

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

OCTOBER 28, 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
Shirley Hall, Mayor, City of Richland
Clay Lewis (for Steven Hale), Mississippi Development Authority
Frank McCain, Mississippi Tax Commission

ABSENT

Bill Lauderdale, Supervisor, Warren County
Alan Nunnelee, Senator, Mississippi State Senate

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 September 4, 2003, meeting minutes were approved.

Cragin Knox made a PowerPoint presentation of remote sensing (RS) and geographic information system (GIS) efforts that other southeastern states are pursuing. There was a brief discussion on the standards that are being applied in these as well as federal projects. The point was made that developing the standards for the Mississippi initiative is a very high priority.

Cragin Knox then presented the Council with a draft outline plan for fulfilling the Council's legislatively directed responsibilities. From this draft outline plan, Mr. Knox discussed two near-term activities: (1) acquiring statewide aerial photography in order to develop a state base map from orthophotography and (2) creating a request for qualifications (RFQ) in order to contract the development of new digital flood insurance rate maps (DFIRM) for selected counties and carry out the statewide aerial photography mentioned above.

Next, Claude Johnson continued the review of the draft outline with regard to those items that the Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) is responsible for. He reviewed the tasks of establishing a clearinghouse/warehouse; developing, operating, and maintaining the delivery system infrastructure; and developing hardware and software standards. Mr. Knox then reviewed the draft outline with regard to developing standards for purchasing RS and GIS data. The Council had some discussion of the draft outline that deals with the funding priorities and request for the 2004 Legislature.

Cragin Knox gave a brief description of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) and how it functions as the national organization for states engaged in RS and GIS activities. Jim Steil then presented a few topics from the recent annual NSGIC meeting that would be of interest or useful to the Council. The Council then passed a motion to have Cragin Knox become the official state representative for NSGIC after the next NSGIC annual meeting; until then, Jim Steil will continue to serve in order to facilitate a smooth transition.

Claude Johnson reported on the ITS progress in developing the Technical Users Committee and what their role and responsibilities would be. There was a brief discussion on the possible structure or organization of the Policy Advisory Committee and the Technical Users Committee. These committees must move at the pace of the Council and work on things the Council needs done. The Council will designate the initial leaders of each committee once they have become familiar with their membership. The committee chairs will pass on instructions from the Council and will provide reactive and proactive feedback to the Council.

The Council then set their next two meeting dates: November 14, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. to review the RFQ and December 16, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. to consider the draft plan to the Legislature.

The meeting was then adjourned at 4:00 p.m.