

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of August 19, 2004

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

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) called the meeting to order at 1:42 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 Economic Development**

Gene Stephens, **Member**

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Joe Holmes, **Member**

**Department of Health & Hospitals**

Michael Thompson, **Alternate**

**Department of Labor**

Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**

**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 and Fisheries**

Doug Albert, **Alternate**

**Division of Administration, SLO**

Marty Beasley, **Member**

**Louisiana Municipal Association**

Matt Cowart, **Alternate**

**Louisiana Senate**

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

#### **Others Present:**

**Department of Health & Hospitals**

Gary Balsamo

Ann-Marie Cain

Clay Trachtman, **Alternate**

**Department of Natural Resources**

Sydney Dobson

**Department of Social Services**

David Jacobson, **Alternate**

**Department of Transportation and Development**

Jacqui Sanchez

**Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.**

Bill Wiesepape

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

**Louisiana State Police**

Daphne Bencaz

**Louisiana State University,**

Rob Cunningham

Cliff Mugnier

**St. James Parish Government**

Bobby Lear

Pratyush Kumar

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

Katelyn Schneida

Shawn Vicknair

**US Geological Survey**

Pierre Sargent

**3. Approval of July 2004 Minutes**

The July 2004 Minutes were accepted on a motion by Marty Beasley (DOA) seconded by Pam Smith (DSS).

**4. Chair's Report**

Chair Blackmon (DNR) noted that there are currently some vacancies in the membership of the LGISC. He noted that neither the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Justice nor the Department of Public Safety (DPS) currently have members sitting on the Council. DHH has one sitting alternate and has appointed two more but Justice and DPS have neither an alternate nor a member. There is also a new alternate from DOTD. According to the appointment letter we just received from DOTD, Neil Hohman will be the sole alternate from DOTD. There has been a swap of positions among our Louisiana House member and alternate. Kathleen Randall, the current member, has asked Bill Blair, the current alternate, to switch positions. Kathleen will now attend as the alternate and Bill Blair as the member. Chair Blackmon noted that to ensure a quorum for future meetings, it is essential to fill those positions as soon as possible. He asked Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) to contact these agencies to determine how we can assist them in filling these positions.

## **5. Presentations: Louisiana Source Water Assessment Program GIS by Perry Lopez, CK and Associates.**

The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments (SDWA) of 1996 requires all states develop a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) to ensure safe water for all citizens through the protection of water resources. In Louisiana, over 3200 public water wells and 50 surface water intakes supply the 4 ½ million people of the state along with it's estimated 20 million annual visitors. This presentation demonstrated the methods, techniques, and advantages of developing a full scale GIS to implement and manage a statewide source water assessment protection program. Data collection, management, and presentation would not have been possible without GIS as the foundation for an efficient and accurate SWAP project. Geospatial technologies were used to assemble data from over 20,000 field collection GPS points, 25 statewide datasets, and information obtained from local water system operators, resulting in an extensive geo-database. This information was compiled to assess Louisiana's potable water source's sensitivity, (using information about the water source, including depth, age, ground water recharge potential, aquifer, and source of water) vulnerability, (using distance, ranking, and density calculations of various potential sources of contamination) and susceptibility, (a combination of vulnerability and susceptibility). Reports and maps were generated (both in hardcopy and web based) to notify state and local responsible individuals of their water source status so that action could be taken if necessary.

## **7. LAGIC Report**

### **Outreach**

LAGIC, in coordination with the Louisiana Cooperative Extension, completed eight full day GIS/Metadata Workshops throughout the state beginning in May and extending through July. These workshops were funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). LouisianaMAP was used in the workshop curriculum. A total of 96 people were trained in seven different locations.

LAGIC just received unofficial notice that we have been awarded another FGDC CAP Grant for Metadata Training. This grant will be conducted in coordination with NOAA's National Coastal Data Center at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. The grant will allow LAGIC to conduct metadata workshops for Coastal Zone Managers and Sea Grant Agents in Louisiana's 10 coastal parishes. The grant will "kickoff" with a workshop at the Mississippi Coastal GIS Conference in Biloxi in October.

LAGIC attended a meeting hosted by South Central Planning in Houma to discuss the possible acquisition of Pictometry imagery for the entire six parish river region. Congressman David Vitter was invited to lead the discussion, and to describe how the congressional funding process works.

LAGIC was asked by the National States GIS Council to distribute a short questionnaire to state and local government GIS professionals in Louisiana to ask about their knowledge of the National Map. Furthermore LAGIC was asked to give a short presentation at the annual NSGIC Conference on the use of GIS in Homeland Security activities in Louisiana. Mr Johnson (LAGIC) asked if any Council members had anything to add to that presentation.

### **LAGIC Administrative Issues**

LAGIC revised its annual contract and submitted it to the DOA for approval. A meeting of the LAGIC Oversight Committee was held on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at LSU. The Committee discussed LAGIC budget and staffing issues.

Dina SA, a long time LAGIC employee, has accepted a position with the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC) at LSU. She started, in her new position, on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) wished her well.

LAGIC data manager, Joshua Kent, attended the ESRI Conference and promoted LouisianaMAP.

LAGIC assisted the RS/GIS Workshop Organizing Committee in the selection of the Lindy Boggs Conference Center at UNO for the 2005 RS/GIS Workshop. The conference will be held April 19 – 21, 2005. The committee has secured an agreement with the Doubletree Hotel at Causeway and Lake Pontchartrain to hold 25 rooms at state per diem rates until one month prior to the start of the conference. The RS/GIS Workshop will be meeting soon to pick a theme, design a poster and begin organizational work for next years workshop. A New Orleans Host Committee has been created which includes some current and past Council members: Lynn Dupont, Rob Cunningham, Kathrine Cargo and Craig Johnson.

LAGIC will give an end of the year report on its activities at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting.

## **6. Member GIS Reports**

### **Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) – Jim Mitchell**

Mr. Mitchell noted that DOTD has met many of the GIS objectives that were envisioned by management in their strategic plan, including: updating data, providing data to the public, GIS in the workflow etc.

DOTD has focused on training to familiarize staff with the broad capabilities of GIS and the tools that are available to them. In addition to this ad hoc training DOTD has a contract with a certified ESRI trainer (Jennie Harrison) to provide

specialized training including ArcIMS, ArcSDE etc. Mr. Mitchell also recommended GIS user conferences as an excellent opportunity to motivate staff members.

DOTD uses a liner referencing system based on control section, with each control section representing a segment of highway. The segments are broken by parish boundaries and natural features. To use dynamic segmentation on the state road data set required that the vector data be very clean (no overshoots, overlaps etc.). Using dynamic segmentation exposed some of the problems with the source geospatial data that required editing.

The Environmental Section of DOTD has strong geospatial needs including the identifying and geo coding the habitat of endangered species (Ex: Red Cockaded Woodpecker). Geospatial data is being used as an input to modeling packages that look at the number of sound receptors in a given area based on terrain, the built environment and other variables. These models are used to determine the appropriateness and best location for sound walls along major highways.

DOTD is also involved in inventorying multimodal data including rails and waterways. Geospatial data plays an important role in assessing the role of transportation in economic development issues. DOTD uses data collected from the Corps of Engineers (Waterborne Commerce) to determine the need for increased transportation infrastructure.

DOTD is able to incorporate design files in the ArcGIS environment. These engineering style drawings can be overlaid on a Digital Ortho Quarter Quad. These highly accurate composites are extremely useful to a variety of DOTD staff to help in identifying right-of-ways, drainage ditches and in the design and construction of highway projects.

Geospatial data is also useful in meeting the requirements of General Accounting Standards Board Circular #34, which mandates the collection of data on long term physical assets.

Mr Mitchell requested assistance from local governments in deliniating urbanized areas. DOTD has been working on date templates for the sharing of geospatial data with local government agencies.

Jacqui Sanchez (DOTD) then presented an animated presentation showing traffic flow, a tour of available data sets on DOTD's website and a description of available web services.

## **Department of Social Services (DSS) – David Jacobsen**

The Department of Social Services is using GIS and business intelligence software to detect fraud in the food stamp program. Much of DSS data is confidential information (names and addresses of food stamp recipients, income levels, other federal or state assistance, etc.) so data security is a major concern. DSS faces the problem of food stamp trafficking, which is the illegal sale of food stamp benefits. Illegal sale of benefits can involve the purchase of ineligible food items (liquor, guns, cigarettes etc.) or selling your benefits for cash.

The GIS and business intelligence software are used to determine unusual patterns in purchasing, such as using food stamps in geographic locations far from your residence, purchasing a large number of items at stores with a small inventory (Seven-11) or purchasing food items at odd hours (3:00 am). In addition, the various software packages can be used to flag these unusual transactions over a period of time. Mr Jacobsen showed the various types of data that were collected by his agency (including photos, floor plans and maps) and how that data in combination with a GIS enabled him to perform his job more efficiently.

## **7. Old Business**

### **DOQQ Update**

The 1<sup>st</sup> batch of orthophotos was delivered to the federal partners (USACE, US Dept of Agriculture, USFWS and USFS) . The states coastal areas will be delivered between October and December of 2004. Mr O'Neil (USGS) distributed a map showing the planned delivery of DOQQ's.

USGS hosted a Digital Imagery Workshop in Lafayette. Over 60 people and a number of camera manufacturers and imagery vendors attended the workshop. USGS will be hosting a Data Mining Workshop on September 22 – 23 in Lafayette.

### **LIDAR Update**

Mr Gisclair (LOSCO) distributed a map showing the status of LIDAR Imagery statewide. He noted that there will be minor modifications to the task list as opportunities present themselves. Some parishes have entered into cooperative agreements with USGS to cover a portion of the total cost of LIDAR acquisition. Those parishes have been moved up in the data acquisition schedule.

### **I-Team Report**

Joe Holmes (DEQ) noted that the I-Team Steering Committee met on July 30<sup>th</sup> to review the draft report to the Governor and incorporate the comments of the data chairs. The I-Team report is due in early September.

**LouisianaMAP Report**

Ed Leachman (DOA) noted that the I-Team Steering Committee had drafted an Executive Order for Governor Blanco. The Executive Order will ask the Governor's assistance in promoting LouisianaMAP to state and local governments. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) noted that the Council will, in the immediate future, have to vote for a resolution to change the name of the I-Team Initiative to LouisianaMAP. Mr. Leachman advised the Council to wait until the Governor acted on the Executive Order before voting on a resolution.

Ed Leachman noted that the next step for LouisianaMAP would be to extend the services offered through the portal and to provide a catalog of web services.

**8. New Business**

The USGS Mapping Partnership Office is asking for volunteers to assist in collecting state data for the National Map. Tom Beard is the coordinator for the volunteer program. USGS will have a meeting soon to "kickoff" the project.

Cliff Mugnier, with the Center for GeoInformatics, mentioned that the Center would soon hold a workshop on Grids and Datums of Louisiana. Information will be forwarded to LAGIC for posting. Mr. Mugnier also noted that ASPRS just republished their manual on Photogrammetry, which is available for \$100.

Bobby Lear (St James Parish Govt.) noted that parish boundaries were recently redrawn among three of the river parishes. Those boundaries have not been officially recognized but the parishes are in the process of finalizing their agreements.

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that Digital Globe recently agreed to remove its licensing restrictions on imagery under certain conditions. Chair Blackmon (DNR) asked Mr. Gisclair if he would contact Digital Globe and ask for a copy of the new unrestricted licensing agreement for the Council to review.

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

Chair, Blackmon (DNR) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, September 23, 2004 at 1:30 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of April 15, 2004

### ***Summary of Action Items***

#### **Chair's Report**

Chair Blackmon (DNR) noted that there are currently some vacancies in the membership of the LGISC. He noted that neither the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Justice nor the Department of Public Safety (DPS) currently have members sitting on the Council. DHH has one sitting alternate and has appointed two more but Justice and DPS have neither an alternate nor a member. There is also a new alternate from DOTD. According to the appointment letter we just received from DOTD, Neil Hohman will be the sole alternate from DOTD. There has been a swap of positions among our Louisiana House member and alternate. Kathleen Randall, the current member, has asked Bill Blair, the current alternate, to switch positions. Kathleen will now attend as the alternate and Bill Blair as the member. Chair Blackmon noted that to ensure a quorum for future meetings, it is essential to fill those positions as soon as possible. He asked Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) to contact these agencies to determine how we can assist them in filling these positions.

#### **LAGIC Report**

##### **Outreach**

LAGIC just received unofficial notice that it has been awarded another FGDC CAP Grant for Metadata Training. This grant will be conducted in coordination with NOAA's National Coastal Data Center at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. The grant will allow LAGIC to conduct metadata workshops for Coastal Zone Managers and Sea Grant Agents in Louisiana's 10 coastal parishes. The grant will "kickoff" with a workshop at the Mississippi Coastal GIS Conference in Biloxi in October

#### **Member GIS Reports will be posted to the LAGIC site**

Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) – Jim Mitchell  
Department of Social Services (DSS) – David Jacobsen



