

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
THE MISSISSIPPI COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

October 14, 2004

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) met at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2004, at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in Jackson, Mississippi. Chairman Phil Sullivan opened the meeting by welcoming those present. Following self introductions of all in attendance, Chairman Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous PAC meeting, held on September 9, 2004. Bud Douglas made the motion, followed by a second from Steve Amos. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The next agenda item was a report from the Education Committee. Jim Steil, Chairman of the Technical Users Group (TUG), told the PAC there was no Education Committee report because so far he had only one volunteer instead of the three needed for the committee. Phil Sullivan asked Steve Amos to chair the Education Committee and he accepted.

Jim Steil gave the TUG report on Mississippi Digital Earth Model (MDEM) standards. TUG is pushing for Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), metadata, and Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC) standards and will develop a PowerPoint presentation for the Council. Regarding federal standards, Cragin Knox stated, "by law we have to meet federal standards, so we will adopt by reference." Joel Yelverton asked when would the standards be ready to present to the Council. Mr. Knox responded that they should be ready in about two weeks. Mr. Yelverton said he was a member of a national group, and he would like to show the standards to them to get their input.

Chairman Sullivan asked Cragin Knox what had been done regarding the eleven suggestions to improve the MDEM standards which had been mentioned during the last meeting of the PAC. Mr. Knox stated that all of them had not been addressed yet, but they had looked at some of them.

Mr. Yelverton asked how do our standards fit with the State Tax Commission requirements. After a brief discussion, it was explained that our proposed scales will work in concert with the State Tax Commission. Mr. Knox stated that we should adopt the State Tax Commission's Rule 6, B3. He also stated that 2 ft. in rural areas and 6 inches in urban areas would give us what we need. We are not mandating these standards for the counties. Most counties now are not digital, but this would prepare counties for the future.

Bud Douglas of the Department of Human Services wants street address standards that will meet everyone's standards. He wants point addressing. He and Jim Steil plan to attend the 911 Conference in Tunica next week. Chairman Sullivan asked Mr. Douglas to report on the 911 Conference meeting at the next PAC meeting to be held in November. Mr. Knox said he would add street addresses to the standards list. Some of the counties already have street addressing. The concept of having standards allows those who have data they wish to add to MDEM to evaluate that data and determine if it meets or exceeds MDEM quality.

Mr. Knox told those present that "orthoimagery" would now be used instead of "orthophotography." Also, the word "methodology" will replace the word "standards."

Should orthoimagery be color IR or natural color or black and white? Mickey Plunkett of the United States Geological Survey said the answer was all three if MDEM is funding it. If the data is given to us, we would accept any of the three.

The question was asked, "Why would a county want to put their data into MDEM?" Jack Moody of MDEQ answered, "It will be a give and take if the state develops the base map and the orthoimagery, and the locals add the local scale information they work with to it. In this case each benefits from the other and the whole project moves forward to the benefit of everyone." Russ Beard of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) added that MDEM would be maintaining the data base and that the data would be repeatable, accessible, and deliverable.

Gina Black of the Community Development Foundation (CDF) in Tupelo announced that Tri-State has been hired to do a fly-over for all of Lee County. The purpose of the fly-over is to update their maps for the State Tax Commission. Lee County, the City of Tupelo, and private agencies have combined resources to fund a seven-layer project.

Renee Newton of Tupelo wanted to know what is public data and what is private data. Chairman Sullivan told her that would have to be referred to the Legal Department and maybe to the Attorney General's Office. Levell Blanchard of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS) who is involved with Homeland Security said there are certain areas that are already covered and protected by Homeland Security. Chairman Sullivan asked Mr. Knox to find the answer to public versus private. Mr. Knox responded that we probably need to get the Council to appoint a committee to study this. Chairman Sullivan added that this is probably a data distribution policy and is another discussion from standards.

Hal Robinson of the University of Mississippi showed the Committee two posters which were produced through a United States Geological Survey grant. One was titled, "Remote Sensing in Mississippi," and the other poster was titled, "Remote Sensing Applications in Mississippi." These posters are being given to high schools in Mississippi. He brought extra posters for those who would like them.

The next PAC meeting will be held Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 10:30 a.m. with the location to be announced later. Chairman Sullivan asked Mr. Knox to have a current draft of the standards ready to present at the November meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.