

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR  
REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
JULY 8, 2003**

PRESENT

Charles Chisolm, Chair, Department of Environmental Quality  
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Department of Information Technology Services  
John Simpson (for Larry L. Brown), Department of Transportation  
Bob Boteler (for Robert Latham), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
Stephen Hale, Mississippi Development Authority  
Bill Cheney (for Eric Clark), Secretary of State  
James Sledge, Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists  
David Shaw, Mississippi State University  
Shirley Hall, Mayor, City of Richland  
Samantha Atkinson, Mississippi Municipal League  
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors  
Joe Young, Tax Assessors/Collectors Association  
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District  
Rep. Jim Ellington, Mississippi House of Representatives

ABSENT

State Senator to be appointed by the Lt. Governor

The first meeting of the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems convened with Chairman Charles Chisolm presiding. There were brief opening remarks by the chairman as well as those of Vice Chairman David Litchliter. These remarks were followed by self-introductions by each of the council members. Michael Boyd of the Governor's Office discussed the significance of the council's work at the local, state, and national level. He reiterated the Governor's backing of this initiative and reviewed the mission and powers of the council as given by the legislation.

David Litchliter reviewed two other current significant technology initiatives, which are currently active. One effort is dealing with the Interoperability Task Force, which is primarily focused on voice and wireless communications. The other related

issue is the Task Force on Local Government Information Systems, established by House Bill 992.

Sam Mabry reviewed the findings and recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Remote Sensing Technologies. He explained that the recommendations were incorporated into House Bill 861.

Charles Chisolm then listed the responsibilities of the Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems as spelled out in HB 861.

The council then took up some organizational procedural issues. It was noted that the council is a new state agency, which has no official staff or funding. The official schedule for future meetings was set as the first Thursday of each month. Meetings will be located at the MDEQ commission room and will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The next subject taken up dealt with how to handle immediate requests from affected parties seeking the council's guidance and direction. David Litchliter suggested sending out a preemptive letter. He proposed that the letter would instruct affected organizations to continue doing as they have been until the council has time to develop standards and policies. The letter would also call for the organizations to inform the council of what they are doing or planning, so that the council could begin to function as a clearinghouse for this information. This alone could quickly facilitate better coordination and collaborative spending. The council authorized the chairman and vice chairman to send such a letter.

The council then addressed the responsibility of setting up a policy level advisory committee and a staff level technical users committee. The council agreed that DEQ will provide primary staff support for the advisory committee and ITS will provide this support for the technical committee. The council further authorized the chairman and vice chairman to send letters to organizations requesting their participation on the two committees.

The next order of business related to the council's coordination with the Tax Commission. It was decided that the council would extend an invitation to the Tax Commission for it to participate on the council as a non-voting member.

The meeting adjourned after a discussion of topics for future meetings.