Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of October 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 the Rotunda Conference Room in the Energy Coast and Environment Building on the LSU Campus.

2. Roll Call
A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

> **Department of Agriculture and Forestry**
> > Brad Mooney, **Alternate**
>
> **Department of Economic Development**
> > Gene Stephens, **Member**
>
> **Department of Environmental Quality**
> > Joe Holmes, **Member**
>
> **Department of Health & Hospitals**
> > Daniel MacDonald, **Member**
>
> **Department of Labor**
> > Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**
>
> **Department of Natural Resources**
> > Bo Blackmon, **Member**
>
> **Department of Social Services**
> > Pam Smith, **Member**
>
> **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**
> > Jorge Icabalceta, **Member**
>
> **Division of Administration, SLO**
> > Marty Beasley, **Member**
>
> **Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts**
> > Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**
>
> **Louisiana House**
> > Bill Blair, **Member**
>
> **Louisiana Municipal Association**
> > Mattie Coxe, **Member**
>
> **Louisiana Senate**
> > David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

> **Department of Health & Hospitals**
> > George Frierson
> > Kenneth Lanier
> > Clay Trachtman, **Alternate**

Department of Transportation and Development
   Kay Henderson
   Dora Michelli
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
   Doug Albert, **Alternate**
Division of Administration, OES
   Karen Paterson
   Neil Underwood
Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)
   Craig Johnson
   Joshua Kent
Louisiana Municipal Association
   Matt Cowart, **Alternate**
   George Marretta
   Mike Walker
Morris P. Hebert Inc.
   John Speice
Orleans Parish Communication District
   Kathrine Cargo
Pictometry Inc.
   Gary Mirabeau
Shaw Group Inc.
   Fran Harvey
South Central Planning & Development Commission
   Kevin Belanger
   Kevin Ghirardi
   Richard Poche
St James Parish Government
   Pratyush Kummel
   Bobby Lear
URS Corporation
   Brian Kapavik
US Geological Survey, NWRC
   Steve Hartley
   Pat O'Neil

3. Approval of September 2004 Minutes
The September 2004 Minutes were accepted on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Bo Blackmon noted that he presented at the Height Modernization meeting in Shreveport that Dr. Roy Dokka (Louisiana Spatial Reference Center) hosted. Chair Blackmon spoke about the data available on the SONRIS website.

Chair Blackmon noted that the Council of Information Service Directors was held in Baton Rouge on the 18th and 19th of October. The Department of Social Services gave a presentation on their Fraud Investigation Application that was very well received by the IS Directors.

5. **Presentation: GIS Applications at South Central Planning, by Richard Poche, GIS Administrator, South Central Planning & Development Commission**

Richard Poche, GIS Administrator, South Central Planning & Development Commission (SCPDC), gave a presentation on the use of geospatial data for planning applications. The South Central Planning District encompasses the parishes of Assumption, Lafourche, St Charles, St James, St John the Baptist and Terrebonne Parishes. Among the spatial applications demonstrated were; economic development zones, reapportionment plans, school board attendance zones, road centerline files, traffic accident data and the location of municipal facilities. The SCPDC assists parishes in their district as well as local municipalities that need geospatial products and services.

In addition to these activities, the SCPDC assists with grant applications for individual communities as well as the region. SCPDC is organizing the effort to request a $1 million dollar allocation in a Justice Department Appropriations Bill that would fund the collection of high-resolution oblique and on-nadir imagery from Pictometry Inc. that would cover the six parishes that make up the SCPDC.

6. LAGIC Report

Craig Johnson, LAGIC Director, attended a workshop for FGDC grant recipients in Denver, Colorado. The purpose of the workshop was to define the recommended workshop curriculum and provide examples of training best practices. LAGIC will conduct a Metadata Workshop at the Mississippi Coastal Geospatial Conference in Biloxi. This is the first of a series of five workshops that will expose Coastal Zone Managers to the use and creation of Metadata. The next workshop is scheduled for mid January in Abbeville, Louisiana.

Wednesday, November 17th is GIS Day. A proclamation has been sent to the Governor for her signature. LAGIC and LCET (Department of Education) will be working with fifth graders at Bonne Ecole Primary School in Slidell.

Joshua Kent attended an ArcIMS and ArcSDE workshop in Washington, DC to better assist Council members with their technical questions.

LAGIC is assisting the RS/GIS Workshop Organizing Committee with preparations for the 2005 RS/GIS Workshop to be held at the Lindy Boggs Conference Center at UNO. The Workshop will be held from April 19th – 21st. The Committee has an agreement with the Doubletree Hotel at Causeway and Lake Pontchartrain to reserve a block of 25 rooms at state per diem rates. LAGIC has created a "Call for Papers" flyer/postcard that will be mailed out to over a thousand GIS professionals in the Gulf South.

There are two agency presentations scheduled for November; the Louisiana Police Jury Association and the Louisiana Municipal Association. Please let Craig Johnson (LGIC) know if you have not given a presentation yet.

7.   Agency Presentation: Department of Health and Hospitals by Dan McDonald and Clay Trachtman

Dan McDonald began the presentation by describing the many DHH Programs that use GIS. The Office of Public Health, Safe Water Drinking Program is one example. Geospatial data is used to track contaminants in drinking water like arsenic. Water sample data, with spatial identifiers, is used to identify non-compliers and estimate affected populations. GIS is also used in Emergency Preparedness and Response in both natural and man-made disasters. DHH is often called to assist in statewide emergencies. In addition to protecting drinking water, the Office of Public Health (OPH) is charged with protecting our shellfish from contaminants and prohibiting shellfish harvesting when they are not safe to eat. The OPH, Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology, uses GIS to protect the public from toxic substances.   GIS is employed to identify disease clusters, issue fish advisories, delineate hazardous waste sites and determine who is affected by pesticide overspray, among other tasks. Plume modeling software, like CATS, is used to determine areas affected by hazardous events

8. Old Business

DOQQ Update
Pat O'Neil (USGS) gave an update on the status of the recently collected DOQQ imagery. Above 30 degree latitude, lots 3 and 4 are completed with Lot 5 due soon. Below 30 degrees latitude, Mr. O'Neil laid out a data release schedule:

Area #16 (Block 5) should be completed by December 1, 2004
Area #15 (Block 4) should be completed by February 15, 2005
Area #14 (Block 3) should be completed by April 1, 2005
Area #13 (block 2) should be completed by May 15, 2005
Area #12 (block 1) should be completed by July 1, 2005

The completed data will be released by the federal partners to participating agencies. The Department of Environmental Quality is slated to be the first state entity to receive the data.

LIDAR Report
David Gisclair noted that there was no significant change in the status of the LIDAR data. He also noted that those parishes that are flood map partners or are high FEMA Priorities will move to the head of the task list.

LouisianaMAP Initiative
Chair Blackmon introduced Neil Underwood, the new LAGIC contract manager and LouisianaMAP Project Administrator. Mr. Underwood described his background as a project analyst for the Division of Administration. He explained the role that the Division of Administration plays in approving IT requests statewide.

LouisianaMAP Portal
Josh noted that he was looking forward to implementing some of the information he recently learned at the ESRI training course. He asked for a little more time to assimilate the lessons he learned before he tries to resolve others technical problems

RS/GIS Workshop
The mailing list needs to be updated, Chair Blackmon noted, before the "Call for Papers" are sent out. He also noted the need for volunteers to man the registration booth and assist with audio visuals for the presentations.

New Business
USGS Spatial Data Volunteer Pilot Program
Pat O'Neil (USGS) noted that there would be three one day meetings in Lafayette this November related to the Spatial Data Volunteer Pilot Program. The first will be for the general GIS community on Friday, November 19th. The second one will be held on November 23rd and the third, which will cater to law enforcement and 911 organizations, will occur on November 30th.   It is important that you register for the workshops if you intend on coming.

Social Services and Health Care Issues as they relate to IT
David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that the Governors Office has shown great interest in using GIS as a tool for solving some complex social service issues. There is a push to geo-enable large databases in order to achieve the same level of success as was achieved by DSS in their Fraud Investigation Unit. The GIS Council will be asked to assist in deciding what databases should be geo-coded for the state. The legal council for both DHH and DSS are meeting with the Governors staff to determine what issues (privacy, lack of data, incomplete data) are facing the various agencies.

Parish Boundary Lines
Chair Blackmon suggested that a committee be formed to deal with the issue of state and parish boundaries. Much of the data needs to be subject to quality control checks and standardization. Mr. Blackmon Suggested the following individuals participate: Jim Mitchell and Kay Henderson (DOTD), Marty Beasley (State Lands) and Bo Blackmon (DNR).

Lead Paint Law
Mattie Coxe noted that a law recently passed Congress specifying that all lead based paint must be abated. The state has a plan to use CDBG grant funds to fund the identification of all buildings that have a dangerous quantity of lead.

9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

Chair, Blackmon (DNR) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, November 18, 2004 at 1:30 in House Committee Room #2 in the State Capitol.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm on a motion by David Gisclair and seconded by Joe Holmes.

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Summary of Action Items

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