

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of March 20, 2008
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair David Gisclair (LOSCO) called the meeting to order at 1:40 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 Education

Steve A. Gunning, **Member**

Department of Environmental Quality

Joe Holmes, **Member**

Department of Health and Hospitals

Clay Trachtman, **Designee**

Department of Labor

Ramona Robichaux, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

Department of Social Services

David Jacobson, **Member**

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Fred Hagaman, **Designee**

Department of Transportation and Development

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

Division of Administration

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts

Lynn Dupont, **Designee**

Louisiana Municipal Association

Ian Beer, **Member**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Shane Breland, **Member**

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Designee**

Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors

Greg Palmer, **Member**

USGS

Chris Cretini, **Member**

Others Present:

Center for Planning Excellence

Krista Goodwin

Department of Transportation and Development

Doug Albert

Division of Administration

Karen Paterson

Neal Underwood

Louisiana Geographic Information Center

Craig Johnson

Natural Resource Professionals

Fran Harvey

RCP Inc.

Michael Paulak

St James Parish Government

Bobby Lear

Scott Louque

US Geological Survey

Pierre Sargent

3. Approval of February 2008 Minutes

The February 2008 Minutes were accepted on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) and seconded by Shane Breland (LPJA).

4. Chair's Report

Chair David Gisclair (LOSCO) thanked everyone for being able to make the meeting at the start of the busy Easter Holiday. He noted that he was not able to make the February Council meeting because he was attending the International LIDAR Forum. The Forum provided a vehicle for discussing the technical and management Issues related to LIDAR implementation. Mr. Gisclair also attended the Petroleum Users Group meeting where he was able to distribute over 500 DVD's. In addition, Mr. Gisclair attended the Mid America Homeland Security Working Group Meeting where response to a variety of natural and man made disasters were discussed.

5. Presentation: Louisiana Assessor Association Survey by Craig Johnson, Director, Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) discussed the results of a survey that LAGIC conducted of GIS capability among Louisiana Assessors. The survey was taken in late

2007 and early 2008. Over half of the questions asked in this survey were asked in a 2002 survey of Louisiana Assessors. The use of the same questions allowed LAGIC to demonstrate changes in GIS capability over the five year time span between the two surveys. In general, there was significant improvement in the number of parishes that reported having a fully functioning GIS system from a high of seven in 2002 to twenty-five in 2007. In addition, more assessors are working cooperatively with their parish government than was the case in 2002. Mr. Johnson (LAGIC) then answered questions from Council members. Marty Beasley (State Lands) wanted to know how many assessors were using CAD software to create and display their digital base map versus a full functioning GIS? David Gisclair (LOSCO) wanted to know how many parish assessors would be willing to share their cadastral data by posting it to a state portal. Mr. Johnson agreed to find the answers to these questions and report back to the Council.

6. LAGIC Report

LAGIC has been assisting with the preparations for the upcoming Louisiana RS/GIS Workshop. LAGIC will be hosting two workshops at the RS/GIS Workshop in New Orleans on Monday, April 7th, a Geo-Coding Workshop in the morning and an ArcGIS Server User Group Meeting in the afternoon.

LAGIC has been interviewing candidates for four staff positions. We should complete the interview process in early April. Hopefully have new staff on board by the April GIS Council meeting.

LAGIC discussed with four Council members a method of creating a web based inventory of aerial photography collection programs in Louisiana. One possibility is the public domain software program called Ramona, a GIS Inventory Program which was developed by NSGIC which can be easily customized. Ramona has been used by North Carolina to inventory imagery and other data layers. If Council members are interested I would like to conduct a half day Ramona Workshop in May, perhaps the morning of our May Council meeting, to demonstrate how local government data can be easily posted to the site.

LAGIC presented the findings of the Louisiana Assessors Survey at the URISA CAMA Conference in February and have been asked to present at the LAA Conference in March.

LAGIC has been assisting TGS in the creation of critical infrastructure mapping. We recently met with TGS and requested that they send us their draft maps for review so that we can identify any data gaps or errors, before they go to production.

8) Old Business

LIDAR Report

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that the LIDAR Project was nearing completion with Phases #6 and #7 left to complete. These phases include task numbers #43 through #55. These tasks are all found in the Northeast parishes of the state. Mr. Gisclair noted that the new LIDAR sensor creates four times the data than earlier sensors, presenting some unique data storage issues.

DOQQ Update

Chris Cretini (USGS) noted that he has met with some potential partners for the next statewide DOQQ flight. Mr. Cretini recently met with Ralph Scheid of the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Cretini is waiting on cost estimates from USGS to give the potential partners a better estimate of the total cost and their share. The following agencies have agreed to participate; CRIMS, USGS, and NRCS. The flight is currently envisioned to be a leaf-on color infrared flight with 2' resolution, with those collection parameters dependent on the final group of partners.

RS/GIS Workshop

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that the RS/GIS Workshop will be at the Lindy Boggs Conference Center in New Orleans from April 7th – 10th. He mentioned some of the topics being considered for various sessions and invited GIS Council members to attend. He also noted that there will be a session on GIS and Recovery followed by a free bus tour of some of the New Orleans area recovery sites with lunch included.

9) New Business

Neal Underwood (DOA) noted that the CIO's position has been advertised nationally. He also noted that Rizwan Ahmed had been selected to be a member of the National Geospatial Advisory Board.

Mr. Underwood mentioned that ESRI was being brought in to demonstrate the beta version of ArcGIS 9.3. The new version should have increased functionality due to the use of JAVA script calls. He noted that Alabama instituted a master licensing agreement with ESRI. The state holds licenses for all agencies, while each agency pays their own software maintenance costs.

Chris Cretini (USGS) noted that USGS is hosting a Metadata Workshop at RAC on April 2nd and 3rd. NOAA will be providing the training and their Mermaid application will be featured. Mr. Cretini noted that there will be a Data Mining Workshop on June 3rd and 4th. He invited Council members to attend.

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that the GIS Council should consider sponsoring a Tech Day open to all state agency IT staff. He suggested that the Claiborne building or some other central downtown location would be convenient. Mr. Mitchell (DOTD) that DOTD would continue to request funding for the Topo Map Revision project.

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that we need to be better prepared for the upcoming hurricane system in terms of data discovery. We need to set up a process for handling emergency data. There was a discussion about the huge influx of imagery data that was delivered during Hurricane Katrina and that no one agency or individual was in charge of processing it. Shane Breland volunteered to post Lincoln Parish data to a web portal as an example of how local data could be made accessible. Craig Johnson (LAGIC) suggested a meeting of the Emergency Data Committee and agreed to reserve a room at Efferson Hall if it was available.

10) Next Meeting –April 17th in Room #212 at Efferson Hall on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge.

11) Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 4:15 on a motion by Joe Holmes (DEQ) seconded by Shane Breland (LPJA).

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council

Meeting of March 20, 2008

Summary of Action Items

LAGIC discussed a method of creating a web based inventory of aerial photography collection programs in Louisiana. One possibility is the public domain software program called Ramona, which was developed by NSGIC which can be easily customized. Ramona has been used by North Carolina to inventory imagery and other data layers. LAGIC would like to conduct a half day Ramona Workshop in May, perhaps the morning of our May Council meeting, to demonstrate how local government data can be easily posted to the site

LIDAR Report

David Gisclair (LOSCO) noted that the LIDAR Project was nearing completion with Phases #6 and #7 left to complete. These phases include task numbers #43 through #55. These tasks are all found in the Northeast parishes of the state. Mr. Gisclair noted that the new LIDAR sensor creates four times the data than earlier sensors, presenting some unique data storage issues.

DOQQ Update

Chris Cretini (USGS) noted that he has met with some potential partners for the next statewide DOQQ flight. Mr. Cretini recently met with Ralph Scheid of the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Cretini is waiting on cost estimates from USGS to give the potential partners a better estimate of the total cost and their share. The following agencies have agreed to participate; CRIMS, USGS, and NRCS. The flight is currently envisioned to be a leaf-on color infrared flight with 2' resolution, with those collection parameters dependent on the final group of partners.

New Business

Jim Mitchell (DOTD) noted that the GIS Council should consider sponsoring a Tech Day open to all state agency IT staff. He suggested that the Claiborne building or some other central downtown location would be convenient. Mr. Mitchell (DOTD) noted that DOTD would continue to request funding for the Topo Map Revision project.

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that we need to be better prepared for the upcoming hurricane system in terms of data access. We need to set up a process for handling emergency data. There was a discussion about the huge influx of imagery data that was delivered during Hurricane Katrina and that no one agency or individual was in charge of processing it. Shane Breland volunteered to post Lincoln Parish data to a web portal as an example of how local data could be made accessible. Craig Johnson (LAGIC) suggested a meeting of the Emergency Data Committee and agreed to reserve a room at Efferson Hall if it was available.