

OFFICIAL MINUTES
OF THE
MISSISSIPPI COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SEPTEMBER 4, 2003

PRESENT

Charles Chisolm, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
John Simpson (for Larry L. Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Bob Boteler (for Robert Latham), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Gerald McWhorter (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
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
James Ellington, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
Bill Lauderdale, Supervisor, Warren County

ABSENT

Alan Nunnelee, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Shirley Hall, Mayor, City of Richland
Steven Hale, Mississippi Development Authority

The meeting of the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems was called to order by Chairman Charles Chisolm. It was determined that a quorum was present and the July 8, 2003, meeting minutes were approved.

Mr. Kevin Lackey of the Administrative Office of the Mississippi Supreme Court gave a briefing on the efforts to bring courthouse records into a coordinated, publicly accessible, information system. There is a task force working on this project in response to House Bill 992. The task force will submit its recommendations to Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) by October 1, 2003.

Cragin Knox briefed the Council on the correspondence sent to city, county and state governments affected by House Bill 861. The purpose of the letters was to inform the affected parties that the Council is in operation and to request that, for the time being, the entities continue their RS/GIS activities but inform the Council of those activities and planned projects. Letters were sent to potential Policy Advisory Committee members requesting their participation. In addition, an invitation was sent to the Mississippi Tax Commission to participate on the Council as a nonvoting member.

Next, the Council was briefed by Cragin Knox on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map modernization project, which is being handled by Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The project objective is to modernize Mississippi's flood maps. These modern maps will be constructed on newly acquired remote sensing data and then presented in a GIS format.

John Simpson of Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) discussed MDOT's plans to have the United States Geological Survey (USGS) fly a statewide aerial photo mission, which will produce orthophotography. MDOT will host a meeting including representatives from Council members ITS, MDEQ, the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS), and the Mississippi Municipal League (MML) to explore the possibility of obtaining funding to modify the orthophotography project in order to make the end product useful at the county and city scale.

The next item presented dealt with the plan that the Council is required to produce under HB861. Cragin Knox reviewed HB861 regarding this task. He will present the Council with a plan outline before the next meeting. Claude Johnson of ITS briefly reviewed the efforts made to review strategic plans from several other states.

The Council then agreed to cancel the meetings scheduled for October 2, November 6, and December 4, 2003, and reschedules the next meeting for October 28, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. at MDEQ. In addition, it was agreed that at the October 28 meeting there will probably be a need to schedule a meeting for mid-December.

Cragin Knox summarized the efforts to date with regard to getting the Policy Advisory Committee formed and functioning. Several additional members were suggested and the issue of how to facilitate the lines of communication between the Council and the committee was discussed.

Claude Johnson presented similar efforts with regard to forming the Technical Users Committee. All agreed that each Council meeting should address specific action items directed to each of these committees in order to coordinate the Council's needs and the committees' efforts.

Cragin Knox briefed the Council on the letter that will be sent to parties which need to know that the Council is Mississippi's official RS/GIS coordinating authority.

The meeting was then adjourned at 3:15 p.m.