

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

MAY 17, 2006

PRESENT

Charles Chisolm, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
John Rounsaville, Governor's Office
John Michael Simpson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Bill Brown (for Robert Latham), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Clay Lewis (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
Gerald McWhorter (for Eric Clark), Secretary of State
Everard Baker, Mississippi Forestry Commission
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
David Shaw, Mississippi State University
George Lewis, Mississippi Municipal League
Andy Taggart, Madison County Board of Supervisors
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Barbara Collier, Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Frank McCain (for Joe Blount), Mississippi State Tax Commission
Jim Steil, MARIS, Technical Users Group Chair
Rosemary Aultman, Mayor, City of Clinton, Policy Advisory Committee Chair

ABSENT

Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
George Phillips, Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Chairman Charles Chisolm called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. Since a quorum was present, Chairman Chisolm asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for October 24 and December 6, 2005. The motion was made by David Shaw and seconded by Andy Taggart. The minutes were approved.

Cragin Knox presented the 2006 Legislative changes to the law that created the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems. Mississippi Code Section 25-58-21 was amended to reflect two changes which will start July 1, 2006: (1) A new member was added to the Council. The Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors will appoint a county land surveyor. (2) The following agencies will be allowed to have designees to represent them on the Council and to vote: Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS), Mississippi

Department of Transportation (MDOT), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), Mississippi Secretary of State, and Mississippi Forestry Commission. If a designee is sent in place of a member, the request needs to be made in writing.

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI) update was introduced by Steve Champlin of MDEQ. Bill McDonald of Mississippi Geographic Information, LLC (MGI) gave a PowerPoint presentation. The DeSoto County Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) have just completed the 90-day appeal and protest period which ended May 12. There were thirteen letter responses, but only two or three of them are appeals. The appeals are being evaluated and resolved. This will be followed by a six-month adoption period, and then these maps will become the official maps. We now have nineteen counties in some stage of work. Current activities include getting approval to begin engineering and mapping of FY05 counties and holding pre-scoping meetings for the FY06 counties. To date, joint community meetings have been held in twelve counties with the cooperation of Planning and Development Districts (PDDs). Pre-scoping meetings will be held on May 23-24 with the remaining eight counties. Scoping meetings for another 20 counties begins in June. Upcoming preliminary county maps are Kemper in the second quarter of 2006; Warren, Tunica, George, and Choctaw in the third quarter of 2006; and Benton, Tate and the coastal counties in the fourth quarter of 2006. While FEMA is preparing new storm surge analyses from Texas to Florida, MGI is continuing the riverine mapping. This new coastal data will be merged when it is available from FEMA. The preliminary DFIRMs for the three coastal counties are on schedule to be issued in late September. Mr. Champlin gave a budget report. The FY06 budget has been reduced from \$3.537 million to \$3.197 million due to FEMA reducing the mapping budgets for all states. For FY03-FY06, funding is \$10,754,293 and spending is \$2,032,697. John Michael Simpson said we need to begin documenting all this data we are receiving – when and how it will be available.

Cragin Knox led the discussion on Mississippi Digital Earth Model (MDEM) activities with an overview. These are the seven components of MDEM and the percentage of their completion: digital orthophotography, 100% by 12/06; elevation, 15% by 12/06; hydrography, 22% by 12/06; transportation, 24% by 12/06; cadastre, 21% currently; geodetic control, 20% currently; political boundaries, 22% by 12/06. The total remaining funding needed to complete MDEM is approximately \$40,900,000.

David Shaw, reporting on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) grant funding, said the money should be here this month. Chairman Chisolm stated that there has been a lot of work done in Washington and that we are starting to receive funding. Shaw responded that there is a greater appreciation in Washington that we are working together.

Barbara Yassin of MDEQ gave a demonstration on the coordination link on the Council's website. The digital orthoimagery project report was given by Cragin Knox. The \$1 million expended by MDOT for the Council paid for the coverage of two-thirds of the state. The last one-third can be done with the NOAA grant funds and there is money for processing. Vice-Chairman Litchliter asked Mr. Knox about county buy-ups. Mr. Knox responded that Tippah, Clay, and Lauderdale counties opted for the buy-up. They received six-inch coverage in the urban areas. Joel Yelverton passed around two photos taken of Lauderdale County, which showed the difference between two-foot and six-inch coverage. He said counties are budgeting now for work to be done next year.

Mr. Yelverton then discussed the Tippah County Demonstration Project. The project came about from a need to educate the supervisors by getting them to understand MDEM and how it would help them. The hands-on demonstration will be shown at the next state supervisors' convention at the most heavily attended session. Vice-Chairman Litchliter asked Bill McDonald

of MGI to work up comparative figures on how much the counties saved in the buy-up. In all three buy-up counties, the county and cities worked well with each other.

Mr. Champlin gave a PowerPoint presentation with a handout on the Camp Shelby/City of Hattiesburg LIDAR Data Collection Project. LIDAR stands for Light Detection and Ranging. This project covers 2424 square miles and parts of six counties. When processing is complete, there will be eleven counties with complete coverage and five counties with partial coverage for a total of 15% of the State's area. Past and possible future funding partners for the Mississippi LIDAR projects include FEMA, USGS, NOAA, Army Corps of Engineers, Jackson County, U.S. Army and the City of Hattiesburg.

The GIS portal/clearinghouse development was presented by Claude Johnson of ITS. ESRI has been selected as the consultant. Mr. Johnson introduced Cheryl Crawford, who has been hired by ITS as project manager. The planning project will begin this week with dual roles – ITS and vendor. Project directors are Claude Johnson of ITS and Dr. Clive Reece of ESRI. Project managers are Cheryl Crawford of ITS and Gary Hennington of IMS. Project architects are Craig Orgeron of ITS and Mourad Larif of ESRI. Technical leads are Heath Prejean of ITS and Mourad Larif of ESRI. Administrative support and help desk is Caren Brister of ITS. Technical support comes from ITS and vendor; application development comes from ITS and vendor. Project partners are Cragin Knox, Steve Champlin, and Peter Hutchins of MDEQ; Jim Steil, Steve Walker, and Wally Belokon of MARIS; Don Grayson of MDOT; Bud Douglas of MDHS; Elizabeth Matlack of JSU; Dr. David Shaw of MSU; Joel Yelverton of MAS; Lance Cooper of Rankin County; and selected cities.

There will be four phases. Phase I is review and refine all technical requirements, develop a technical architecture and infrastructure, propose a hardware and software configuration, and finalize proposed project plan, with completion in June, 2006. Phase II is develop plans for training, knowledge transfer, implementation and testing and acquire the hardware and software necessary to host the GIS Portal, Clearinghouse and applications based on recommendations from Phase I, with completion in July, 2006. Phase III is coordinate the integration of hardware, software and tools and design the GIS Clearinghouse/Portal, with completion in September, 2006. Phase IV is develop and implement the Clearinghouse/Portal and selected functions, with completion in February, 2007. Vice-Chairman Litchliter said the Council needs to decide how to deliver the data and the Legislature will decide how it is to be funded. John Michael Simpson mentioned the system will need to be upgraded continuously. Mr. Johnson remarked that he had looked at other states' systems. Funding suggestions included charging subscription fees, selling data to private sector, and getting grants. Chairman Chisolm said he appreciated the efforts people have made.

Bill Brown, MEMA operations manager, requested the Council develop a plan and provide a GIS response team to operate under MEMA to provide GIS capabilities during the upcoming hurricane season. Chairman Chisolm stated the Council will make a recommendation to MEMA and assigned Cragin Knox to lead the effort. This will be open to all who want to help.

The education and outreach update was given by David Shaw. The GIS bus will be used in training. The data from the buy-up counties could be used as teaching tools. Distance learning capabilities could be used as a refreshment tool and for additional training. Dr. Shaw will be helping with the demonstration at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors convention.

Jim Steil of MARIS led the discussion of Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) working with the State Tax Commission to develop a strategic plan and state-wide cadastral layer coverage. There were three handouts. The plan is to use the workforce training system. Mr. Yelverton stated the cadastre will come from the counties. Mr. McCain said he feels the update data must come from the county assessor. Mr. Yelverton commented that cadastre is a fluid document and changes

daily. Mr. Steil commented that this is just a concept at present and that MARIS has applied for a workforce development grant. When asked by Mr. Chisolm if this will be in conjunction with the counties and the State Tax Commission, the answer was "yes." Bud Douglas of the Mississippi Department of Human Services (DHS) spoke about the national perspective on cadastral mapping and standards.

The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) report was given by Cragin Knox and Jim Steil. The Ramona GIS Inventory System is now available to the public. Ramona was developed to inventory the GIS data holdings of tribal, state and local governments, and their partners. Mississippi was one of thirteen states participating in the Ramona System Beta Testing. The orthoimagery part of the national map needs to be refreshed every 3-4 years. Mr. Knox mentioned that there will be a point of contact at every federal agency, which could be helpful to us. The next NSGIC meeting will be in October in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Technical Users Group (TUG) report was given by Mr. Steil, TUG Chairman. They have been busy with coordinating Clearinghouse activities and keeping members informed of Council activities.

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) report was given by Mr. Knox since Rosemary Aultman, our new PAC Chairman, had to leave early. Mr. Knox has had a series of briefings with Mrs. Aultman. One PAC meeting has already been held and the next one is scheduled for July.

The next Council meetings will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesday, November 7, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. These meetings will be held in the Commission Hearing Room in the MDEQ building at Southport Center in Jackson. Mr. Chisolm requested that a notice about the meeting dates be sent to the members in the next few days to give everyone plenty of notice.

Chairman Chisolm adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADMINISTRATOR