

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of December 16, 2004

1. Call to Order

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) called the meeting to order at 1:44 P.M. a quorum was present. The meeting was held in Room #212 at Efferson Hall on the Louisiana State University Campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

2. Roll Call

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

Brad Mooney, **Alternate**

Department of Culture Recreation & Tourism

Dennis Eilers, **Member**

Department of Economic Development

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality

Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Health & Hospitals

Clay Trachtman, **Alternate**

Department of Labor

Ramona Robichaux, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Public Safety

Mark Morrison, **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 Senate

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

Department of Education

Dave Elder
Steve A. Gunning
Ross Poret

Department of Health & Hospitals

Chih-Yang Hu
Michael Thompson, **Alternate**

Department of Labor

Jonathan Helis

Department of Transportation and Development

Kay Henderson
Wanda Hill
Neil Hohman, **Alternate**
Dora Michelli

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Doug Albert, **Alternate**

Digital Globe

Brett Thomassie

Division of Administration, OES

Karen Paterson
Neil Underwood

EAI Corporation

Joel Moore

Gulf Engineers and Consultants (GEC) Inc.

Adam Werth

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson
Joshua Kent

LSU, Center for Geoinformatics

Dina Sa

Orleans Parish Communications District

Kathrine Cargo

Sanborn Company

Hugh Bender

St James Parish Government

Bobby Lear

US Geological Survey

Tom Beard
Calvin "Pat" O'Neil

3. Approval of November 2004 Minutes

The November 2004 Minutes were accepted on a motion by Dennis Eilers (CRT) and seconded by Brad Mooney (DA&F).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that the annual LGISC Holiday gathering would take place in the Rotunda of the School of the Coast and Environment Building. The School of the Coast and LGISC will combine their holiday gathering on Thursday afternoon, immediately following this Council meeting.

The CIO will be in place soon; the Division of Administration will be interviewing a candidate in the near future.

The GIS Council welcomes our newest member, Steve Gunning with the Department of Education. In addition, David Elder and Bobby Franklin will be our 1st and 2nd alternates from the Department of Education.

Chair Blackmon noted that the LAGIC Oversight Committee met on December 9th to review LAGIC's quarterly activities.

Chair Blackmon requested that Craig Johnson (LAGIC) read the Governor's Executive Order advising state agencies to assist with the LouisianaMAP project. Chair Blackmon noted that Joe Holmes agreed to serve as LouisianaMAP Coordinator for the GIS Council. The Council agreed to officially endorse his appointment on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR), seconded by Brad Mooney (DA&F).

Chair Blackmon noted that April GIS Council meeting, if held on the third Thursday of that month, would currently conflict with the Louisiana RS/GIS Workshop. Chair Blackmon proposed moving the April Council data to April 14th the second Thursday in April. Chair Blackmon noted that the Chair, according to the LGISC By-Laws, has the right to form an Executive Committee to serve the Chair as an advisory body. He recommended that the Executive Committee be composed of the Director of E-Services, the Director of LAGIC, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council as well as former Chairs. The purpose of the Executive Committee will be to provide information to the Chair to help in the decision making process. Two former chairs have already agreed to serve Marty Beasley and Dennis Eilers.

5. Presentation: GIS Day by Craig Johnson, Louisiana Geographic Information Center.

LAGIC participated in GIS Day on November 17th in coordination with the Louisiana Center for Educational Technology (LCET) in the Department of Education. Susan Gauthier and Janell Koenig of LCET organized the selection of the Bonne Ecole Primary School in Slidell, Louisiana for GIS Day. Craig Johnson played videotape from the St Tammany Educational Channel that showed the variety of GIS Day activities that occurred at Bonne Ecole School.

6. LAGIC Report

LAGIC staff attended the USGS Volunteer Meeting for the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Project in Lafayette on November 19th.

LAGIC assisted with logistics for the full day LAURISA workshop on "GIS Project Management" that occurred on December 3rd at LSU.

Our next FGDC GIS/Metadata Workshop will take place in Abbeville, LA. On January 18th.

LAGIC is assisting the RS/GIS Workshop Organizing committee with the 2005 RS/GIS Workshop at UNO. The Conference will be held on April 19-21st. The Committee has an agreement with the Doubletree Hotel at Causeway and Lake Pontchartrain to hold 25 rooms at state hotel per Diem rates (\$90 per night). When you go to make an online reservation through the hotel website: www.doubletreelakeside.com, they must enter the code: "ULA" under the (group/convention icon).... they must reserve under group/convention to get the group rate. Half of the 25 blocked rooms have already been reserved.

We have a RS/GIS "Call for Paper" flyer/postcard that Joshua Kent (LAGIC) designed that will be mailed out to over thousand members of the Louisiana's geospatial community. You are welcome to take some with you to distribute.

A LAGIC Oversight meeting was held on Thursday, December 9th. The committee was given a listing of recent requests for technical assistance and coordination from a variety of federal, state and local government agencies. This is a good sign. It shows that there is an enormous interest at all levels of government to use geospatial data.

These requests are increasing in number and in the scope of the assistance that is needed. LAGIC, in coordination with the Committee, will need to devise a policy to respond to these requests taking into account our limited time, staff and financial resources. I would ask that anyone seeking technical assistance pass their request through me so that we can prioritize these tasks.

7. Agency Presentations:

Louisiana Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism, by Dennis Eilers
Dennis Eilers (CRT) noted the numerous digital data layers that have been created for his agency using GIS and other software packages. He noted that the creation of these data sets as digital layers has had a number of beneficial

effects on their business processes, including; the ability to make sophisticated presentations, the ability to visualize the data in three dimensions, the ability to make quick changes in the design and a sizeable reduction in the amount of time required to change elements of the plan. These capabilities affect not just State Parks but many of the other areas with CRT including museums, state libraries, recreation, tourism promotion, culture and the arts.

Mr Eilers demonstrated how geospatial data has been used in the design of the proposed Bogue Chitto State Park. He also noted that geospatial data is being incorporated into the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORC).

Louisiana Department of Labor, by Jonathan Helis

Jonathan Helis (Labor) noted how geospatial data sets are employed within the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor uses economic and employment data to determine patterns of employment growth or decline and changes in the average monthly wages. The Department of Labor is also interested in knowing how far the labor force is commuting to and from work and their commuting patterns. Labor uses a variety of data sources including the US Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and business data collected by the State of Louisiana. The data is analyzed by parish, by region and compiled into statewide statistics. The Department faces some restrictions in releasing data to the public. Some business data, if released, might provide a competitive advantage to one company over another.

Labor would like to geo-code much of their data, such as the location of employers and the location of their employees. Labor would also like to provide more information to job seekers online, which would require the use of a more sophisticated internet presence that could provide web mapping services to their clients.

8. Old Business

USGS GIS Volunteer Corps

Pat O'Neil (USGS) and Tom Beard (USGS) described the GIS Volunteer Corps Project that is underway at the Wetlands Center in Lafayette. USGS is providing the training and equipment for a group of volunteers to create the Homeland Security and Infrastructure Protection (HSIP) data layers for the State of Louisiana. He requested the assistance of state agencies in providing data for the program.

Parish Line Project

Neil Underwood (DOA) noted that he is waiting for a proposal to revise the parish boundary line data set, from the Louisiana Geological Survey.

DOQQ Update

Pat O'Neil (USGS) passed out an updated data status map for the 2004 DOQQ Project. At this time, virtually the entire Louisiana Coast below 30' has been processed. The next areas to be released will be north of West Feliciana Parish and South of Assumption Parish. Lots 2, 3 & 4 have been delivered to the Joe Holmes at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

LIDAR Report

David Gisclair (LOSCO) gave the LIDAR report. He noted that FEMA has a signed a Cooperative Partner agreement with Ouachita Parish for updating the FIRM maps.

LouisianaMAP Project

Neil Underwood (DOA) noted that the LouisianaMAP project is in the process of identifying the most critical issues for state data needs. Among the current priorities are: the issues of the most cost effective method of geo-coding large data sets, issues of data confidentiality, software and licensing agreements and statewide licensing issues relating to GIS software.

LouisianaMAP Portal

Neil Underwood (DOA) noted that the LouisianaMAP portal could be a vehicle for some of the smaller GIS shops to leverage state capabilities. It will serve as a central point of access to find geospatial data and a central point of entry to discover state services.

LGISC Election

The election of officers will take place at the next LGISC meeting in January. Craig Johnson (LAGIC) requested that all members and alternates review the list of potential candidates and send in a nomination form.

8. New Business

Dina Sa, with GeoInformatics described GeoExpo 2005, an opportunity to showcase the value of state agency data. The event will be held at the Galvez facility downtown in May. Louisiana legislators will be invited to attend the event.

9. Determine Next Meeting Date and Location:

Chair, Blackmon (DNR) proposed the following date for the next GIS Council meeting: Thursday, January 20, 2005 at 1:30 in Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

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Summary of Action Items

Appointments to the Council

LAGIC received a letter from the Department of Education appointing Steve Gunning as their representative on the Council. In addition, David Elder and Bobby Franklin were named as alternates.

Change of Date

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Executive Committee

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Louisiana Map Coordinator

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