

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of September 21, 2006

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chair, Bill Blair (House) called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M. a quorum was present. The meeting was held at Efferson Hall Room #212 on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge.

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 and Hospitals

Daniel Mac Donald, **Member**

Department of Labor

Ramona Robichaux, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Social Services

David Jacobson, **Member**

Department of Transportation

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Doug Albert, **Alternate**

Division of Administration

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Governors Office, Military Department

Brant Mitchell, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Sherel Martin, **Member**

Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts

Lynn Dupont, **Alternate**

Louisiana House

Bill Blair, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Shane Breland, **Member**

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Alternate**

Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors

Paul Kocke, **Member**

Others Present:

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)

Traci Tracey

Department of Environmental Quality

John Dixon

Paul Zundel, **Alternate**

Department of Health and Hospitals

Kenneth Lanier, **Alternate**

Brandon Taylor, **Alternate**

Department of Transportation and Development

Neil Hohmann, **Alternate**

David Ringuette

Division of Administration

Karen Patterson

Neal Underwood, **Alternate**

FEMA Geospatial Intelligence Unit, BR - JFO

Rusti Liner

Mary Sharp

Governors Office of Homeland Security

Richard Deblieux

IEM Inc.

Marsha McMillin

Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts

Marta Naquin, **Alternate**

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson

Joshua Kent

Louisiana Department of Public Safety, State Police

Mark Richards

Louisiana State University

Harry Wilson

Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors

Greg Palmer, **Alternate**

Shaw Inc.

Perry Lopez

Southern University

Ventric Fletcher

St James Parish Government

Bobby Lear

Ultra Computer

Jimmy Iles

US Army Corps of Engineers, NO District

David MacDaniel

USGS, National Wetlands Research Center

Stafford Binder

Pat O'Neil

Pierre Sargent

3. Approval of August 2006 Minutes

The August 2006 Minutes were accepted on a motion by Bo Blackmon (DNR) and seconded by David Gisclair (Senate).

4. Chair's Report

Chair Bill Blair (House) introduced two new alternate members of the GIS Council from the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors (LSPS); Greg Palmer with CH Fenstermaker Inc. and David Patterson with Landsource Inc.

Chair Bill Blair noted that the Council is in agreement that the GIS Strategic Plan needs major revisions. The LGISC Executive Committee will meet in the near future to decide how to proceed with the document.

Chair Bill Blair introduced Pat O'Neil (USGS State Liaison) who in turn introduced our two guest speakers; Stafford Binder and Jerry

5. Presentation: "Enhancing the Topo Quad" – Topographic Maps Made from the National Map, by Stafford Binder and Jerry Wagner, USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations Center (NGTOP)

USGS completed nationwide coverage of the 7 ½ minute quadrangles in paper map products but would like to update these maps to a completely digital product. The use of digital maps would enhance the utility, currency and usefulness of the base USGS product. In addition, the use of digital data would allow for fully automated digital reproduction, "print-on-demand" would eventually replace the lithographic product. Stafford Binder distributed a couple examples of older DRG version of the quad with the new digital "national map" product. He and Jerry Wagner noted that in the next two years USGS will close three of its four cartographic centers. USGS will need to develop partnership agreements with state and local governments to keep the quads updated. They asked for assistance from the Louisiana GIS Council to develop the capability for quadrangle map updating using nationally agreed upon minimum standards.

Mr. Binder provided the links to the following two sites:

<http://www.terragotech.com> (software conversion tool, map to pdf)

<http://bpgeo.cr.usgs.gov/model/> (common data model for new USGS quads)

6. LAGIC Report

LAGIC has been providing logistical support for a number of LGISC activities:

- ✚ The Strategic Planning Subcommittee
- ✚ LAGIC has been working with a number of Council member agencies on membership issues: LA. Police Jury Association, LMA , CRT and others
- ✚ LAGIC will meet with the Secretary of States Office on Monday to discuss SCR #14 which asks LAGIC to assist them in locating buildings that house state documents.



Outreach

- ✚ LAGIC will be hosting a workshop on GIS for Utility Providers” at Entergy’s New Orleans facility in mid November. LAGIC is hosting a similar workshop in Lake Charles in December. These were both funded by an FGDC CAP Grant.
- ✚ **GIS Day is Wednesday, November 15th**. GIS Day is the day that the Council works with a school to bring hands-on GIS to the classroom. This year the program will be at the New Orleans High School for Math and Science. We have spoken with the principal and the curriculum development person who have given us initial approval. We will meet with them again next week to firm up the agenda for that day. If any Council members are interested in participating we would love to have you join us.
- ✚ There are a three people from Louisiana who will be attending the NSGIS Conference in Little Rock during the first week of October; Pat O’Neil (USGS), Joe Holmes (DEQ) and Craig Johnson (LAGIC).

7) CIO Address

Rizwan Ahmed, Louisiana’s new Chief Information Officer, noted that he recently read the Louisiana GIS Strategic Plan and had difficulty understanding the goals of the Council as expressed in the document. Mr Ahmed recommended that the Council refocus its efforts to make the Strategic Plan more concise and relevant.

Mr Ahmed noted that the way to sell the benefits of GIS technology to decision makers is to demonstrate a “killer app”, a geospatial application that everyone can easily use and understand such as the “Google Earth” interface. Mr Ahmed then fielded the following questions from Council members.

- 1) David Gisclair (Senate) suggested that the “Road Home Program” would benefit greatly from a more sophisticated approach to the use of GIS technology on its website for displaced Louisiana homeowners. This would be a very useful “killer app”.
- 2) Bo Blackmon (DNR) and Joe Holmes (DEQ) suggested that the LouisianaMAP should be enhanced to provide a “killer app” for all Louisiana geospatial data sets.
- 3) Marty Beasley (DOA/SLO) noted that state agencies need better data to be

able to make “killer apps”. He felt that current, accurate and comprehensive data creation was the most critical function of state agencies.

4) Neal Underwood (DOA/OES) noted that the Council needs to emphasize the economic impact of GIS technology. Can we use examples to show the return-on-investment (ROI) of using GIS technology versus more traditional business practices?

Mr Ahmed noted that the GIS Strategic Plan needs to identify the “customers” of GIS products and services. Then the plan needs a clear vision, a mission and a plan to implement the technology. The plan should define who we are serving and how do we enlist the support of our agencies and our customers in this effort.

8) Old Business

DOQQ Update

Joe Holmes (DEQ) gave the DOQQ report for Pat O’Neil (USGS). He noted that although he has received the imagery, he is waiting on the associated metadata records before posting it.

LIDAR Report –

David Gisclair (Senate) noted that there are no recent changes to the status of the LIDAR project.

2007 GIS DVD Project

David Gisclair (Senate) noted that he has recently distributed CD’s with a copy of the original data sets collected for previous versions of the Louisiana GIS CD. He asks that agencies review the data and make any necessary updates for the new DVD. December 15th is the “drop dead” deadline for receiving any revisions. Mr Gisclair thanked DHH for providing the first data revision for the DVD.

Emergency Data Coordination Committee

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that the Data Sharing MOU with FEMA has been signed. He noted all of the effort that Joshua Kent (LAGIC) provided in modifying the MOU.

9) New Business

RS/GIS Workshop

Bo Blackmon recommended that Council members pick up a couple RS/GIS Workshop posters to post in their GIS labs and meeting rooms. He noted that the workshop will occur in Lafayette from May 21 -24 of 2007.

FEMA Friday

Rusti Liner (FEMA) noted that the FEMA Friday Workshop will look at the Louisiana "Road Home" Program.

"Lilly Pad" Exercise

Doug Albert (DWF) noted that the state held a hurricane evacuation exercise in New Orleans but did not notify many of the agencies that were involved in last years search and rescue efforts during Hurricane Katrina. He noted that we need to improve coordination efforts between agencies if we are to be successful in future emergencies.

10) Next Meeting –will take place in Room #214 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus on October 19th.

11) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 pm

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Summary of Action Items

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