

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

October 1, 2013

PRESENT

Robert Latham, Jr., Chairman, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Craig Orgeron, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Michael Bograd, (for Trudy Fisher), 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
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS
Richard Tolbert, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Derrick Surrette, Mississippi Association of Supervisors

ABSENT

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
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Scott DeLano, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists

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 June 25, 2013. The motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

GIS Portal/Clearinghouse Updates - Gary Hennington provided an update on the activities of the Clearinghouse. He advised that a link had been placed on the portal so that LiDAR data requests could be more easily forwarded to Barbara Yassin at MDEQ for distribution. He further advised that page views were currently at 42,000 with an average time spent of over 4 minutes. So far this year over 5,000 zipped prepackaged datasets have been delivered to requesters. There have also been over 304,000 LiDAR downloads. It was also noted that the consolidation of servers were almost complete.

MDEM - Steve Champlin with MDEQ updated the council on MDEM activities. They are working on road centerlines for counties as well as LiDAR data collection. Currently about 68% of the state is covered by LiDAR.

DFIRM - Steve Champlin advised that 75 of the 82 Mississippi Counties had effective DFIRM maps. Bolivar County is in the compliance stage and six remaining counties are being held up by levee accreditation issues. The hope is that these six counties can begin moving forward after sometime in the winter. Risk Map funding began in 2010 and will be the program that will move forward in five year increments as it pertains to flooding maps.

Educational Outreach – Scott Samson with MSU offered MEMA a 1 meter satellite dish that was previously on their GIS bus. MEMA accepted the offer and will make arrangements to receive it. MSU is receiving a new computer (18,000 ports) 100 terabytes. Funding for GIS outreach via the Geo Project has been secured through 2014. GIS workshops will continue thanks to this funding. The Geo Project will also promote the use of open sourced GIS projects. Mr. Latham voiced his desire that the council working with other partners such as GRI improve the GIS capabilities of rural areas of the state. Scott Samson advised that they have increased outreach to community colleges so that these endeavors can anchor GIS resources to these areas.

Council Coordinator's Report - Joel Yelverton reported on the status of the County Orthoimagery project. Joel gave a history of how the County Orthoimagery project has come into being. In relation to the 2014 project, all 20 counties have completed their inter-county agreements and that the AG's office has approved them. The RFP is complete and it is hoped that the RFP can be released by mid-October. Talks are underway concerning imagery acquisition for 2015 and 2016.

Census Draft MOU (Update) – Mark Sanders with MEMA reported that MEMA senior counsel Allison Killebrew had reviewed the document and found no issues that ran contrary to MS law. She further stated that she did not feel as if the document needed to be reviewed by the AG's office. The MOU will be voted on at the next MCCRSGIS meeting in December.

National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) - Jim Steil reported that a couple of people would be attending the NSGIC conference in Kansas City MO. He also advised the chair that one of his duties as chair was to identify the delegation that would represent the council at NSGIC.

Jim also talked briefly about the upcoming state GIS conference being held on the MS Gulf Coast October 17th-18th. The conference will be held on the Gulf Park campus of University of Southern Miss.

TUG – In the absence of Talbot Brooks, Jim Steil reported that the TUG is primarily working on addressing and are getting a better idea of the scope of how tough it is. AT&T provides a Master Street Address Guide (MSAG) to local 911 entities. Their abbreviations don't line up with the National Emergency Numbering Association (NENA) and the Postal Services abbreviations. The TUG and MS 811 are working together and plan on approaching AT&T to see if they would consider helping bring these two more aligned with each other.

Other Business –

MCCRSGIS Logo: In other business Mr. Latham presented a MCCRSGIS logo that was designed by MEMA graphic artist Paul Hamblin. Mr. Latham advised that the logo would be adopted at the next MCCRSGIS meeting in December.

GIS Program Sustainability: Mr. Latham advised the council that if there was no opposition he was forming a finance committee to oversee the funding for GIS Program Sustainability. He advised that Deb Biggers MEMA's Deputy Director would be chairing the committee. He recommended that members of the committee not be appointed from MARIS, ITS or MDEQ because these organizations have statutory programs, either partially or fully funded. He wanted to make sure that there was no appearance of impropriety by having these organizations actually sitting on the finance committee. They would certainly have input in all discussions but would be shielded by the fact that they would not ultimately decide on who and how programs they supported were funded. The three goals of this committee were identified by Mr. Latham as 1.) Assess the needs of long term funding strategies to sustain the council. 2.) Report to the council long-term funding strategy recommendations after studying them and determining the best course of action. 3.) Monitor the strategies that the council approves.

Mike Bograd the state geologist sitting in for Trudy Fisher the MDEQ Executive Director was concerned that since MDEQ and ITS had the largest stake in these programs, would it not be unfair that they would not be a member of the committee? Mr. Latham explained that it was not his intention to exclude anyone and that this was only meant as a measure to insure complete transparency. Mr. Latham further stated that any discussions or strategies would be open to input from MDEQ, MARIS and ITS.

Motion to Adjourn