

Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems

Policy Advisory Committee Meeting

**March 22, 2004, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Ramada Inn Southwest, Jackson, MS**

Phil Sullivan, Chairman

- I. Call to order
 - Brief background of Chairman Sullivan
 - Scheduled breakout sessions
 - a. State and Federal
 - b. Local governments
 - c. Private sector
 - Proposed rules we will operate under:
 - Meetings will be short so must maintain focus.
 - Avoid personal attacks during spirited debate.
 - Negotiate in good faith.
 - Don't undermine or avoid commitments.
 - A quorum is those present.
 - Allow others to express views, then respond.
 - Honor consensus, support final decision, no active dissent.
 - Next meeting will be May 10 in Jackson at 11:00 a.m.; place to be announced.
 - Subject will be data distribution policy, updating, inventory, revenue,
 - Data collection –standards recommendations. The tone is very important
 - We will work in small groups, need passionate debate, work the topic of discussion.
- II. State/Federal breakout session
 - Selected Craig Orgeron as contact person
 - Recognize the need to make progress, need some victories
 - Need the vision, mission statement
 - Coordination offers benefit at low cost.
 - Portal could offer significant and early victory (get it going)
 - Recognition of the data developers, credit them. i.e. MDOT, Forestry, Tupelo, etc.
- III. City/County breakout session
 - Make sure cities and counties have input into what will happen
 - Samantha Atkinson is contact person.
 - Feel data should be free and available
 - Don't like state telling them what to do – often it is the tone that turns off;
 - subject may be ok. It comes across as very presumptuous.
 - Each county is different; don't treat them as one size fits all, especially
 - with regard to technology.
 - MARIS is the historical GIS provider of information yet they are being by-passed

or eliminated.

Citizens have already paid for the data, should be free and available.

This group needs to sell the locals on the benefits that can come from the effort and GIS in general.

Focus on a limited number of issues and make progress.

When presentations are given, make sure it doesn't go over the head of the audience. Need interesting, engaging speakers demonstrating the benefits for that audience, make it relevant.

Must show the benefit to board members, demonstrate how this will help them in a practical way. Get the people controlling the budgets convinced of the benefits. Find out what topics are important to the leaders. Present how the data is being used. This is not about maps; it is about data and data management.

Special districts seem to get more done than single counties.

This whole effort must demonstrate how the locals will benefit.

Some are in the PAC as a defensive move, to keep from getting hurt.

Outreach/training is a huge piece of the needs, especially for the elected officials who control the dollars.

Start with some limited goals and get some momentum.

It took a big effort to get County/City representation on the Council. Avoid the state making sweeping decisions on locals without local input.

Teach boards to be aware that not all vendor solutions will give the desired benefit – educate.

Need to address cost, reselling, and all the revenue related items.

City/County at disadvantage at the legislature compared to state agencies.

City/County can work their representatives at home.

The Council needs to work legislative items, must get involved.