

Louisiana Geographic Information Systems Council
Meeting of September 19, 2013
Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Gus Rowland (DA&F) called the meeting to order at 1:37 PM, a quorum was present. The meeting was held at the Department of Agriculture & Forestry on Florida Avenue in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

2. Roll Call

A sign in sheet confirmed attendance.

Member Agencies/Organizations Present:

Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Rachael Watson, **Member**

Department of Agriculture & Forestry

Gus Rowland, **Member**

Department of Education

Steve Gunning, **Member**

Department of Health and Hospitals

Clay Trachtman, **Member**

Department of Natural Resources

Kevin Maiden, **Member**

Department of Transportation & Development

Jim Mitchell, **Member**

Division of Administration, SLO

Marty Beasley, **Member**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Aimee Preau, **Member**

Louisiana Assessors Association

Louis Hebert, **Designee**

Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts

Lynn Dupont, **Member**

Louisiana Chapter, National Emergency Numbering Association

Jerry Gould, **Designee**

Louisiana Police Jury Association

Duffy Duplantis, **Member**

Louisiana Senate

David Gisclair, **Designee**

U.S. Geological Survey

Chris Cretini, **Member**

Others Present:

Capitol Region Planning Commission

Marta Castro de Sa

City of Baton Rouge

Wendi French
Lisa McDonald

Department of Transportation and Development

Doug Albert
Tiffany Coffman
Kurt Johnson

Division of Administration

Richard "Dickie" Howze, CIO

GGIS Inc.

Fran Harvey

Iberia Parish Government

Amy Brassieur

Louisiana Geographic Information Center (LAGIC)

Craig Johnson
Alaa Shams

National Weather Service

W. Scott Lincoln

Office of Community Development, Disaster Recovery Unit

David Bowman
Matthew Sanders

South Central Planning and Development District

Scott Leger, Designee

St. James Parish Government

Eric Deroche
Ryan Donadieu
Bobby Lear
Scott Loque

St. John the Baptist Parish Government

Rebecca Hymel

Tangipahoa Parish Government

Bill Moorman

Trimble/Navigation Electronics

Thell Gillis

3. Approval of August 2013 Minutes

The August 2013 Minutes were accepted on a motion by Rachael Watson (CRT) and seconded by David Gisclair (Senate).

4. Chair's Report: Gus Rowland thanked all for attending and asked everyone to please sign in on the attendance sheet. Chair Rowland noted that the Acting CIO has joined us today and will make a few comments later in the program. He encouraged members to speak with him today.

Chair Rowland also noted that there was a get well card for Bo Blackmon (former Chair and Member representing DNR) being passed around, please sign it.

5. Presentation #1: Predicting and Preventing Backwater Flooding in St. James Parish – Bobby Lear, St James Parish Government

Mr. Lear noted that St James Parish used publically available LIDER DEM data from the LSU ATLAS website and Global Mapper software to visualize the water levels using different flooding scenarios. This allowed the parish to predict where levees might be overtopped and estimate the number of sandbags needed in different parts of the Parish. Those sand bags were delivered a day ahead of time to central locations in the areas most likely to be flooded in the storm.

6. Presentation #2: Hurricane Isaac’s Flood Impacts to the LA/MS Gulf Coast Area – Scott Lincoln, National Weather Service

The National Weather Service analyzed the rainfall before during and after Hurricane Isaac made landfall in the Northern Gulf of Mexico in late August 2012. Although Isaac was predicted to be a strong Category 2 Hurricane as it entered the Gulf of Mexico, fortunately it never reached wind speeds above 80 mph. However, upper level shear caused the storm to move very slowly creating large tidal surges which overtopped levees and resulted in large amounts of rainfall in South Louisiana. The National Weather Service, working with the Hurricane Center accurately predicted the amount of rain but did not predict the topping of local levees in St John parish.

7 LAGIC Report

LAGIC hosted a series of GIS Workshops in Lafayette, as well as a one-day ISO Metadata Workshop and an ESRI Parcel Fabric Workshop, both at DEQ.

LAGIC has scheduled a series of ArcGIS Workshops at DEQ in October and at the University of New Orleans in December.

LAGIC is pursuing contractual work with parish government and with private companies. For example, LAGIC will provide training to the Cameron Parish Assessors Office staff under contract to a GIS Service company.

8. Old Business

Louis Hebert (LAA) noted that he will be Chairing the Legislation Committee for IT consolidation. One of the issues the committee has already dealt with is the reluctance of classified employees to join a committee that will deal with policy issues. Chair Hebert noted that a classified employee cannot lobby, but they can provide educational information.

9. New Business

The State Chief Information Officer (CIO), Richard "Dickie" Howze, visited with Council members and gave a presentation to the Council on what the state was doing in the way of IT consolidation. He noted that the merger of DNR, DEQ and WLF was making steady progress.

The CIO used Michigan as a success story in how they were employing data visualization, and their Enterprise wide IT architecture. He noted that Deloitte and Touche Consulting had been selected (through an RFP) to inventory state IT hardware and software to better understand where consolidation could be successful.

10. Next Meeting – Thursday, October 17th at the Department of Agriculture and Forestry at 1:30pm.

11. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 3:36 pm on a motion by Jim Mitchell (DOTD) and seconded by Rachael Watson (CRT).

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Summary of Action Items

Chair's Report: Chair Rowland noted that the Acting CIO has joined us today and will make a few comments later in the program. He encouraged members to speak with him today.

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