

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

DECEMBER 2, 2004

PRESENT

Charles Chisolm, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Joe Blount, Mississippi State Tax Commission
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Shirley Hall, Mayor, City of Richland
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Clay Lewis (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
John Simpson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Barbara Collier, Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
James Sledge, Mississippi Forestry Commission
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
David Shaw, Mississippi State University
Andy Taggart, Madison County Board of Supervisors
James Brinson (for D. L. Fortenberry), Mississippi Department of Public Safety
Jim Steil, Technical Users Group Chairman
Phil Sullivan, Policy Advisory Committee Chairman
Bill Cheney (for Eric Clark), Secretary of State
Al Goodman (for Robert Latham), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jackie Swan (for Jeanie Smith), Mississippi Municipal League

Chairman Charles Chisolm opened the meeting and thanked Senator Tommy Moffatt, Representative Dannie Reed and Tax Commissioner Joe Blount for attending. A quorum being present, the motion to adopt the minutes of September 2, 2004, was made by Chuck Carr and seconded by David Shaw. The minutes were adopted.

Claude Johnson of Information Technology Services (ITS) updated the Council on the progress of developing the geospatial Express Products List (EPL). An agreement with ESRI appears very close, MapInfo is exchanging information with ITS and is moving rapidly, and Intergraph is engaged in the process.

Steve Champlin of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Bill McDonald of Mississippi Geographic Information (MGI) reviewed the progress made in the FEMA-funded, statewide flood map modernization project. It was requested that the data this program generates become a part of the clearinghouse. The level of involvement of county and city officials was substantiated and it was suggested that county economic development people be invited to the community meetings.

Bud Douglas of the Department of Human Services requested the Council officially sanction a subcommittee to develop standards for geocoding addresses for the State. He suggested the state build it and own it. The subcommittee will develop standards for adoption and then present a plan to create the data set/service. A motion to establish this subcommittee was made by Rick Ericksen and seconded by Joel Yelverton; the motion passed.

Cragin Knox then presented a summary of the process which resulted in the Mississippi Digital Earth Model (MDEM) standards which he is submitting for Council adoption. These proposed standards were extensively reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Technical Users Group (TUG) on multiple occasions with widespread participation. It was reiterated that these standards are not going to require the cities and counties do this level of quality but these proposed standards do set a minimum for data which qualifies as MDEM data. The notion of incentives for meeting these standards was briefly discussed. The need for educating local government officials on this subject was recognized as very important. There were brief comments on the effort to develop a Request for Project (RFP) related to a statewide orthoimagery flight. A committee is working on this even though the funding is not yet identified. Once the RFP is developed there will be an effort to find the funding. Andy Taggart made a motion that the MDEM standards be adopted, David Litchliter seconded and the motion was adopted.

Cragin Knox gave a brief outline of the Legislative Report he is preparing for the Council. The initial draft will go out to the members next week for review and comments.

Claude Johnson presented a description of how the clearinghouse/portal project is structured and the progress being made. One of the several teams in this project deals with requirements definition, which is determining the needs of the targeted users. There will be a series of meetings with user groups such as cities, counties, water districts and others. Another large issue in the project is choosing which relational database will handle the clearinghouse data. David Litchliter informed the Council that ITS did get the funding they had requested as a part of the state bonding. He said ITS got funding for the clearinghouse, fiber optic expansion, and a mirror data center to be located at the Educational Research Center in Jackson.

David Shaw discussed the education and outreach efforts of the Education Subcommittee he is chairing. This committee has met twice and has identified three tiers of needed education. The first is education for policy level people. This is critical because these people are the decision makers including budget spending. The second group is the mid level managers who are responsible for getting the needed work done on time and on budget. The third level is the technicians who actually work with the data. The Council discussed the opportunities that exist with the cities' and counties' organizations for outreach through their published newsletters and statewide meetings. The Council also recognized the need for a statewide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) meeting which will bring all of the GIS/Remote Sensing (RS) parties together. David Shaw wants to inventory existing educational opportunities already available, create the vision of how to achieve this educational effort, inventory the people assets and future data acquisitions, design needed training, and use all media outlets to achieve this task. It was recognized that there are many state organizations which would create speaking opportunities to get the word out.

Jim Steil then briefly reported on the TUG's activities. The TUG reviewed and contributed to the MDEM standards development and helped develop the requirements definition plan. He reported that NSGIC is pursuing a national orthoimagery program conducted by the federal government. He has been invited by Louisiana and Arkansas to their annual GIS conferences in order to observe their methods for conducting those gatherings.

Phil Sullivan reported on the PAC's activities which included multiple passes by the widespread participation on the MDEM standards. The PAC unanimously recommended these

final proposed standards. The PAC was also approached by Bud Douglas to help develop a geocoding effort by the Council. Phil stated the PAC is very high on the need to educate, especially the local elected officials. There is a need to have good speakers/presenters to make these presentations effective. The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10 at 10:30 in Canton at the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS) facility.

Chairman Chisolm thanked Phil Sullivan and Jim Steil for their efforts in moving the Council efforts forward.

Mr. Chisolm then expressed his concern for a lack of progress about coordination among state, county, and local governments. He thinks there is a lot of activity taking place which is still not coordinated. Cragin Knox explained that the Tax Commission will be furnishing him with a current schedule for counties to fly aerial imagery. There is also a project ongoing with ITS to launch an interactive website where parties planning GIS/RS projects can register those projects. These projects will be displayed on maps at the website which will allow interested parties to see who will be doing what and where. The Council staff will be playing an active roll in facilitating coordination of activities that are planned by Mississippi government at all levels. Jim Steil thought the clearinghouse, when up and running, will help with the desired coordination. Joel Yelverton suggested the need for incentives, though small. He will support efforts to communicate with the counties. Andy Taggart suggested a conference call to the supervisors at their regularly scheduled Monday meetings.

The date for the next Council meeting was set for March 1, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. at DEQ. A tentative date of May 24, 2005, was proposed for the following meeting.

Chairman Chisolm adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.