

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

NOVEMBER 7, 2006

PRESENT

Keith Harkins (for Charles Chisolm), Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Don Grayson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Alex Finch (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jack Moody (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Scott Samson (for David Shaw), Mississippi State University
Jonathan Smith (for George Lewis), Mississippi Municipal League
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Joe Blount, Mississippi State Tax Commission
Lance Cooper (for Barbara Collier), Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Bruce Reynolds (for Chuck Carr), Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Colin Baird, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
Jim Steil, MARIS, Technical Users Group Chair

ABSENT

Gerald McWhorter (for Eric Clark), Secretary of State
Charlie W. Morgan, Mississippi Institute for Forestry Inventory
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Andy Taggart, Madison County Board of Supervisors
George Phillips, Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Vice Chairman David Litchliter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. Since a quorum was not present, the minutes of the last meeting were not voted on at this time.

Joel Yelverton made a presentation to representatives of Tippah County, which was the first county to join us in the County Buy-Up Project for digital aerial photography. Dwayne Bullard, president and CEO of the Tippah County Development Agency, received a framed aerial photograph of Ripley, Mississippi, from Mississippi Geographic Information, LLC (MGI). He introduced the other eleven members of the Tippah County delegation. Mr. Bullard thanked the Council for their help. He is excited about the training they will receive. He added that the digital mapping will help them with 911, public utilities, city infrastructures, county road systems, industrial parks, natural gas pipelines, utility transmission lines, tax assessor's work, flood plains, school bus routes, garbage routes, cell towers, and forestry. Vice Chairman Litchliter thanked the

delegation for their participation in the project. He also thanked Mississippi State University and ITS for helping the counties by going to the counties instead of the counties having to come to us.

Cragin Knox reported that all but thirteen percent of the orthoimagery has been collected statewide. The digital information for Sunflower and Leflore Counties was received last week on hard drives. Mr. Knox, helped by Robin Hoban of EarthData International, gave a PowerPoint presentation on orthoimagery processing. Included in the presentation was a map of Mississippi showing a schedule of delivery for 2-foot processing. Bill McDonald of MGI discussed a handout entitled, "MDEM – Status of 7 Framework Data Layers." Mr. Knox thanked MDOT for their help with the Quality Assurance/Quality Control by providing data to Dewberry. Joel Yelverton stated that some counties still prefer their old system of paper maps and are not willing to change yet.

The report on GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development was presented by Heath Prejean of ITS, GIS Technical Lead, and Cheryl Crawford of ITS, GIS Project Manager. Mr. Prejean gave a live demonstration of the interim data delivery system. The demonstration began with the Council's website address at www.giscouncil.ms.gov. A new link named "MDEM data" is found on the left side of this home page. This link leads to the Statewide Digital Orthophoto Initiative. On this page you may choose either to view orthophotography or download orthophotography. Tippah County information is shown currently, but soon Clay and Lauderdale 6" data will be added.

Cheryl Crawford gave a PowerPoint presentation covering the GIS Clearinghouse/Portal Update. Accomplishments to date include: approved final project work plan, approved final requirements validation deliverable, approved final technical infrastructure and architecture deliverable, completed bids for Express Products Lists for end-users, approved final training plan and knowledge transfer deliverable, purchased technical infrastructure, and drafted geodatabase design and portal design. Accomplishments anticipated during the next month are: installation of the infrastructure, final approval of the geodatabase design and portal design, initiation of test data loading, and initiation of portal development. The website address for the Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse (MGC) is www.gis.ms.gov (under construction). MGC users can login, search, browse channels, make a map, and download data. GIS Day 2006 will be celebrated on November 15, 2006, in the Department of Education Auditorium. Sponsors include USGS and ITS.

Dr. Scott Samson of the GeoResources Institute at Mississippi State University delivered the report on education and outreach efforts. There were 153 participants in GIS workshops during the third quarter of this year. Workshops are two to five days in length. Workshops for half a day and one day in length were discussed. The economic development website should be up by the first part of next year. Participation in the workshops is at capacity. Representative Dannie Reed asked if this training was producing more jobs. Dr. Samson replied that two students were hired after attending a four-week training session on the Gulf Coast. There is a high demand for GIS specialists on the coast.

Cragin Knox led the discussion on increasing the MGI contract cap. Funds are being received from FEMA and MEMA. After going through the Council, MDEQ signed a five-year contract with a \$10 million cap which is good through the year 2009. We are reaching that cap. FEMA will be issuing funds for another twenty counties, so we anticipate additional funding. We have about \$4 million we need to use plus an additional \$11 million that may become available. Mr. Knox suggested that a motion be made that the not-to-exceed amount contained in the contract between MDEQ and MGI be increased by \$15 million, of which only \$4 million – for DFIRM projects – be authorized for expenditure at this time. The balance of the increase is authorized to be utilized only upon receipt or award of new money from federal, state, local or other Council-authorized sources. The motion was made by Joel Yelverton and seconded by Don Grayson of MDOT. The motion passed unanimously.

Since a quorum was present, Vice Chairman Litchliter asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for August 22, 2006. Jack Moody suggested a correction to change “MEMA” to “FEMA” on page 2, line 6 of the August 22 draft minutes. Keith Harkins of MDEQ made the motion to approve these minutes with the correction suggested. Jack Moody seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Claude Johnson gave the report on the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) 2006 Annual Conference which was held October 1-5, 2006, in the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. Items discussed were the State of Arkansas GeoStor staff, the USGS Liaison Officer, the newly created GIS job classifications in the State of New Hampshire, the national data models, and the Census Bureau liaison. NSGIC and the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) are recommending the formation of a Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) for each state. This officer would serve under the Chief Information Officer. The GIO would serve as the Chief Executive Officer for addressing the ever-increasing number of geospatial policy decisions.

Jim Steil discussed NSGIC initiatives and federal initiatives. NSGIC initiatives included imagery for the nation, fifty states initiative, developing transportation for the nation, Corporate Leadership Council, local integration to NSGIC activities, data sharing, and improved utilization of the web. Federal initiatives were Geospatial Support Task Force pilot project and Homeland Security Fusion Centers. The next NSGIC meeting will be in early March in Madison, Wisconsin.

PAC and TUG work assignments were the next items to be discussed. Answers to the following questions are needed: Who can become a data provider? Who can publish metadata to us? Whose data needs to be secured, who can have access to secured data, and who decides? Whose metadata needs to be secured? Who should be chosen as channel stewards? Who will collect the x,y coordinates for our future improved address attributes? Two other projects needed are a review of the draft proposal for MEMA GIS support and a study on data sustainability. Cragin Knox announced that Rosemary Aultman would no longer be able to be the PAC chairman and that we are in the process of trying to find another chairman. Joel Yelverton said he would try to reassemble the PAC while we find another chairman.

The next Council meeting will be held on the first or second Tuesday in April after the Legislature has been adjourned. The meeting will be held in the Commission Hearing Room in the MDEQ building at Southport Center in Jackson. If the Council needs to meet before then, the Council members will be notified.

Since there was no other business, Vice Chairman Litchliter adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.