

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of November 18, 2004

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

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M. a quorum was present. The meeting was held in House Committee Room #2 of the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **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**

Daniel McDonald, **Member**

**Department of Labor**

Ramona Robichaux, **Member**

**Department of Natural Resources**

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

**Department of Social Services**

Pam Smith, **Member**

**Department of Transportation**

Jim Mitchell, **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 Police Jury Association**

Aaron Norby, **Member**

#### **Others Present:**

**Department of Education**

Steve A. Gunning

**Department of Health & Hospitals**  
Clay Trachtman, **Alternate**  
Michael Thompson, **Alternate**

**Department of Transportation and Development**  
Neil Hohman, **Alternate**  
John Wells

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**  
Doug Albert, **Alternate**

**Diamond Data Services**  
Keith Alphonso

**Division of Administration, OES**  
Karen Paterson  
Neil Underwood

**GPSman.com**  
Anthony Cavell

**Gulf Engineers and Consultants Inc.**  
Jeri Daniels

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**  
Craig Johnson  
Joshua Kent

**LSU Ag Center**  
Maurice Wolcott

**LSU, Center for Geoinformatics**  
Dina Sa

**Morris P. Hebert Inc.**  
John Speice

**Orleans Parish Communications District**  
Kathrine Cargo

**Sea Grant Program**  
Katie Hillman

**Shaw Group Inc.**  
Fran Harvey

**Terrebonne Parish Government**  
Jack Gardner

**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
David McDaniel

**West Feliciana Parish Government**  
Charles Broussard

**3. Approval of October 2004 Minutes**

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

#### **4. Chair's Report**

Chair Blackmon noted that there will be four presentations today so we will move as quickly as possible.

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that he has been asked to attend a meeting called by Charles Tate (Governors, Office of Community Affairs) on December 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the use of GIS in resolving social service issues

Chair Blackmon noted that Department of Public Safety held a meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the use of GIS for Public Safety and Homeland Security. The meeting hosted by ESRI featured a number of ESRI Business Partners demonstrating their products. There are many more commercial data sets available for purchase today than were even two years ago.

Chair Blackmon has been asked to attend a meeting in Lafayette to hear a presentation on the USGS Volunteer Program to build the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Chair Blackmon asked for volunteers for the LGISC Election Subcommittee. He appointed Craig Johnson (LAGIC), Kathleen Randall (House) and himself to manage the election process. Chair Blackmon encouraged Council Members to run for Chair or Vice Chair.

#### **5. Presentation: Precision Agriculture and GIS Applications, by Maurice Wolcott, Agronomist with the LSU Ag. School**

Mr. Wolcott described how GIS has allowed farmers to precisely monitor individual sections of a field thereby allowing the farmers to use less herbicides and pesticides per acres to treat problem areas. Geospatial technologies allow farmers to do a better job of the day to day management of agricultural operations. Mr. Wolcott described a number of sensors that are being employed to gather information on a variety of soil conditions; electrical conductivity, soil moisture, ph, crop yield, etc. The sensor data is tied to a set of GPS coordinates allowing the farmer to precisely determine the location of fields that need to be treated. These measurements are taken as a piece of farm machinery passes over the crops. In conclusion, these geospatial technologies offer farmers a variety of tools for improving the management of their operations.

#### **6. LAGIC Report**

LAGIC received a letter from the Department of Public Safety appointing Mark Morrison as their representative on the Council. In addition, LAGIC received a

letter from the Secretary of the Senate appointing Suzanne Guidry Morain as their representative on the Council.

LAGIC conducted a Metadata Workshop at the MS Coastal Geospatial Conference in Biloxi in late October. LAGIC had a booth where we distributed information on the Louisiana GIS Council and the spring RS/GIS Workshop.

LAGIC assisted with a day-long "GIS and Addressing" Workshop that was held at the Orleans Parish Communications District office on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October

LAGIC Staff met with Michael Liffman, Asst. Director of the Louisiana Sea Grant Program to begin scheduling GIS/Metadata Workshops in communities throughout the Louisiana Coastal Zone. The first one will take place in Abbeville in mid January.

GIS Day was Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Governor Blanco signed a Proclamation declaring November 17<sup>th</sup>, "GIS Day in Louisiana". LAGIC coordinated its activities with the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology, Department of Education. LCET selected a primary school in St Tammany Parish for GIS Day 2004. Kathrine Cargo (NOCD), Brett Thomassie (Digital Globe) and Craig Johnson (LAGIC) joined fourth and fifth graders at Bonne Ecole Primary School in Slidell to celebrate the event.

LAGIC is assisting the RS/GIS Workshop Organizing Committee with the 2005 RS/GIS Workshop at the University of New Orleans. The workshop will be held April 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. LAGIC Data Manager, Joshua Kent, developed a "call for Papers" mail out, which will be distributed by mail to the Louisiana Geospatial Community.

## **7. Agency Presentations:**

### **Louisiana Municipal Association by Mattie Coxe**

The Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA) represents over 304 municipalities in Louisiana. A year ago, LMA and LAGIC surveyed GIS usage among municipal governments and found that there were few municipalities using GIS effectively. However, overall most were not using GIS technology due to a lack of money and staff. Ms Coxe pointed out the decrease in funding for local police as funds are being redirected to Homeland Security needs. Funds that were used for crime prevention are now being directed at the protection of critical infrastructure and landmarks.

### **Louisiana Police Jury Association by Aaron Norby**

The Louisiana Police Jury represents all of the 64 parishes in the state. Mr. Norby noted the wide disparities between some parishes that have used GIS

extensively and other parishes that have very little experience with geospatial technologies. He conducted a survey of GIS usage among parish government that demonstrated these disparities. Mr Norby noted some of the many ways in which Lincoln Parish employs geospatial technologies. He also noted that, in Lincoln Parish, GIS is shared among various governmental agencies with oversight provided by a parish GIS Commission.

## **8. Old Business**

### **GIS Day Report**

The GIS Day Report will be postponed until the December Council meeting, due to the large number of presentations that will be given at this meeting.

### **DOQQ Update**

David McDaniel (NO District, Corps of Engineers) gave the DOQQ report. Mr. McDaniel noted that three Blocks of imagery are available on the web. Blocks were recently delivered to the Regional Applications Center in Lafayette and the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission.

### **LIDAR Report**

David Gisclair (LOSCO) was not able to attend so Bo Blackmon gave the LIDAR report. Chair Blackmon noted that there are now 1407 LIDAR DEM's available on the ATLAS website. All panels below 30, 30' have been completed. Lincoln Parish and Ouachita Parish are now being processed, after which the data for Rapides Parish will be processed

### **LouisianaMAP Project**

Neil Underwood (DOA) noted that the LouisianaMAP committee drafted an Executive Order that was recently signed by the Governor. The Executive Order was framed as a living document outlining the states geospatial data needs. The Council should consider ways of supporting the Executive Order.

In the coming months, the acting CIO will be looking at master purchasing agreements and state licensing agreements for software and data where the state can save money.

### **LouisianaMAP Portal**

Joshua Kent (LAGIC) noted that an evaluation of future web mapping services for the LouisianaMAP portal is being conducted. Customizing a query tool for LouisianaMAP is also being evaluated. The GNIS names database has been added to the functionality of LouisianaMAP.

## **8. New Business**

LAURISA will be hosting a workshop on GIS Project Management at LSU on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The annual LAURISA social will follow the workshop.

### **Presentation: Populating Data for the Statewide Linear Referencing System in Jefferson Parish, by John Wells, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).**

Mr. Wells (DOTD) presented the preliminary results of months of work with Jefferson Parish reconciling street data and parish boundaries with high resolution aerial photography. The goal of the project is to rectify the linear referencing system to within 3-5 meters. The experience they have gained in Jefferson Parish has allowed DOTD to develop procedures for this type of work statewide. This experience will allow them to be able to estimate accurately the amount of time required to rectify a parish, a DOTD district or even the entire state.

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

Chair, Blackmon (DNR) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2004 at 1:30 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

## **10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

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

#### **LouisianaMAP Project**

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#### **Appointments to the Council**

LAGIC received a letter from the Department of Public Safety appointing Mark Morrison as their representative on the Council. In addition, LAGIC received a letter from the Secretary of the Senate appointing Suzanne Guidry Morain as their representative on the Council.

#### **GIS Day Proclamation**

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