Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of May 20, 2004

1. Call to Order
Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) called the meeting to order at 1:38 P.M. a quorum was 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 Agriculture & Forestry
 Brad Mooney. **Alternate**
Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism
 Dennis Eilers, **Member**
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
 David Jacobson, **Alternate**
Department of Transportation and Development
 Jim Mitchell, **Member**
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
 Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**
Division of Administration, State Lands Office
 Marty Beasley, **Member**
Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts
 Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**
Louisiana Municipal Association
 Matt Cowart, **Alternate**
Louisiana Police Jury Association
 Aaron Norby, **Member**
Louisiana Senate
 David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

> **CK and Associates**
>> Perry Lopez
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> **Department of Health & Hospitals**
>> Daniel McDaniel, **Alternate**
>> Michael Thompson
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> **Department of Labor**
>> Rodger Anderson
>> Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**
>> Jackie Mills
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> **Department of Natural Resources**
>> Sydney Dobson
>
> **Department of Transportation and Development**
>> Sharon Balfour, **Alternate**
>> Pam Dixon
>> Dean Goodell
>> Neil Hohmann
>> Jimmy Wilson
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> **Department of Wildlife & Fisheries**
>> Patrick Banks
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> **Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**
>> Craig Johnson
>> Joshua Kent
>> Dina Sa
>
> **Louisiana State Police**
>> Daphne Bencaz
>
> **Louisiana State University**
>> Rob Cunningham
>
> **St James Parish Government**
>> Bobby Lear
>> Pratyush Kumar

3. Approval of March and April 2004 Minutes

The March and April 2004 Minutes were accepted on a voice vote after a motion by David Gisclair (Senate) and seconded by Dennis Eilers (CRT).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Blackmon (DNR) noted that the 20th Annual Remote Sensing/GIS Workshop in Lafayette was extremely success. The Workshop attracted over 200 people, the papers were excellent and the pre workshop seminars well

attended. The workshop is an excellent opportunity to network with others in the Louisiana geospatial community.

Chair Blackmon noted that Shirley Rambeau, a consultant with the US Army Corps of Engineers in New Orleans, is looking for a position. The Corps has recently cut back on contract work. Ms. Rambeau is an experienced draftsman and GIS technician who lives in the New Orleans area.

5. **Presentation: GIS Initiatives at the Louisiana Department of Labor, by Ramona Robichaux, Research & Statistics Division, LDOL**

Ms. Robichaux noted that are three data components that the Department of Labor needs from a Geographic Information System (GIS). The first is location: where Department of Labor (DOL) employees are located, where Louisiana's employers are found and where are the customers (those needing employment). The second critical factor for the department is accessibility. Are DOL offices in convenient locations and are they in the best location to serve our customers? Are DOL services accessible both physically and online and can our services be accessed from the home? The third question DOL faces is efficiency. Are we using the most efficient methods of reaching employers and customers? Could we use GIS to target our efforts to better serve our customers? GIS is also used to determine how many individuals are working within a parish versus those that commute. If a company wants to relocate to Louisiana, the GIS might be used to determine which areas of the state have a ready workforce with experience in that particular line of work? If a particular industry requires a highly educated workforce (i.e.; computer technology or research), the GIS can assist in identifying which parishes would be more likely to have employees that would be qualified to apply for these positions.

As a state agency, DOL faces certain restraints in providing data to the public. State law places restrictions on making data available to the public if it threatens individual's privacy or provides competitors with an unfair disadvantage. Using GIS technology to aggregate this data to a census tract or parish level, many of these concerns can be addressed. In summary, GIS is an important tool for meeting the many missions of the Louisiana Department of Labor.

6. LAGIC Report

Outreach:

- LAGIC, in coordination with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension, will begin the first of eight full day GIS & Metadata Workshops throughout the state beginning May 25th and May 26th these workshops will extend through July, and are funded by a $25,000 grant from the Federal

Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). We will demonstrate the capabilities of LouisianaMAP in these training sessions. We will be using six of LAGIC's wireless laptops along with 10 of the Cooperative Extension's laptops.

- LAGIC has been providing logistical help to the RS/GIS Workshop organizing committee. Craig Johnson has been scouting possible locations for next year's workshop in the New Orleans area. Josh Kent has been creating a list serve for the group; they will have their own URL soon.

Administrative Issues:

- LAGIC staff has been working on two FGDC grant proposals. We should have more to tell you at the next Council meeting.
- LAGIC has been revising its annual contract. As soon as the draft is ready for review we will schedule a meeting of the LAGIC Oversight Committee.

7. Old Business

DOQQ Update
Pat O'Neil (USGS) gave an update on the recent DOQQ flight. The first set of DOQQ's will be available at the end of June. Mr. O'Neil noted that a status map will be posted to the Regional Application Center (RAC) website. Mr. O'Neil fielded questions from the Council regarding how the files will be named (file naming conventions). There were also questions about how DOQQ updates would be handled. Mr. O'Neil noted that he would provide answers to these questions but needed to discuss them with the project partners. Mr O'Neil passed a status map out to Council members for their review.
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LIDAR Update
David Gisclair gave a status report on the statewide LIDAR project. Mr Gisclair passed out a map showing the location of completed quarter quads. He noted that there are now 996 panels of LIDAR data available on the Atlas website. The 996 completed out of approximately 3,500 panels statewide represents nearly a third of the total. He noted that 10 panels from St Bernard Parish have not yet been posted to the ATLAS website. A status map is now available at the LOSCO website. According to the prime contractor all quarter quads below 30' 30'' will be completed before the end of the summer.

Marty Beasley (DOA) asked if it would be possible to get a copy of the raw data from LOSCO. Mr Gisclair noted that Watershed Concepts has developed a process for distributing raw data and he agreed to check on it. He noted that EROS Data Center also has experience in dealing with large natural resource data sets, such as the National Hydrology Data (NHD).

I-Team Report
Joe Holmes (DEQ), I-Team Chair, was not able to make the meeting so Chair Blackmon gave the I-Team report. Chair Blackmon noted that we needed a strategy for taking the I-Team Initiative to the next level. On May 6th, the I-Team Steering Committee met to discuss an I-Team Summit in June, the end of the year report to the Governor and other issues. The Summit meeting will involve reports by each of the data chairs, a discussion on funding issues and recommendations on how to complete critical data layers. The results of the Summit meeting will be included in the annual "I-Team, Report to the Governor".

LouisianaMAP Report
Ed Leachman was not able to attend so Joshua Kent (LAGIC) gave the report. Mr. Kent described an FGDC Cap grant proposal that LAGIC was planning to submit that would fund the creation of "Open GIS" compliant web feature service that would provide Louisiana voters with a "kiosk" of voter information through LouisianaMAP.

Member GIS Reports – Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

Patrick Banks, a member of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries GIS Committee, made the presentation to the Council on the department's geospatial data sets. He noted that the department maintains data on salinity boundaries, oil and gas projects, rare and endangered species, oyster leases etc. He noted that there are at least 43 statewide geospatial data sets that he was aware of; only the oyster lease data is available on their website. His PowerPoint presentation will be available on the Council website in the near future.

Presentation to the CIO
Chair Blackmon noted that Ed Leachman (DOA), LAGIC staff and a number of Council members (DOA, CRT, DSS, DNR, and DOTD) participated in a presentation to the acting CIO, Allen Doescher, on the benefits of GIS. The presentation was well received by the Division of Administration.

8. New Business

June 15th – Height Modernization Summit at Pennington will be hosted by the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center. The Summit, which is an all day event, will feature presentations and breakout sessions on geodetic data issues.

LOSCO and OSRADP hosted a group of Oil Spill Coordinators from Spain who were attending an Oil Spill Symposium. They were very interested in how Oil Spill Response professionals here are using GIS in their planning efforts.

Marty Beasley (DOA) noted that State Lands Office now has online document retrieval system that can retrieve copies of documents dating back to the 1700's. Over 3 billion pages of scanned historic documents can be retrieved.

Bobby Lear, GIS Coordinator for St James Parish, noted that a dispute involving the parish boundary between St James and Ascension has been settled and that a new boundary will need to be drawn on state maps.

Chair Blackmon noted that the old Louisiana coastal boundary line needs to be reviewed. He would like to see an approved offshore and 3-mile boundary line decided on by state agencies that use this data set. He suggested that a group of interested GIS professionals meet to discuss the problem and suggest solutions.

Chair Blackmon noted that LAGIC had requested that the Council provide a letter of support for the FGDC Cap Grant Proposal. The Council agreed to have LAGIC draft a letter of support, for the Chair to sign, on a motion by Marty Beasley (DOA) and seconded by David Gisclair (Senate).

9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

Chair, Blackmon (DNR) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2004 at 1:30 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm on a motion by Marty Beasley (DOA) and seconded by Rhonda Robichaux (DOL).

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Summary of Action Items

Presentation: **GIS Initiatives at the Louisiana Department of Labor**, by Ramona Robichaux, Research & Statistics Division, LDOL

Patrick Banks, a member of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries GIS Committee, made the presentation to the Council on the **department's geospatial data sets**.

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**.**

Chair Blackmon noted that LAGIC had requested that the Council provide **a letter of support for the FGDC Cap Grant Proposal**. The Chair proposed that LAGIC draft a letter of support. The Council agreed on a motion by Marty Beasley (DOA) and seconded by David Gisclair (Senate).

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