

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of July 15, 2004

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Jorge Icabalceta (DW&F) called the meeting to order at 1:39 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 Health & Hospitals

Daniel MacDonald, **Alternate**

Department of Labor

Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**

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 Military Department

Mike Liotta, **Alternate**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Mattie Coxe, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Aaron Norby, **Member**

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

- Atchafalaya Paddle Trails (APT)**
James Proctor
- Applied Technical Services (ATS)**
John Speice
- Department of Health & Hospitals**
Clay Trachtman
Michael Thompson
- Department of Natural Resources**
Sydney Dobson
- Department of Transportation and Development**
Neil Hohmann
John Wells
- Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**
Craig Johnson
Joshua Kent
Dina Sa
- Louisiana Municipal Association**
Matt Cowart, **Alternate**
- Louisiana State University**
Cliff Mugnier
Jeff Thelen
- US Geological Survey**
Pat O'Neil
Pierre Sargent

3. Approval of May and June 2004 Minutes

The May 2004 Minutes were accepted on a voice vote after a motion by Marty Beasley (DOA) and seconded by David Gisclair (Senate).

The June 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

Vice Chair Icabalceta (DW&F) noted that the Council may need to write a letter requesting that the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) appoint members to sit on the GIS Council. DHH currently has an alternate and no member. DPS has neither an alternate nor a member. Mr Johnson (LAGIC) volunteered to draft a sample letter for the Council to review at the August meeting

Vice Chair Icabalceta noted that we did not have any agency speakers for this meeting but that we would pass around a sign in list for the next five or six meetings.

5. Presentation: Update on GIS Activities at the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center by Dr. Roy Dokka, Director Louisiana Spatial Reference Center

The Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC) is a partnership between LSU and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), specifically the National Geodetic Survey which is the national authority for three dimensional positioning. The existing Louisiana benchmark system for determining elevation is in need of an expensive overhaul. Many benchmarks (monuments) are missing, damaged or they are inaccurate and obsolete. Due to these problems, the LSRC has had to be creative in devising a statewide positioning infrastructure based on the Global Positioning System network. The LSRC currently has 22 Continuously Operating GPS (CORS) Stations throughout the state that provide millimeter horizontal accuracy. The LSRC is concerned with three issues; height modernization through the establishment of the GulfNet (GPS) network, support for airborne applications (including the acquisition of imagery and remotely sensed data) and subsidence. The coastal areas from Mobile, Alabama to Corpus Christ, Texas are subsiding at an average rate of .5 inch a year. Coastal areas will need to build more levees and build their existing levees higher to stay ahead of the rate of subsidence.

The LSRC is determining the true elevation of over 200 high order benchmarks in South Louisiana to help calibrate the CORS network. THE LSRC is also involved in a project using the CORS network to identify the true elevation of hurricane evacuation routes out of Louisiana's lower coastal areas.

Dr. Dokka noted LSRC's interest in hosting another Height Modernization Summit, in North Louisiana.

6. LAGIC Report

Outreach:

- LAGIC, in coordination with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension, has completed four of eight full day GIS & Metadata Workshops throughout the state that began on May 25th and will extend through July. The workshops are funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). We will demonstrate the capabilities of LouisianaMAP during the hands-on portion of the workshop. Three workshops will occur next week, two of them in North Louisiana.

- LAGIC staff assisted at the Louisiana I-Team Summit that was held in the Rotunda of the new Energy Coast and Environment Building on June 22nd.

Administrative Issues:

- LAGIC assisted Joe Holmes (DEQ) in submitting a new State Summary to NSGIC to be posted to their website. I have been asked by NSGIC to distribute a short questionnaire to state and local government GIS professionals to ask about their knowledge of the national map.
- LAGIC has revised its annual contract. The draft is ready for review. A meeting of the LAGIC Oversight Committee is scheduled for the afternoon of July 29 at 2:00 in Room #212 Efferson Hall.

7. Old Business

DOQQ Update

Pat O'Neil (USGS) gave an update on the recent DOQQ flight. Mr O'Neil noted that the first set of DOQQ's will be distributed to DEQ. Mr. O'Neil noted that a status map will be posted to the Regional Application Center (RAC) website. Mr O'Neil passed a status map out to Council members for their review. Mr. O'Neil fielded questions on what data sets would be available and how the public would get access to the data. He noted that after September 15, 2004 no analog data would be available from the project partners but would be available from EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls. Mr O'Neil noted that USGS would hold a workshop on Digital Imagery at the Wetlands Center in Lafayette on Tuesday, July 27th.

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 1162 panels of LIDAR data have been received, most of which is available on the Atlas website. The 1162 panels completed out of approximately 3,500 panels statewide represents nearly a third of the total. He noted that FEMA and the State of Louisiana are in negotiation as to what areas of the state will be done next. The Ouachita Parish area is a high priority for FEMA so the acquisition of imagery for other areas may be slightly rescheduled. 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.

I-Team Report

Joe Holmes (DEQ), I-Team Chair, was not able to make the meeting so Craig Johnson (LAGIC) noted that the results of the recent I-Team Summit meeting will be included in the annual I-Team, Report to the Governor. The priorities are to finish the annual report, rewrite the Executive Order and decide on a new name for the I-Team Initiative. He noted that there would be an I-Team Steering

Committee on Friday July 30th at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

LouisianaMAP Report

Ed Leachman was not able to attend so Joshua Kent (LAGIC) gave the report. Mr. Kent described three additional capabilities that are planned for LouisianaMAP:

1. A GNIS service that will link LAGIC to the USGS place name database
2. A direct link between the LOSCO Boat Launch site and LouisianaMAP
3. A map showing the service areas for broad band access in the state.

Mr Kent noted that there have been some recent reliability problems at LouisianaMAP due to some system problems at the Division of Administration.

Member GIS Reports

There were no scheduled agency reports so Jorge Icabalceta, with the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, described the results of their recent GIS Capability Survey conducted in January of 2004. Forty two people from nine different sections within the department answered the questionnaire.

He noted that the purpose of the GIS Capability Survey was to understand the status of geospatial data throughout the department, determine the department's needs (including future training needs) and make recommendations to management for improving GIS capability. The survey will also be used to determine hardware, software and staffing needs.

8. New Business

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that the Environmental Baseline Inventory data is now complete. The data contains three years of sampling data and the appropriate metadata.

James Proctor (Bayou Trails) described his organizations efforts to provide maps of canoe trail for those wishing to explore the Atchafalaya Basin by boat. His website URL is www.bayoutrails.org.

9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

Vice Chair, Icabalceta (DW&F) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2004 at 1:30 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm on a motion by Aaron Norby (LPJA) and seconded by Mattie Coxe (LMA).

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Summary of Action Items

Vice Chair Icabalceta (DW&F) noted that the Council should write a letter requesting that the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) appoint members to sit on the GIS Council. DHH currently has an alternate and no member. DPS has neither an alternate nor a member.

Mr Johnson (LAGIC) volunteered to draft a sample letter for the Council to review at the August meeting

Mr O'Neil (USGS) noted that the ULL Regional Applications Center would hold a workshop on Digital Imagery in Lafayette on Tuesday, July 27th.

Mr Johnson (LAGIC) noted that there would be an I-Team Steering Committee on Friday July 30th at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

LAGIC assisted Joe Holmes (DEQ) in submitting a new State Summary to be posted to the NSGIC website <http://www.nsgic.org/review/summaries.cfm> .

LAGIC was asked by NSGIC to distribute a short questionnaire to state and local government GIS professionals to ask about their knowledge of the national map.