Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of April 15, 2004

1. Call to Order
Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) called the meeting to order at 1:42 P.M. a quorum was not present. The meeting was held in Room #212 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

2. Roll Call
A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Economic Development
Gene Stephens, **Member**
Department of Education
Susan Gauthier, **Member**
Department of Health & Hospitals
Truman McDaniel, **Member**
Department of Labor
Ramona Robichaux, **Member**
Department of Natural Resources
Bo Blackmon, **Member**
Department of Social Services
Pam Smith, **Member**
Department of Transportation and Development
Jim Mitchell, **Member**
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**
Louisiana Assessors Association
Sherel Martin, **Member**
Louisiana Municipal Association
Mattie Coxe, **Member**
Louisiana Police Jury Association
Aaron Norby, **Member**

Others Present:

ATS Inc.
John Speice
Department of Health & Hospitals
Clay Trachtman
Department of Labor
Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**

Department of Transportation and Development
    Pam Dixon
    Eric Jeansonne
    John Wells
    Jimmy Wilson
Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)
    Craig Johnson
    Joshua Kent
    Dina Sa
Louisiana State Police
    Daphne Bencaz
Louisiana State University, C4G
    Cliff Mugnier

3. Approval of March 2004 Minutes

The March 2004 Minutes was not accepted due to the lack of a quorum.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Blackmon (DNR) noted that a group of I-Team Steering Committee members and LAGIC drafted a presentation on the role of the Council and LAGIC in coordinating GIS efforts statewide. The presentation explained the value of geospatial data in saving money, creating greater efficiencies and providing new services. This presentation was shown to the acting Chief Information Officer, Alan Doescher on March 31st at the Claiborne Building. A number of Council members made presentations including Marty Beasley (DOA), David Jacobsen (DSS) and Dennis Eilers (CRT). Bo Blackmon (DNR) gave the overall presentation

Chair Blackmon noted that at the last Council meeting he had requested that the Council add a short monthly presentation (5 – 10 minutes) by an agency member each month on GIS activities within their department and new data sets that are being created. This would be an update to the GIS Inventory that was conducted by LAGIC in the past. He distributed outlines showing the format that should be used and the minimum information that should be covered. He noted that Susan Gauthier (DED) would give the presentation today. He recommended that after presenters make their presentations, that they give them to LAGIC for posting.

Chair Blackmon (DNR) asked if LAGIC would post articles about GIS activities taking place in Louisiana to its website. He specifically mentioned; awards, recognition, articles and conference proceedings. He asked Council members to let the Council know of any newsworthy items to post.

5. Presentation: "Aerial Photography for Transportation Planning", by John Wells, Road Inventory Section, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Mr. Wells noted the efforts of DOTD's Pavement Management Group to acquire aerial photography for urban areas in Louisiana to assist in transportation planning. He was able to use the one-foot resolution photography collected by the USGS 133 Cities Project for the Department of Homeland Security. That photography was taken in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Shreveport. The photography will be ideal for delineating intersections, turn lanes etc. In addition, St Tammany, Lafayette and Lake Charles have current high-resolution imagery, which he hopes to acquire. For the remaining urbanized areas where no current high-resolution aerial photography exists he will depend on the Survey Group, within DOTD, which offered to fly areas of Monroe and Houma. That data has now been collected but is waiting on funding to complete the processing of the imagery. The plan is to rectify all of the existing aerial imagery and link it with DOTD's existing ground video imagery.

7. LAGIC Report

LAGIC Outreach
LAGIC, in coordination with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension, is conducting eight full day GIS/Metadata Workshops throughout the state beginning in May and extending through July. These workshops are funded by a $25,000 grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). At these workshops we will also discuss LouisianaMAP applications.

LAGIC is assisting the RS/GIS Workshop organizing committee. The RS/GIS Workshop will have a Thursday morning session on "Web enabled GIS applications" among state agencies. A number of Council members will participate in the "Web Enabled GIS Session including: Bo Blackmon (DNR), Joe Holmes (DEQ), Jim Mitchell (DOTD), Ed Leachman (DOA) and ATLAS (LSU) will be sending a representative. In addition, Aaron Norby (Lincoln Parish) will be showing the state of cadastral mapping in Lincoln Parish and the Council members from Department of Labor will have a presentation on Tuesday.

NSGIC Midyear Meeting Highlights
Craig Johnson (LAGIC) attended the National States GIS Council Mid-year meeting in late March. Among the presentations were:

NASA BAA Grant Recipients presented the results of their NASA funded projects. Over 16 projects incorporating remotely sensed data were highlighted.

There was a day of presentations by federal agencies on their ongoing GIS projects (including USGS, EPA, BLM, NOAA, DOT, and DHS). USGS also gave updates on the National Map and Geospatial One Stop.

NSGIC is developing an online survey capability that state can use to track the progress of local government GIS applications and the development of data sets. The survey is called RAMONA and will allow state coordinators to customize the survey instrument to their unique state needs.

NACO is working with NSGIC to ensure coordination. They recently asked their NSGIC state representatives to recommend a contact person in each state to speak with local governments. Joe Holmes asked me to speak to Aaron Norby (Lincoln Parish) to see if he would be interested in the position. He agreed to serve.

Bo Blackmon (DNR) asked if LAURISA was willing to post resumes of GIS professionals on their website. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) said that anyone could post resumes but, according to LAURISA's policy, only members could go to that section of the website to review them. This policy is meant to encourage agencies and others to become members of the LAURISA organization.

6. Member GIS Reports

Susan Gauthier with the Department of Education, Louisiana Center for Educational Technology (LCET) gave a presentation on the variety of digital data sets available through LCET as well as other sections of the department. Ms. Gauthier works with the INTECH2 Social Studies Program that trains teachers in using geospatial data in the classroom. The Department has eight different Educational Technology Centers throughout the state that assist teachers with IT issues including those related to geospatial technology.

GIS is also found in the Planning Analysis and Information Resource Unit (PAIR), which collects statistical information on schools, students and school districts to aid in long-term planning and resource allocation. That data is available online at **http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/pair/1753.htm**

7. Old Business

DOQQ Update
Pat O'Neil (USGS) gave an update on the recent DOQQ flight. He was asked if there were any areas that had to be reflown, how soon would the revised data be available and which areas would be done first? He pointed out that many areas had already been reflown and the priority areas would remain the same; SE Louisiana followed by other Louisiana Coastal areas. He also noted that there would be an update on the DOQQ project at the RS/GIS Workshop.

LIDAR Update
David Gisclair and Rob Cunningham were both out of town so the LIDAR status report will be delayed until the next Council meeting in May. Cliff Mugnier with the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center noted that the Corps of Engineers (NO District) is employing LIDAR data to update the flood maps in Orleans and Ascension Parish.

I-Team Report
Joe Holmes (DEQ) was absent so Bo Blackmon gave an I-Team update. He noted that bringing the I-Team Initiative to the next level would require additional funding for the framework layers and a renewed push by the I-Team Steering Committee to educate the new administration on the benefits of funding these efforts. He noted that the Steering Committee met with the acting CIO to describe the activities of LAGIC and the GIS Council.

LouisianaMAP Report
Ed Leachman was not able to attend so Josh Kent (LAGIC) gave the LouisianaMAP update. Mr. Kent noted that LouisianaMAP is being visited by many on the web, who are using the "locate" application to find their house, school or fishing spot. LouisianaMAP would like to add a link for those going to the LOSCO Boat Launch site allowing users to plot the location of a launch site of interest directly using LouisianaMAP.   In addition, the developers would like to add additional applications such as plotting the location of all high-speed data lines in the state to assist the administration in providing equitable access statewide. The LouisianaMAP Academy will have a short (one hour) workshop on Monday, prior to the start of the RS/GIS Workshop.

RS/GIS Workshop
Chair Blackmon (DNR) noted that the RS/GIS workshop would take place on April 20 – 22, 2004 at the Cajundome Conference Center in Lafayette. He noted that the agenda is available at: **http://www.rac.louisiana.edu/rsgis/index.html**. He noted that this year there are three or four pre- workshop training sessions that you can attend including LouisianaMAP Academy, ERDAS software training, and an IFSAR workshop.

On Thursday the GIS Council will sponsor a session on "Web Enabled GIS among State Agencies". Four state entities and the Division of Administration will each make 20-minute presentations. The state presentations would be followed by a session on "Web Enabled GIS among Federal Agencies".

8. New Business
Cliff Mugnier (LSRC) mentioned that he would be speaking at the ASPRS Conference in Denver, Colorado. Mattie Coxe (LMA) noted that USGS would have a workshop on data mining. Chair Blackmon noted that LAGIC might consider developing a workshop on mining state data.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that there are still various parish boundary files being used by state and local governments causing confusion as to, what is the official parish boundary data set. Chair Blackmon discussed the history of the Council's official adoption of the DOTD parish boundary data set, and the reason it was chosen. There was a discussion of other political boundaries, such as precinct boundaries and legislative districts. No one knew definitively, whether the political boundaries just discussed have metadata files associated with them.

Cliff Mugnier (LSRC) noted that Public Land Survey data is also available on line in TIF file format that can be downloaded and plotted.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that the Governor's office had requested a map showing all of the locations throughout the state that the Governor has visited. They want to be able to track her visits in a database and display them on a map.

Chair Blackmon noted that the Dayton Foundation had contacted DNR's Coastal Restoration Division because they are writing a Louisiana Land Loss Curriculum that would be accessed by students throughout the country. He will be asking other Council members for assistance in providing information for the project. Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that the land water boundary is another data set for which there are various boundaries in existence causing confusion among data users. Chair Blackmon noted the history of the legal decisions that define the state offshore boundary, which was derived from the land water interface boundary, as of one distinct point in time (1975).

9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

Chair, Blackmon (DNR) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2004 at 1:30 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

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Summary of Action Items

Chair Blackmon requested that the **Council continue adding short monthly presentations (5 – 10 minutes) by agency members** each month on GIS activities within their department and a description of the new data sets that are being created.

Susan Gauthier with the Department of Education, Louisiana Center for Educational Technology (LCET) gave a presentation on the variety of digital data sets available through LCET as well as other sections of the department

GIS is also found in the Planning Analysis and Information Resource Unit (PAIR), which collects statistical information on schools, students and school districts to aid in long-term planning and resource allocation. That data is available online at **http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/pair/1753.htm**

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Pat O'Neil (USGS) gave an update on the recent DOQQ aerial photography flight, updates on the progress of the project will be posted to the Regional Applications Center (RAC) ULL site, with a link to LAGIC**.**