

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

DECEMBER 6, 2005

PRESENT

Charles Chisolm, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
John Rounsaville, Governor's Office
John Michael Simpson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Al Goodman (for Robert Latham), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Bill Crawford (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
Randal Rometry (for Everard Baker), Mississippi Forestry Commission
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
David Shaw, Mississippi State University
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Barbara Collier, Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Frank McCain (for Joe Blount), Mississippi State Tax Commission
Jim Steil, Technical Users Group Chairman

ABSENT

David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Eric Clark, Secretary of State
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
George Lewis, Mississippi Municipal League
Andy Taggart, Madison County Board of Supervisors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
George Phillips, Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Chairman Charles Chisolm called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. Since a quorum was not present, there was no vote on the minutes of the last Council meeting on October 24, 2005.

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI) update was given by Steve Champlin of MDEQ with a PowerPoint presentation. The DeSoto County flood map is complete. The final meeting was held on November 4, 2005. Those attending were: FEMA, MEMA, MDEQ, Mississippi Geographic Information, LLC (MGI), and officials from DeSoto County and the communities of Hernando, Horn Lake, Olive Branch, Southaven and Walls. Bill McDonald of MGI gave a presentation on the Mississippi Katrina Flood Recovery maps which were recently issued. The website is http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/recoverydata/katrina_ms_index.shtm These maps were prepared by FEMA and are based on high water mark data. FEMA will pay for these maps out of the Katrina Recovery Fund. They illustrate storm surge inundation limit, storm

surge inundation elevations, and Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFE). These maps are for advisory purposes only and do not supersede the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The maps for the three coastal counties are being redone due to Katrina. The modified schedule for these counties will take twelve to fourteen months. It will take six to seven months for FEMA and the Corps of Engineers to prepare the new storm surge analysis. It will take five to six months for MGI to incorporate storm surge data into the new DFIRMs. It will take MGI one month to issue preliminary DFIRMs for the three counties.

Cragin Knox led the discussion on the digital orthoimagery project. The address for the GIS Council's interactive website is giscouncil.ms.gov. The site will show what is going on in each county. The database is being populated and should be finished in the next two weeks. At that time a cover letter from the chairman of the Council will be put in the newsletters of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) and the Mississippi Municipal League (MML).

John Michael Simpson of MDOT reported that the Mississippi Transportation Commission has authorized moving \$1,000,000 for the orthoimagery from MDOT to the GIS Council as discussed in the last Council meeting. A copy of the "General Agreement between Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)" is attached to these minutes.

Robert Womack (MEMA) has been working with Cragin on moving \$750,000 from a FEMA Homeland Security grant to the Council. This money would be used for collecting orthoimagery data.

David Shaw announced that \$3,000,000 is included in NOAA's 2006 budget for GIS Council work. We may get the money as early as January or February, 2006. This should allow us to do everything through the processing phase, even if some of this money is used for education outreach.

The county buy-up option program was presented by Joel Yelverton. It was decided that a buy-up option would be offered. Letters were sent to supervisors and tax assessors/collectors of all the counties about this opportunity. Thirty counties and one city responded with "yes" they are interested and want more information. This information was logged in and given to the contractor, who then explained the program further. Some counties want prices, but a lot of counties are watching from the sidelines waiting for some success stories. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) and the GIS Council, with DEQ as the administrative agent, is nearing completion.

Robin Hoban of EarthData continued discussing the buy-up option program. There is a spreadsheet and database on the responses from the counties. Most responses expressed interest and need, but the funding cycle and the ten-year update cycle are not right at this time. The immediate need is for two-foot data. Ancillary products were mentioned. For example, Warren County uses Landsat for agricultural work, but they may want color IR instead, as the Landsat is not available. Another reason the counties need the data, besides tax purposes, is for E911 phase 2. Expedited processing and higher resolutions are other interests that were expressed. Chairman Chisolm wanted to know when do decisions need to be made. They need to hear from the counties by mid to late December. It will take four to five weeks for the whole state to be flown. There is more flexibility for six-inch data, so that deadline would be mid January.

The Technical Users Group (TUG) report was given by Jim Steil, TUG Chairman. Mississippi is one of thirteen states participating in the Ramona System Beta Testing sponsored by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). Ramona was developed to inventory the GIS data holdings of tribal, state, and local governments, and their partners. The website address is www.ms.gisinventory.net. The 2005 National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery is coming in with two-foot resolution. Images for the three coastal counties will be post-

Katrina. Next, Mr. Steil announced the WIRED program by the U.S. Department of Labor. These are \$5 million grants per year for three years. Due to workforce development efforts, the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Geospatial Council is writing a proposal for one of these grants. John Rounsaville of the Governor's Office said the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) will collect all the proposals, and MDES and the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will select three proposals for the Governor to submit. The cut-off date for submitting a proposal is December 15. Mr. Steil added that this all happened in about a week.

The GIS portal/clearinghouse development was presented by Claude Johnson. David Litchliter told him that the bond money would be available in January. The procurement people are working on hardware and software. They are concerned about not having enough money for the development of a world-class portal, which is definitely needed. Without additional money, they will have a minimal portal with a better one to come later.

The education and outreach update was given by David Shaw. He expects to get a request for a proposal for funding from NOAA in January. A portion of this money will go for education but not just academic education. Dr. Shaw said we need to develop training capabilities to go out to counties and municipalities. They need basic training that is specific for their needs. Another suggestion was workshops for intermediate and advanced training. What should community colleges offer to prepare students to work for a tax assessor? Dr. Shaw asked for ideas and suggestions for educational needs from the Council. Joel Yelverton continued this discussion. He stated that counties run the gamut from totally capable to incapable. He suggested going to the medium level counties with a demonstration project. The Council needs a success story to show the counties and municipalities. Mr. Chisolm agreed that focused individualized training is needed.

Bud Douglas with the Department of Human Services (DHS) gave the Geo-coding Committee report. We need to sell GIS with every opportunity. Everything DHS does is location based. He gave a slide presentation on addressing needs and problems. Geocoding is needed. Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) standards were discussed. Mr. Douglas wants a unique ID (UID) for each parcel, based on the national grid, which can be useful for shared databases. He also wants a data scrubber. GIS data needs to be integrated with the MSAG database (telephone numbers). Katrina gives the Council an opportunity to shine.

Chairman Chisolm asked the question, "Where are we on tax coordination?" Joel Yelverton said he had spoken with Joe Blount and he is okay with the standards. The statewide flyover negated the need to worry about grouping counties, but that still needs to be addressed. More and more counties are flying for their own purposes. Frank McCain of the State Tax Commission said some interest is being shown from mid-size counties. The Tax Commission is considering putting something in Rule 6 to suggest GIS, but it cannot be mandated to the counties.

The next Council meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. and Tuesday, July 18, 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.

The next Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room in the MDEQ building at Southport Center. The next TUG meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Mississippi Automated Resource Information System (MARIS) building. 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 3:55 p.m.