

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

April 23, 2013

PRESENT

Robert Latham, Jr., Chairman, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Craig Orgeron, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Keith Harkins, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Ray Barksdale (for Melinda McGrath), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Jack Moody (for Brent Christensen), Mississippi Development Authority
Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Buck Buchanan (for Charlie W. Morgan), Mississippi Forestry Commission
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Richard Tolbert, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Scott DeLano, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

ABSENT

Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Quincy Mukoro (for Shari T. Veazey), Mississippi Municipal League
Steve Gray (for Derrick Surette), Mississippi Association of Supervisors

Robert Latham called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Since a quorum was present, Robert Latham asked for a motion to approve the amended Council meeting minutes for February 13, 2013. The motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

Representative Scott DeLano discussed House bills he has introduced in this Legislative session. House Bill No. 1104 and 1106 passed the House but failed in the Senate. He stressed the importance of Emergency Communications throughout the state and said that he would be actively listening for the next several months for ideas or recommendations that the Council may have. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was briefly discussed and the effects any changes to it could potentially bring to the state. Representative DeLano further stated that Insurance rates needed to be based on the best data available and we should strive for best data.

GIS Portal/Clearinghouse Updates- Garry Hennington provided an update on the activities of the Clearinghouse. MITS and MDEQ have formed a MDEM working group and have been working together for the last year in coordinating this data. He mentioned that they had recently added FEMA Flood Hazard data as well as MDEM centerlines and LiDAR. He also advised that

some server consolidation had been done that would result in cost-savings. Gary also explained the numbers on the amount of visits to the site and the data that has been downloaded via the site.

Education & Outreach- Interest has still been strong throughout the state for GIS education. With the implementation of ESRI ArcGIS 10.2 GRI will no longer be able to teach ESRI courses. GRI hopes to continue educational outreach by developing GIS classes that are geared more towards the unique demands of Mississippi users. Dr. Samson is interested in exploring the possibilities of teaching and exploring the further use of open sourced GIS products. He also discussed emerging technologies that will enable local and state assets to collect good orthoimagery via affordable sensors on state aircraft. Dr. Samson also discussed new technology that would allow GIS vector data to be transmitted via email through Hamm radio with Winlink 2000.

Council Coordinator's Report- Reported on the 40% cost savings taxpayers received by combining the 6 lower counties with 14 central counties in the recent orthoimagery capture. MDOT, NOAA and USGS were able to provide funding along with the counties for the capture of this imagery. The imagery has been collected however, there were some problems in Lamar and Forrest County that might require them to be re-flown due to some prescribed burning. Future imagery will be focused on areas that are in desperate need of imagery. The Golden Triangle area will be flown in 2014 and will encompass 18 counties. The MS DOR will help to identify these areas. Webster County was mentioned as an Area of Interest (AOI) for imagery collection due to their courthouse burning recently.

Development of Operational Procedures- Mr. Latham wants to draft Operational Procedures in lieu of by-laws. He felt as if the creation instead, of Operational Procedures, might give the Council more flexibility. He asked that members work with staff at MEMA to formulate draft Operational Procedures.

Reactivate the TUG – Jim Steil and Talbot Brooks restated the interest and willingness of the geospatial community to participate to re-activate the Technical Users' Group [TUG]. A draft structure of the TUG was discussed. Talbot Brooks stressed the need for widespread participation and requested executive support to this end. Mr. Brooks also noted the opportunity for Mississippi to provide leadership in geospatial coordination at a national level as the federal advisory committee to which he was recently appointed, National Geospatial Advisory Committee [NGAC], is in the process of re-examining the 20 year old vision of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure [NSDI]. Everyone is encouraged to share their ideas and past frustrations in an effort to improve the model.

Census Draft MOU – Jim Steil Presented an opportunity for the Council to enter into an MOU with the US Census Bureau to compile our own Mississippi state & local data for inclusion into the GSS [Geographic Support System]. Participation will allow the official census data to align with our state & local data. Participation will also help Mississippi in compiling the best available data for street centerlines, addresses, and building structures for our own use. There will be no direct cost to participate in the MOU other than the time spent to collect and compile the data. A motion to continue pursuit of the MOU was requested and granted.

Other Business – Richard Tolbert is looking for participants in the effort to re- run the Choctaw Principle Meridian. A planning session for the undertaking is being scheduled at Mississippi College in the Fall of 2013.

Motion to Adjourn