

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of June 17, 2004

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) called the meeting to order at 1:39 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 Agriculture & Forestry**

Brad Mooney, **Alternate**

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Joe Holmes, **Member**

**Department of Economic Development**

Gene Stephens, **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**

**Division of Administration, State Lands Office**

Marty Beasley, **Member**

**Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts**

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

**Louisiana Senate**

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

#### **Others Present:**

**Department of Health & Hospitals**

Clay Trachtman

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Pam Dixon

Neil Hohmann

**Department of Wildlife & Fisheries**

Doug Albert, **Alternate**

**Division of Administration**

Ed Leachman, **Alternate**

**Gulf Engineers and Consultants (GEC) Inc.**

Adam Werth

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Dina Sa

**Louisiana State Police**

Daphne Bencaz

**South Central Planning and Development**

Kevin Ghirardi

Richard Poche

**St James Parish Government**

Jody Chenier

Pratyush Kumar

Bobby Lear

Toby Sandifer

**3. Approval of May 2004 Minutes**

Approval of the May 2004 Minutes was deferred due to the lack of a quorum.

**4. Chair's Report**

Chair Blackmon (DNR) noted that Truman McDaniels (DHH) has retired. Chair Blackmon displayed a "Certificate of Recognition" that will be sent to Mr McDaniel in recognition of his years of service on the Council and his service as Vice Chair.

Chair Blackmon noted that the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC) held a Height Modernization meeting at Pennington on June 16<sup>th</sup> which was funded by the Corps of Engineers and the US Geological Survey (USGS). The meeting provided an update on LSRC activities and described the Continuously Operating Reference System (CORS) and how it will eventually replace the existing benchmark system as it achieves denser coverage of the state. He noted that the system will cost upwards of \$10 million dollars to construct, as well as a yearly maintenance cost of 1 – 1.5 million dollars

Chair Blackmon noted that he has been receiving numerous requests for geospatial data from a variety of sources. Council members have been very helpful in assisting him in answering these requests.

## **5. Presentation: GIS Initiatives in St James Parish, by Bobby Lear, GIS Coordinator, St James Parish Government.**

Mr Lear, as well as Jody Chenier (Operations Director), Pratyush Kumar (Information Systems Analyst) and Toby Sandifer (IT Administrator); discussed the organization, creation and maintenance of geospatial data in St James Parish Government. They described the recent acquisition of imagery and software from Pictometry Inc which provided oblique imagery and the software to view it. Mr Chenier described some of the grant proposals that were written to fund the system. Mr Sandifer noted the challenge of linking many diverse databases running on different operating systems and hardware to one centralized GIS system. Mr Kumar described creating the data links and customizing the system to St James Parish's unique needs. Mr Lear described the organizational challenges in developing acceptance of the system and the procedures necessary to make it work.

## **6. LAGIC Report**

Outreach:

LAGIC, in coordination with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension, completed the first three, of eight, full day GIS & Metadata Workshops. These workshops will extend through July, and are funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). We have been using LouisianaMAP as a training tool in the hands-on sessions, a continuation of LouisianaMAP Academy.

LAGIC has been providing logistical assistance to the I-Team steering Committee. The LAGIC Director will be contacting the Subcommittee Data Chairs on Friday to review a data questionnaire that was sent out earlier this week for their review. Flyers are available for the I-Team Summit, which will occur on Tuesday afternoon in the Rotunda Conference Room in the Energy Coast & Environment Bldg. on the LSU Campus

Administrative Issues:

LAGIC staff has been working on two FGDC grant proposals. Those proposals were delivered to FGDC in early June and awards will be announced in September or October.

LAGIC Staff submitted a Department of Homeland Security Grant which is still being reviewed by the project participants.

LAGIC has revised its annual contract. The draft is ready for review we will schedule a meeting of the LAGIC Oversight Committee as soon as DOA has had an opportunity to review it.

## **7. Old Business**

### **DOQQ Update**

Pat O'Neil (USGS) sent Bo Blackmon an update on the recent DOQQ flight. The first set of DOQQ's will be available at the end of July. Mr. O'Neil provided a status map which will also be posted to the Regional Application Center (RAC) website. In Mr. O'Neil's update he noted that the USGS NAPP Inspection Office in Reston Virginia had found only 15 frames out of the 7,351 frames inspected that should be rejected due to clouds, smoke or other factors. He also noted that the entire Louisiana Coast should be complete by April 2005.

### **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 over 1,000 panels of LIDAR data available on 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. Parishes that sign cooperative agreements with FEMA will have priority in respect to acquisition and processing. Mr Gisclair noted that Rapides Ouachita and Lincoln are examples of parishes that have been fast-tracked.

### **I-Team Report**

Joe Holmes (DEQ), the I-Team Chair, gave the I-Team report. Chair Holmes noted that we needed a strategy for taking the I-Team Initiative to the next level. The I-Team Steering Committee met in May to schedule an I-Team Summit for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Summit will provide direction for the I-Team Initiative. 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". David Gisclair (LOSICO) noted the need for a new name that better reflects the tie to LouisianaMAP. A copy of the I-Team Executive Order was distributed as well as a Summit meeting agenda.

### **LouisianaMAP Report**

Ed Leachman was not able to attend so Joshua Kent (LAGIC) gave the LouisianaMAP report. Mr. Kent described an FGDC Cap grant proposal that LAGIC submitted 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. He noted that LAGIC was assisting in adding some special features to LouisianaMAP, such as a link from the LOSCO Boat Launch site to LouisianaMAP.

**Agency GIS Data Reports:**

**Division of Administration, State Land Office - Marty Beasley GIS Manager**  
A PowerPoint presentation will be available soon on the LAGIC website

**Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Soil and Water Conservation - Brad Mooney, IT Geographic Senior Support Analyst**  
A PowerPoint presentation will be available soon on the LAGIC website

**8. New Business**

Chair Blackmon (DNR) noted that LAGIC had requested that the Council provide a letter of support for a Department of Homeland Security Grant Proposal. The Council agreed, as a committee of the whole, to have LAGIC draft a letter of support, for the Chair to sign.

Lynn Dupont (NORPC) noted that Grambling University is opening a Geospatial Studies Program and is looking to hire two GIS professionals. Ms Dupont will be glad to provide the contact information for anyone who can offer Dr. Vladimir Alexander Appeaning at Grambling, some assistance.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that there is a need to establish a common spatial domain for Louisiana. Mr Mitchell noted that when using ArcGIS 9 users should be aware that when you bring a feature class into a feature database (within a geo database) that all feature classes must have the same X/Y domain relationship and that the domain needs to be set at the same level of precision. Chair Blackmon suggested that a workgroup be established to investigate the problem and report back to the Council with a set of recommendations. The goal of this workgroup will be to recommend a common spatial domain for Louisiana.

**9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:**

Chair, Blackmon (DNR) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, July 15, 2004 at 1:30 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm on a motion by Lynn Dupont (LAPDD) and seconded by Jorge Icabalceta (DW&F)

**Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**  
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***Summary of Action Items***

Presentation: **GIS Initiatives in St James Parish Government**, by Bobby Lear GIS Coordinator St James Parish Government, et al.

Joe Holmes (DEQ), the I-Team Chair, noted that he has scheduled an **I-Team Summit for June 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The Summit will provide direction for the I-Team Initiative. 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"

Marty Beasley, GIS Manager for the **Office of State Lands**, made a presentation to the Council on the **department's geospatial data sets**.

Brad Mooney, IT Geographic Senior Support Analyst for the **Department of Agriculture and Forestry** Office of Soil and Water Conservation, made a presentation to the Council on the **department's geospatial data sets**.

Chair Bo Blackmon gave an **update on the recent DOQQ aerial photography flight**, for Pat O'Neil's who could not attend. 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 a Department of Homeland Security Grant Proposal**. The Committee of the Whole agreed that LAGIC would draft a letter of support to be signed by the Chair of the Council.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that there is a **need to establish a common spatial domain for Louisiana**. Chair Blackmon suggested that a workgroup be established to investigate the problem and report back to the Council with a set of recommendations. The goal of this workgroup will be to recommend a common spatial domain for Louisiana.