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

MARCH 1, 2005

PRESENT

Charles Chisolm, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Mike Womack (for Robert Latham), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Clay Lewis (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
Gerald McWhorter (for Eric Clark), Secretary of State's Office
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
David Shaw, Mississippi State University
Nick Wilson (for George Lewis), Mississippi Municipal League
Barbara Collier, Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
Joe Blount, Mississippi State Tax Commission
Ed Worthington (for D. L. Fortenberry), Mississippi Department of Public Safety
Jim Steil, Technical Users Group Chairman

ABSENT

Larry L. "Butch" Brown, Mississippi Department of Transportation
James Sledge, Mississippi Forestry Commission
Shirley Hall, Mayor, City of Richland
Andy Taggart, Madison County Board of Supervisors
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Phil Sullivan, Policy Advisory Committee Chairman

    Chairman Charles Chisolm called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Auditorium of the new Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems (CAVS) in Canton. Dr. Dean Norman, CAVS Director, welcomed those present. Since a quorum was not present, there was no vote on the minutes of the last Council meeting on December 2, 2004.
    Data standards development was discussed by Cragin Knox of MDEQ and Jim Steil of Mississippi Automated Resource Information System (MARIS). Mr. Knox stated the standards for the seven layers of the Mississippi Digital Earth Model (MDEM) have been adopted and can now be found on the website. He has had a number of queries regarding these standards and has been distributing a lot of copies. It is important that people are becoming aware of these new standards and want to follow them. Mr. Steil discussed non-MDEM standards and stated there were some overarching aspects such as metadata.

When referring to the Express Products List, Claude Johnson of ITS told those present we are getting very good discounts. A master agreement with MapInfo is close to being finalized. We have a sample master agreement with Intergraph, but they are a sole source. The ESRI website will be set up soon.

Cragin Knox, Bud Douglas of the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), and Jack Moody of MDEQ discussed coordination efforts. Craig Orgeron of ITS is developing an interactive Council website.

Bud Douglas gave the Geocoding Committee report. He is currently working on a geocoding program at MDHS and wants to standardize it. A geocoding methodology needs to be established between geocoding servers and Web Focus report. The Geocoding Committee recommends both a format for geocoding and methodology. The best available data should be used. Flexible geocoding should include zip code centroid, address range, and point addresses. There needs to be a methodology for database maintenance. At MDHS the software has been installed for report writing. MARIS has geocoded 300,000 plus addresses using ArcInfo.

Jack Moody talked about LIDAR collection. LIDAR stands for **LI**ght **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging. LIDAR is done by laser scanning from an airplane. Current research is being done on orthoimagery and LIDAR by Dr. Chuck O'Hara at Mississippi State University. The LIDAR product looks like a black and white picture with a third dimension showing elevation; it has accuracy to two feet. Mr. Moody gave case histories on funding of the Harrison County and Jackson County LIDAR projects and how cooperation with other federal and state agencies can bring down the cost of the project.

Cragin Knox and Barbara Yassin of MDEQ met with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History regarding their GIS project. This agency has many old topographic maps which are classified as "secret" due to additional information which has been put on them. They need help to design the methodology of digitizing these files to overlay MDEM. They have money to pay for the help, but this will not be open to the public due to its secret nature.

Chairman Chisolm asked for additional ideas for coordination. Robert Sheely of CAVS asked if we were coordinating with the private sector. Mr. Knox told him we have geologists and engineers from the private sector who are involved with the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Technical Users Group (TUG). Jim Steil said the Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial Solutions (EIGS) has ties with the private sector through geospatial industries at the Stennis Space Center. Clay Lewis of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) stated there are several communities who are interested in many uses of geospatial resources.

Ed Worthington, Director of the Office of Homeland Security with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, told the Council members that Washington has now recognized GIS as eligible for funding. He added that 80% of funds must go to the local level. Each county has been given $10,000 with the specification it must be used for designated items. He further stated that in the future it could be requested for GIS. Mike Womack of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) said the Council should come up with a specific project to suggest. He then added MEMA is very supportive of GIS and further added they had a lot of 2003 money that needed to be invested. Mr. Chisolm told Mr. Knox to meet with him to discuss this.

Claude Johnson presented the report on the Clearinghouse/Portal Development Project. As part of the Bond Bill legislation passed by the 2004 legislature, ITS will receive funding for the Clearinghouse/Portal Infrastructure. However, the money will not be available until late fall of this year or early in the next calendar year. Requirements Definition Workshops are currently being scheduled and conducted. These workshops are very important to the determination of what data, functions, and applications the Clearinghouse/Portal will offer its users. The Clearinghouse/Portal Project has created a Pilot Team to work together towards identifying early data to be

piloted and setting up a Phase 1 Clearinghouse that will later be replaced by the full Clearinghouse that will host MDEM. ITS has decided to release a Request For Proposal (RFP) which will seek hardware and software configurations, implementation services for the Clearinghouse and the Portal, and possibly a Proof of Concept. The RFP will not be released until funds are available and Requirements Definition Workshops are completed. The legislature did not fund any money for maintenance.

Steve Champlin of MDEQ presented the report on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) Project. The state business plan update has just been submitted to FEMA for the Multi-Hazard Identification Plan (MHIP). FEMA updates MHIP every six months. FEMA funding for FY2003 for DeSoto, Harrison, George, Tate, and Kemper Counties is $1,900,000. FEMA funding for FY2004 for Benton, Choctaw, Hancock, Jackson, Tunica and Warren Counties is $1,765,000. FEMA funding for FY2005 for Copiah, Forrest, Hinds, Jones, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lee and Madison Counties is $3,324,000. Rankin County was completed prior to the FEMA project. Total anticipated FEMA funding for FY2006-2008 is $10,750,000 to cover sixty-one counties. Mapping work is progressing on the FY2003 and FY2004 counties.

Cragin Knox presented the report on the Digital Orthoimagery Project. He and representatives from several other state agencies attended meetings in Washington, D.C. February 7-9. The plan of action is to continue supporting a statewide plan. A map was displayed showing the current status of digital imagery by county. The split for digital versus positive was about 50/50. A map with a schedule for updating cadastral for counties was shown. The next step is to continue working with individual counties and the Mississippi Association of Supervisors.

Education and outreach efforts were reported by David Shaw. Newsletter articles will be appearing in Mississippi Municipal League and Mississippi Association of Supervisors publications showing why they should support GIS. Dr. Shaw asked anyone who had specific ideas for education to send them to him. Also, if anyone has specific needs for undergraduate students to work for low pay, please let him know. Internships and co-op opportunities are excellent tools. Mr. Chisolm asked Mr. Knox to work with Dr. Shaw on outreach.

Jim Steil gave a brief TUG report and reminded everyone of the upcoming NSGIC Mid-Year Meeting which will be held March 13-16 at the Radisson Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland.

Cragin Knox reported that the PAC had not met since the last Council meeting.

The next Council meeting will be held Tuesday, May 24, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room of the MDEQ building at Southport Center. Tuesday, August 23, 2005, has been suggested as the date for the following meeting. The Council meeting agenda has been standardized and from now on will be very similar to the agenda for today's meeting.

Chairman Chisolm adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.