV that showed how GIS was used during the recovery efforts after the September 11th terrorist bombing in New York. This documentary was aired during the second anniversary of the bombing and showed how geospatial technologies (LIDAR, GPS etc.) were used in the recovery effort to locate victims of the tragedy.

5. Discussion: Proposed 2003/2004 CIR DOQQ Procurement, by David McDaniel with the US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District.

Mr. McDaniel noted that he was asked early this spring by other federal agencies if he would put together a flight to acquire Color Infrared (1 meter ground resolution) photo coverage of the state. He asked the state if there were any specific requirements that they would need beyond the last CIR DOQQ flight. He would like to use the specifications that were generated for the 1998 flight, but with improved ground control for the areas roughly south of 30 degrees, 30 minutes. The Corps would use airborne GPS and IMU controls for the next flight over this section of Louisiana. Above 30' 30" the Corps would use just airborne

GPS. All of the control that was used in 1998 flight will also be incorporated in the new flight. The partners in the next flight will be the Corps, the US Geological Survey (USGS) and the Department of Agriculture. The USGS contract mechanisms for aerial photography will be used as it provides the best value. They have created a Joint Development Agreement to handle the negotiations for the flight. There will be open competition between companies nationwide for the best aerial photography and data processing contractors. The USGS Mid Continent Mapping Center will award the contracts and provide the quality assurance. For this particular initiative one of the partners (USDA) had a need for stereo pairs. The price came out to 1.33 million dollars for statewide coverage CIR DOQQ's with stereo photography at 1 meter ground resolution. That price includes distribution to all the federal partners as well as the purchase of an external hard drive that can be used for free for downloading the data. The data will be available in the full TIF image format or in compressed Mr SID format. Mr McDaniel offered any state agency that has any additional needs that fall within the overall project specifications (1 meter, CIR, DOQQ etc.) speak to him about their needs immediately. For instance, some of the forest companies have expressed their concern that the northern half of the state have the same level of spatial accuracy as the southern half. They have asked whether the flight could be flown with both airborne GPS and IMU throughout the entire state. That is an option, but it would require that an additional \$100,000 be found to pay for that additional requirement. The New Orleans District of the Corps does not cover the northern half of the state and the Vicksburg District was not interested in contributing to enhancing the spatial accuracy of the northern portion of the state. However the ground control being specified more than meets the national map accuracy standards the federal partners hope to have the contract signed within two weeks, so any additional requirements would have to be decided immediately.

Council members asked Mr. McDaniel the following questions:

Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked if Mr McDaniel could go back over the imagery rectification process for the southern half (NO District) of the state versus the northern half. How could the state make up the difference to ensure that the products are equal in both the northern half and the southern half of the state? Mr McDaniel replied that the only difference is the use of an IMU in the southern half of the state; they both will meet national map accuracy standards. If the state wanted to add IMU to the entire state acquisition it would have to come up with \$100,000 in less than two weeks because the contract should be finalized by late September.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) asked if it was a 60% (2020 DOQQ's), 40 % split between the southern half and the northern half of the state. Mr McDaniels felt that that was fairly accurate; he didn't have the exact number of panels with him.

John Wells (DOTD) asked when the imagery would be available to the public. Mr. McDaniels noted that the Southeast portion of the state would be acquired in the winter of 2003, weather permitting. All the NAPP film acquisition will be taken during this leaf-off season, and we hope to have 700 plus DOQ's completed this year, with the remainder completed next fiscal year.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) asked what water areas of the state would be covered. Mr. McDaniels noted that the barrier islands would be covered but no water areas (Ex: Lake Pontchartrain).

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted he had heard that the horizontal accuracy of the airborne GPS without the IMU will be better than the 1998 flight. Mr. McDaniels replied that the technology for airborne GPS is much better now than it was in 1998 with the addition of the CORS Stations and other reference points. We also are more aware of which survey points are not reliable so we can eliminate them from the list of ground control points. Mr. Blackmon asked if it is necessary to have the IMU to provide sufficient horizontal accuracy. Mr. McDaniels replied that it is not necessary to meet national map accuracy standards for 1 meter data. The horizontal accuracy provided by airborne GPS alone, will exceed USGS standards. National Mapping Accuracy Standards for 1 meter data is plus or minus 10 meters (90% confidence level). This flight, in the area without IMU, will average 4 – 6 meter horizontal accuracy well within the 10 meter specifications.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) asked will the partners use LIDAR DEMS to provide ortho rectification in areas without CORS stations. Mr. McDaniels noted that in most places where there is no CORS reference station there is also no LIDAR data available. Mr. Gisclair noted that there will be LIDAR data available in the Northern half of the state soon.

Mr. Blackmon (DNR) asked if there would be a phased distribution of the data. Mr. McDaniels replied that as data becomes available it will be distributed to the public. He would prefer that someone with the state (LOSCO) distribute it rather than the Corps.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) asked who would be compressing the data into Mr. SID format. Mr. McDaniels replied that the Earth Science Information Center (RAC) under Brent Yantis would be providing that service. Mr. Gisclair asked Brent Yantis what compression ration he would be using with the Mr. SID's. Mr. Yantis replied, that the Corps requires 10:1 ration but that RAC usually uses a 20:1 ratio. Mr. Gisclair noted that the current DOQQ's are available on ATLAS at a 50:1 compression ratio. Mr. Yantis noted that if the state provides the necessary resources, the DOQQ's could be compressed at 50:1 ration in Mr. SID format while producing the 10:1 and 20:1 compressed formats as well.

Lynn Dupont (NORPC) asked what size would the entire data set be and would the data be available uncompressed? Mr. McDaniels noted that the entire data

set would be a little larger than a half a terabyte so they were not meant to be distributed in one download. They could easily be downloaded to a hard drive and then distributed. Ms. Dupont asked Pat O'Neil (USGS) if the high resolution imagery would be captured in the state's urban areas on a regular basis? Mr. O'Neil replied that USGS plans to fly the 133 cities, identified by NEMA, every two years. In Louisiana; Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Shreveport are included in the NEMA list of 133 cities.

David Gisclair noted that, to his knowledge, airborne GPS and an IMU were used in the 1998 flight. Mr McDaniels agreed that they were used but not specified in the project. They both agreed that the new CORS stations provide much better ground control than was available to the 1998 flight. Mr. Gisclair asked if the Corps had looked at using a mapping grade digital camera technology for the flight. Mr. McDaniels replied that there is not enough mapping grade digital camera capability with the ability to provide stereo pairs, a requirement for this particular flight. Mr Gisclair noted that, to his knowledge, there is digital camera capability available that would meet their statewide project specifications.

Mr. McDaniels noted that he is looking at a MOU with the other federal partners to fly the state every five years to produce CIR DOQQ's. That will be budgeted on a regular basis but the Corps will be looking for state partners in the future to fly satellite and digital camera flights.

John Speice (ATS) asked if the data would be available for local governments. That data would be available through RAC for the cost of duplication. Aaron Norby (Lincoln Parish) asked, if local governments could coordinate local ground control with the projected flyovers? Mr. McDaniels noted that local governments should check to see when the federal partners are scheduling flights and request that their specifications be considered.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) asked if multiple vendors will be used to fly the state. Mr. McDaniels noted that one vendor will be hired for the state but they may hire multiple sub contractors. Mr Gisclair asked if different cameras would be used and different films. Mr. McDaniels noted that the partners would specify the cameras and the film but might not have absolute control over the emulsion batch and other variables.

6. LAGIC Report:

Sharon Balfour, Joe Holmes, Pat O'Neil and Craig Johnson attended the National States GIS Conference (NSGIC) in Nashville this week. Among the topics that were discussed that might be of interest to Council members:

A number of states, lead by Maryland and Indiana, are developing a web based survey form that can be used by all the states when they need to collect or

update information regarding contacts, status of state data sets etc. The form would be customizable with LGISC logo and with the ability to add state specific information. The purpose is to improve the efficiency of conducting surveys and inventories. In the future, all federal agencies would notify at least one state representative to NSGIC before surveying GIS and local government in Louisiana.

Building stronger ties between state and local governments. A number of states gave examples of state programs that have been developed to aid local governments:

- Tennessee Base Mapping program – Cooperative agreement between the state and local governments to fund 1' aerial photography statewide.
- North Carolina Flood Mapping Program – Cooperative agreement between state and county governments to update the flood maps using DOQQ's and LIDAR data.
- Utah – Program to provide state and local cost sharing to update their benchmarks (elevation monuments).
- West Virginia Statewide Addressing Project

NSGIC is working with a number of other professional organizations NASCIO, NACO etc, to provide information for those drafting federal legislation to provide better funding for “geospatial preparedness”. Most of the initial Homeland Security funds for first responders have gone to boots and radios. There was a definite need for that. This legislation emphasizes information sharing and systems integration and how do you foster that within states. The legislation discusses the need for data standards, grants and technical assistance to state and local government for critical data set creation, etc.

Outreach: LAGIC will have a booth and a representative at the following Oct. meetings

- Environmental State of the State - NO 10/10/03
- Coastal GIS Conference – Biloxi 10/23 & 10/24/03
- LSU Foundation - Baton Rouge 10/24/03

LAGIC is working with the Department of Education on GIS Day activities in schools in three of the river parishes. LAGIC would like to enlist state agency volunteers to assist with that effort.

7. LouisianaMAP and the I-Team Committee Initiative:

Ed Leachman (DOA) and Dina Sa (LAGIC) gave an update on LouisianaMAP . He noted that Diana Sa has sent out a draft copy of the I-Team Plan to be reviewed by all of the Council members and alternates. He noted that now is the time to make any final comments on the plan before it is completed. It was

suggested that a Governor be given a draft copy to review before the November I-Team “Unveiling” and the release of the I-Team Plan.

A motion was made by Brad Spicer (DA&F) and seconded by Bo Blackmon (DNR) to submit the Draft I-Team Plan to the Governor. The Council will review the document as well and submit changes before the October 16th Council Meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote.

8. Old Business

DOQQ/LIDAR Update

David Gisclair noted that the number of DOQQ’s has not changed since the last update. DeWitt Braud (LSU) is reviewing a number of different image compression techniques including JPEG 2000 and the new version of Mr SID software.

Two more panels of LIDAR data were added to the ATLAS Website. As of today, 662, of approximately 3,000, LIDAR panels have been completed and 46 more panels are being shipped. Jim Mitchell (DOTD) asked if LOSCO would assign an elevation to Lake Pontchartrain, and other large water bodies, so that the state elevation grid would be complete even where there was zero elevation. Mr Gisclair noted that many parishes; Calcasieu, Rapides and Lincoln, will save millions of dollars using LIDAR data for their flood elevation restudies.

LouisianaMAP

Ed Leachman noted that LouisianaMAP will launch a test site before it is officially open to the public using Louisiana.gov. Three geospatial services will be offered in the initial launching, that the non-GIS user can employ:

- Make a Map
- Go to location by street address (or lat/long)
- Clip out a map to a report

Data storage will be added over time. An interactive geocoding capability will be a feature of LouisianaMAP as will the ability to interact with various state data sets from one location.

9. New Business

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted the CISD Conference will take place at the Radisson on October 13th and 14th.

Kathleen Randall (House) noted that the Louisiana House website has added some features including election news, and sample ballots.

Kathrine Cargo (NOCD) noted that URISA will be hosting their annual conference in Atlanta October 11th – October 14th.

Lynn Dupont (NORPC) noted that the NO Regional Planning Commission has acquired Quickbird Imagery, 2' ground resolution Panchromatic Imagery from Digital Globe covering the North Shore of St Tammany Parish. She has also acquired 1' imagery for the South Shore of Lake Pontchartrain from USGS.

10. Determine Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16th 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 4:05 pm.

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Summary of Action Items

Mr. McDaniel noted that he was asked early this spring by other federal agencies if he would put together a **flight to acquire Color Infrared (1 meter ground resolution) photo coverage of the state**. He asked the state if there were any specific requirements that they would need beyond the last CIR DOQQ flight. He would like to use the specifications that were generated for the 1998 flight, but with improved ground control for the areas roughly south of 30 degrees, 30 minutes. The Corps would use airborne GPS and IMU controls for the next flight over this section of Louisiana. Above 30' 30" the Corps would use just airborne GPS. All of the control that was used in 1998 flight will also be incorporated in the new flight. **The partners in the next flight will be the Corps, the US Geological Survey (USGS) and the Department of Agriculture.**

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