

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of May 18, 2006

1. Call to Order

Chair Bill Blair (House) called the meeting to order at 1:42 P.M. a quorum was present. The meeting was held at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

2. Roll Call

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Gus Rowland, **Alternate**

Department of Economic Development

Gene Stephens, **Member**

Department of Education

Steve A. Gunning, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality

Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Health & Hospitals

Daniel MacDonald, **Member**

Department of Labor

Ramona Robichaux, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Transportation

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Doug Albert, **Alternate**

Division of Administration

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Association of Planning and

Marta Naquin, **Alternate**

Development Districts

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Others Present:

Coastal Environments Inc.

Berji Guempel

Department of Environmental Quality

Daniel Duval
Paul Zundel, **Alternate**
Department of Labor
Jonathan Helis, **Alternate**
Department of Transportation and Development
Harry Wilson
Division of Administration
Bobby Collins
Karen Patterson
Neal Underwood
Earth Tech
Joseph Helkowski
GEC Inc.
Scott Knauss
Lincoln Parish Assessor's Office
Pam Jones
Lincoln Parish Government
Shane Breland
Louisiana Geographic Information Center
Craig Johnson
Joshua Kent
Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors
Greg Palmer
Louisiana State University
Jasmine Jerrell
Dina Knight
Joe Thompson
South Central Planning and Development
Scott Leger
St James Parish Government
Bobby Lear
Biao Vu
USGS
Pat O'Neil

3. Approval of April 20, 2006 Minutes

The April 2006 Minutes were accepted, with modifications, on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Bill Blair (House) noted that he, Neal Underwood (DOA) and Craig Johnson (LAGIC) recently met with the new CIO, Rizwan Ahmed, to discuss the GIS Council and the role of LAGIC in geospatial activities. Mr. Ahmed was very supportive of GIS technology and the role of the GIS Council and LAGIC.

Chair Blair noted that he had been working with David Gisclair (LOSCO) and Craig Johnson (LAGIC) on revisions to the GIS Strategic Plan. The plan will be distributed on the web and in hard copy to Council members at the next Council meeting. Chair Blair asked that Council members review the document and submit their revisions in edit mode over the web so we can track all of the suggestions that we receive.

5. Introduction: Rizwan Ahmed, Chief Information Officer, State of Louisiana

Chair Blair introduced Rizwan Ahmed, the Louisiana Chief Information Officer to the members of the Council. Mr Ahmed reiterated his support for GIS technology. As CIO for the Department of Natural Resources he was a strong proponent of the use of geospatial technologies. He noted that the technology benefits when users see a specific use, a “killer application”, such as the DSS Food Stamp Fraud Detection Program. The GIS Council needs to identify the “low hanging fruit”; those critical state issues that can be managed through the use of geospatial technology. He also noted that it is important for the GIS Council to reach out to next generation of GIS users through K-12 education programs that build long term support for the use of this technology.

Mr Ahmed then fielded questions from a number of GIS Council members including; Jim Mitchell (DOTD), Marty Beasley (DOA), David Gisclair (Senate), Bo Blackmon (DNR) and Steve Gunning (Education).

6. LAGIC Report

LAGIC is providing logistical support for three LGISC committees:

1. The GIS Strategic Planning Committee, which will be discussed under “Old Business”.
2. LAGIC has been working with a number of new and potential members to speed the appointment process to becoming members of the GIS Council.
3. Emergency Data Coordination Meeting – An ad-hoc committee to deal with the issue of state geospatial preparedness for any emergency event. Jim Mitchell has been spearheading this effort.

Outreach Efforts

- LAGIC will host a ½ day Workshop on using a “Mobile GIS for Utility Providers” on Tuesday, July 18th in New Orleans at Entergy’s facility

- LAGIC will host a ½ day Workshop on GPS and GIS at McNeese State University on Thursday, June 29th.
- LAGIC recently received notification that we were awarded a 2006 FGDC CAP Grant for \$50,000 to improve geospatial coordination between the GIS Council and Louisiana utility and telecommunication companies. The recent hurricane season demonstrated how our current lack of coordination is an issue that needs to be examined. LAGIC will be working with our USGS Liaison, Pat O'Neil on this project. We will report back to the Council on our progress.
- LAGIC has been asked to give a presentation at the Data Mining Workshop on the morning of June 6th in Lafayette and will be attending the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association conference in Lake Charles on June 6th and 7th. LAGIC will have a booth at GeoExpo on June 9th.

8) Old Business

DOQQ Update

Pat O'Neil (USGS) gave the report on the 2005 Coastal Flight (post Katrina and Rita). He noted that USGS has accepted lots 3, 4, 6 & 8 out of 11/12 lots. There are two missing DOQQ's in the first distribution of quarter quads. They lie in Atchafalaya Basin near the Wax Lake Outlet Delta and are currently being worked on.

LIDAR Report

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that there are no changes in the status of the LIDAR Imagery from the last Council meeting. Many blocks are awaiting Quality Assurance review by a third party contractor.

Louisiana GIS Strategic Plan

Much of the discussion of the GIS Strategic Plan was covered in the Chairs report. The draft will be available for review by Council members in mid June. We will take comments until the end of June. We will convene a meeting of the Strategic Planning Group to review those comments. We hope to have the draft to an editor by early July and a finished product by the July 20th Council meeting

Emergency Data Coordination Meeting

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that the Emergency Data Committee, including DW&F, FEMA, Coast Guard and DOTD, has been working on a state "Search and Rescue Grid". The grid cells are in 15 second blocks, with a unique ID for each block. Mr Mitchell asked for a vote of the Council on adopting the grid.

A motion to adopt was requested by Chair Bill Blair (House) and seconded by Marty Beasley (DOA). There was no opposition.

Map Modernization Resolution

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) has proposed that the Council request the Louisiana Recovery Authority to fund the creation of critical framework layers for the state, to aid in response and recovery efforts. The motion was deferred to the next Council meeting.

GeoExpo 2006

Dina Knight (C4G) asked that Council members provide her with their presentations for the June 9th GeoExpo at DEQ. She noted that the theme was Hurricane related and that Joe Jordan (FEMA) would be the keynote speaker. She noted that anyone wanting to register or find additional go to their website address at <http://geoexpo.lsu.edu/>

9) New Business

Data Mining Workshop

Pat O'Neil (USGS) noted that the annual "Data Mining Workshop" will take place on June 6-7 at Abdalla Hall in Lafayette. He noted the many GIS Council members that would be speaking at the workshop.

Map Book

Joe Holmes (DEQ) noted that his agency had created a map book using the 2005 DOQQ imagery and other critical state data layers.

10) Next Meeting – June 15th at Efferson Hall on the Louisiana State University Campus.

11) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3.35.

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
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Summary of Action Items

DOQQ Update

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