

## **Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council**

Meeting of October 15, 2009

### **Draft Minutes**

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

Chair David Gisclair (Senate) called the meeting to order at 1:39 P.M., a quorum was present. The meeting was held at the Capitol Park Welcome Center in downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

#### **2. Roll Call**

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

#### **Member Agencies/Organizations Present:**

**Department of Agriculture and Forestry**

Gus Rowland, **Designee**

**Department of Health and Hospitals**

Clay Trachtman, **Designee**

**Department of Justice**

Ryan Seidemann, **Member**

**Department of Natural Resources**

Bo Blackmon, **Member**

**Department of Transportation & Development**

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

Brad Mooney, **Member**

**Division of Administration**

Marty Beasley, **Member**

**Governors Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness**

Brant Mitchell, **Member**

**Louisiana Association of Planning and Development Districts**

Lynn Dupont, **Designee**

**Louisiana Economic Development**

Chris Fallin, **Designee**

**Louisiana Assessors Association**

Pam Jones, **Member**

**Louisiana Municipal Association**

Ian Beer, **Member**

**Louisiana National Emergency Numbering Association**

Kathrine Cargo, **Member**

**Louisiana Police Jury Association**

Charlette Poche, **Member**

**Louisiana Senate**

David Gisclair, **Designee**

**US Geological Survey**  
Chris Cretini, **Member**

**Others Present:**

**Michael Baker Corporation**

Harold Smith

**Department of Transportation & Development**

Doug Albert

Kurt Johnson

**Division of Administration**

Martha O'Hara, Designee

**Gulf Engineers & Consultants**

Steven Ward

**Louisiana Economic Development**

Tommy Kurtz

**Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)**

Craig Johnson

Chris Pennington

Alaa Shams

**Louisiana Workforce Commission**

Jonathan Helis

**ProSpatial**

Victoria Provenza

**Providence Engineering**

David Alford

Andrew Gaienne

**3. Approval of September 2009 Minutes**

The September 2009 Minutes were accepted, on a motion by Gus Rowland (DA&F) and seconded by Ian Beer (LMA).

**4. Chair's Report**

Chair David Gisclair (Senate) thanked our speakers Tommy Kurtz (DED) and Victor Leotta (Leo Inc.) for coming to speak to the GIS Council.

Mr. Gisclair reminded members that he will be compiling the 2010 Louisiana DVD soon and he will need to know which members will want to add updates to their data sets.

Mr. Gisclair noted that LOSCO is moving to the Department of Public Safety. Mr. Gisclair noted that he will soon have a new phone although his e-mail address will remain the same for now.

Chair Gisclair thanked Chris Cretini for chairing the Digital Data Committee and spearheading the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure Report.

David Gisclair noted that the Council of Information Service Directors met and discussed the Governors efforts to “streamline government”. He noted that GIS is an application area and that each governmental unit uses GIS as a tool in their different disciplines.

**5. Presentation: Louisiana Economic Development GIS Initiatives by Tommy Kurtz, Ascension Parish Government – Business Expansion and Retention Group and Victor Leotta, Leo Inc.**

Mr. Leotta described the efforts by Louisiana Economic Development to identify business and industry throughout the state and the importance of retaining and expanding those businesses in a very competitive environment. He noted how GIS is used in conjunction with local parcel and transportation data to assist local and regional economic development groups identify and promote opportunities for growth.

Mr. Kurtz noted that much of his work has been to promote the consolidation of companies that already have operations in Louisiana. GIS has been helpful in this effort by identifying adjacent parcels near existing plants, showing the distances from these parcels to transportation corridors and showing how adjacent suppliers of raw materials can provide an economic incentive for expansion. Louisiana is the first state to use GIS for expansion and retention activities; they also use a software package called E-Synchronist. In addition to these specialized software packages, a web survey has been used to collect data directly from parishes.

**Presentation: Enhancing Louisiana GNIS, an Outreach Effort between USGS and LAGIC” by Chris Cretini (USGS) and Craig Johnson (LAGIC).**

Chris Cretini noted that USGS funded a cooperative agreement with LAGIC to identify Geographic Names in Louisiana and teach local and state government professionals to send the data to a GNIS website where it could be reviewed by USGS for inclusion in the official list of geographic names. The project was successful in adding thousands of new names to the GNIS and in “deputizing” over 155 people after training them in the process for submitting geographic names for acceptance.

Craig Johnson (LAGIC) described the need for a review of names after the 2005 storms because of the number of name changes. Mr. Johnson described how geographic names were sorted and distributed to the various jurisdictions prior to the training workshops. Professionals would review the data for accuracy and completeness and submit changes at the workshops.

## **6. LAGIC Report**

### **Training**

Yesterday, LAGIC completed the first ArcGIS Workshop certified for CEU credits by the American Planning Association. The workshop took place in Natchitoches in conjunction with the annual Louisiana APA Conference.

Alaa Shams, LAGIC's GIS Training Coordinator is scheduled to teach the second of three ArcGIS (Version 9.3) Workshops at DEQ next week and the week after. Alaa will be teaching ArcGIS II and II at the University of New Orleans this winter. Lynn Dupont has agreed to add a lunch and learn session on the do's and don'ts of map composition during those workshops.

LAGIC has invited a trainer from Mississippi to provide a one-day workshop on using Google Sketch-up to do 3-dimensional rendering of buildings. That workshop will take place on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Rotunda of the Energy Coast & Environment Building on the LSU Campus.

### **Technical Assistance**

The Broadband Mapping Project will begin in the next week or so. LAGIC will be involved with that project. We will have been researching the name and location of all anchor institutions in the state.

LAGIC will be scheduling a series of meetings with Coastal Parishes in November regarding building attributes for the USGS Structures Project.

## **7. Old Business**

### **DOQQ Update**

Chris Cretini (USGS) noted that the DOQQ's produced last winter is available; there are no changes to announce.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Digital Data Committee**

Chris Cretini (USGS) the new Chair of the Data Committee noted that the Committee met and made substantial progress in defining the items that should be included in the Louisiana Spatial Data Infrastructure (LSDI). The committee members will review some other materials and will meet again by conference call on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will then distribute the documents to the Council so that they have 30 days to review the information before discussing it at the November Council meeting.

#### **RS/GIS Workshop**

Bo Blackmon (DNR) noted that the 2010 RS/GIS Workshop will take place in

April of 2010 at the Cajundome Conference Center in Lafayette.

**8. New Business**

Martha O'Hara (DOA, OIT) noted that only one company has responded to the state advertised bid on the GIS software contract; ESRI. State Purchasing will look to ensure that the bid is responsive to state technical specifications. The new state contract would allow a substantial discount off list prices on all catalog items. This contract would be in place for a period of three years and would be available for use by local governments as well.

Rusty Liner, formerly of NIMSAT, noted that she is leaving NIMSAT and will be working with Brent Yantis (RAC) to develop specialized GIS instruction programs. Winchester Jordan will take over for Rusty at NIMSAT.

**9. Next Meeting** – November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Park Visitors Center in downtown Baton Rouge.

**10. Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 4.02 on a motion by Jim Mitchell (DOTD) and seconded by Ian Beer (LMA)

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### **Summary of Action Items**

#### **Chair's Report**

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