

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

December 7, 2011

PRESENT

Keith Harkins (for Trudy Fisher, Chair), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Ray Barksdale (for Melinda McGrath), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Mark Sanders (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jack Moody (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS
Quincy Mukoro (for George Lewis), Mississippi Municipal League
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Richard Tolbert, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

ABSENT

Craig Orgeron, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Buck Buchanan (for Charlie W. Morgan), Mississippi Forestry Commission
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Michael Caples, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

Keith Harkins called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Since a quorum was present, Keith Harkins asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for September 13 and November 9, 2011. The motion was made by Jeff Mullins and seconded by Chuck Carr. The minutes were approved. The meeting today is a departure from our regular format and is styled more like a work session than a regular meeting to discuss some of the issues that were recommended in the strategic plan.

Some of the Strategic Plan Review Recommendations require some legislative action. A five-person steering committee looked at legislative recommendations and met with Representative Scott DeLano. We are trying to work some legislation through the upcoming session which begins January 3, 2012. A set of recommendations, drafted by Michael Caples, was handed out. The first recommendation is the establishment of a permanent funding source for the GIS program through general funds and proposed filing fees on deeds. These funds would be used on the following priorities: hire a full time GIS Council Coordinator within the MDEQ Office of Geology, establish an Orthoimagery Program for the entire state to provide updated imagery on a set schedule,

establish a Grant Program to assist local government with the development of the cadastral layer, pay for the operation and maintenance of the GIS portal, warehouse and clearinghouse functions, and assist with development of the other six layers. The second recommendation involves the make-up of the Policy Advisory Committee, seeking more flexible authority. The third recommendation changes the seven core data layers to eight with the addition of the gazetteer function layer. The fourth recommendation requires entities that are submitting data on revised voting district boundaries or municipal and school district boundaries to furnish the data to the Council for inclusion on the GIS portal data set.

Representative DeLano stated that these recommendations are a work-in-progress. A discussion by the Council members followed.

Jim Steil presented the GIS Strategic Plan review and recommendations. This is based on what people were willing to actively participate or support. The recommendations are as follows: (1) 1st Tier Coordination Option, (a) Re-Activate TUG – ID stakeholders, establish theme sub-committee, ID lead for each sub-committee, and provide a charter & goals for each; (b) Policy Advisory Committee – vets funding options & presents to Council and proposes annual goals & objectives to Council; (c) Establish New Advisory Committee – charter & goals and convene; (2) Orthoimagery, (a) Develop Standard Contract Specifications, (b) State Ortho Consortium, (c) State Ortho Program; (3) Comprehensive Boundary Effort, (a) ID Stewards, (b) Integrate & Develop Standards, (c) Publish Trusted Sources, and (d) Stewardship & Census; (4) Gazetteer, (a) ID Stewards & Priorities – establish work-group/procedures/standards, develop sub-categories for each feature type, and USGS integration via State Mapping Advisory Committee, (b) Integration into MS Databases – develop technical service center to update and maintain, work with stewards to implement standards, work with emergency services to ID & include critical infrastructure, and initiate a 3-4 year program to update MS GNIS, and (c) Index Spatial Features on Portal by Name. Jim Steil asked for a motion to pursue the Strategic Plan Review Recommendations. Richard Tolbert made a motion to accept the recommendations, and Rick Ericksen seconded the motion. The motion passed with no nay votes contingent on the legality of the vote since there is uncertainty about a proxy vote.

The next meeting of the Council was set for January 19, 2012, in the Commission Hearing Room of the MDEQ building located at 515 E. Amite St. in Jackson.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.