

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

AUGUST 22, 2006

PRESENT

Charles Chisolm, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchlitter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
John Michael Simpson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Dave Benway (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jack Moody (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
Wayne Tucker, Mississippi Institute for Forestry Inventory
David Shaw, Mississippi State University
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Jonathan Smith (for George Lewis), Mississippi Municipal League
Andy Taggart, Madison County Board of Supervisors
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Lance Cooper (for Barbara Collier), Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
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
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Frank McCain (for Joe Blount), Mississippi State Tax Commission
George Phillips, Mississippi Department of Public Safety
Rosemary Aultman, Mayor, City of Clinton, Policy Advisory Committee Chair

Chairman Charles Chisolm called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. Special recognition was given to the Council's new member and designees for other agencies. The new member is Colin Baird, Hinds County surveyor, appointed by the Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors. The designees and their agencies are: Jonathan Smith for the Mississippi Municipal League (MML), Jack Moody for the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), Dave Benway for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and Wayne Tucker for the Mississippi Institute for Forestry Inventory (MIFI).

Since a quorum was present, Chairman Chisolm asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for May 17, 2006. The motion was made by David Shaw and seconded by Joel Yelverton. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Chisolm announced that it was time to elect the chairman and vice chairman of the Council as required by law. Joel Yelverton nominated Mr. Chisolm to serve as chairman for

another twelve months; this was seconded by Gene McGee. Mr. Chisolm nominated David Litchlitter to serve as vice chairman, which was seconded by Gene McGee. The nominations were approved.

The statewide mapping update was presented next. Bill McDonald of Mississippi Geographic Information, LLC (MGI) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has done new flood mapping of the Gulf Coast states' coastlines from Texas through Florida. When it is complete, we will have the most up-to-date flood maps in the country. Early in 2007, FEMA is scheduled to deliver the data on the coastal counties to Mississippi to merge the FEMA coastal data with riverine data collected by MGI. Shortly thereafter, we will have the preliminary flood maps for all three Mississippi coastal counties. We now have the preliminary maps for DeSoto and Kemper counties. Any hydrography, imagery, or lidar data collected in the project is transferred to MDEQ for MDEM. Steve Champlin of MDEQ gave a live, online demonstration of the new flood map website. It is designed for the counties to see what their work status is in the program. The website address is <http://www.geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps>.

Cragin Knox emphasized that communication is vital for the Coordinating Council and stressed the need for the state agencies to participate in the interactive data acquisition coordination website. The coordinating website address for the Council is http://giscouncil.ms.gov/gis/gis.nsf/webpages/council_dataacquisition. Jim Steil suggested the need to revisit the Ramona national website, which has more capabilities and shows information from other states.

Mr. Knox stated that the Council needs to take action at the next Council meeting on the contract issued to MGI to do DFIRM work. The contract was capped at \$10 million. We are getting \$3 to \$3.5 million per year on three-year projects; each project has multiple parts. Mr. Knox has already signed over \$9 million worth of work orders, and \$3.5 million have been paid out. We have received money from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to collect and process orthoimagery. John Michael Simpson said that the contract cap is a management tool to be used as a checkpoint for the Council to review the project every couple of years.

Dr. David Shaw introduced Dr. Scott Samson, who is a GIS Extension Specialist and an ESRI certified instructor. Dr. Samson discussed the NOAA grant funding and stated part of this money is to be used for outreach and education. Mr. Knox added that we received \$2.8 million from NOAA for Council projects, and markup this year is for \$5 million in the Senate. Jim Steil asked if color infrared would be included as part of the orthoimagery collecting. Mr. Knox replied that the machine that collects the data is an electronic sensor which collects a vast array of data. The color infrared imagery was collected statewide, simultaneously with the color orthoimagery; but, the infrared imagery will not be processed, unless funding is obligated toward that goal. John Michael Simpson said we need to have a strategy for getting federal funding, and we need to have deliverables showing what we have done. Andy Taggart wants a chart showing what we started with, major expenditures, what we have done, and what we have yet to do. Mr. Chisolm agreed and said that we will do that.

Cragin Knox discussed the digital orthoimagery project. Orthoimagery has been collected for all but 11 percent of the state, and the work order for processing has been signed. It should be finished in November. We have collected a lot of elevation data in cooperation with federal agencies, other state agencies, and cities. Steve Champlin added that federal agencies had benefited from our lidar in making the Katrina recovery maps.

Bill McDonald of MGI gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Mississippi Statewide Orthophotography Program, focusing on the Tippah County pilot project.

Joel Yelverton presented the county buy-up report. Three counties elected to buy in to six-inch imagery, and they believe they got a good deal. It is not an easy sell, but he hopes this success will help in the future. He and Mr. Knox gave a half hour presentation showing GIS applications at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors convention. They received a good response. Mr. Knox mentioned people from Sunflower County called and want to get involved. John Michael Simpson said we need a cost comparison of what the county would have paid versus the buy-up to show the value. Mr. Knox responded that we are preparing a funding schedule.

The data-sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) report was given by Mr. Knox. The MOU should include how to move other agency's data into MDEM. They are working on a standard MOU. Jim Steil handed out a three-page document on Data Access Agreements.

Cheryl Crawford, project manager for ITS, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the update of the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development. ESRI has been selected as the contractor. The final project work plan has been approved, and many other accomplishments were listed. Bids have been completed for the Express Products Lists for end-users. Infrastructure and architecture specifications for bids should be released next week. MDEQ has a very large responsibility for data provision. The goal is to make the Clearinghouse the destination of choice for data in the State of Mississippi. Participating parties are ITS, JSU, MAS, MARIS, MDEQ, MDHS, MDOT, MML, MSU, and Rankin County.

Heath Prejean presented the report on the development of data standards for the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse. The seven core layers of MDEM are the base for the state's GIS map. A specific list of other supporting layers has been defined. A test data set has been collected and released to ESRI for test modeling only.

Scott Samson of the GeoResources Institute at Mississippi State University delivered a report on NOAA-MDEM GIS Education and Outreach program. Dr. Samson is an ESRI advanced course instructor. Two purposes of the program are to inform and educate local governments on the benefits of GIS and to provide general and targeted educational opportunities. Six to seven counties will be selected as target counties. There will be no cost to the participants. Educational programs will be delivered in the host county by a portable computer laboratory, the MSU mobile computer laboratory, and community/junior college partners. David Shaw said this program is for education only, and there will be no competition with private industry. Joel Yelverton added that we cannot take the cookie cutter approach, because the counties are in different stages of data collection and usage. The training needs to be tailored. Dr. Shaw responded that he is open to looking at the individual needs of each county, but they need a county commitment. Mr. Yelverton replied that they need to go to the most interested counties first and then go to counties in need such as the coastal counties. Mr. Litchliter asked Dr. Samson who would be helping him with this. Dr. Samson said he has three research assistants, and he is lining up some students to help.

A report on activities of the Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial Solutions (EIGS) was given by Dr. Greg Easson. EIGS is composed of a cluster of state agencies, universities, and private businesses working to further develop the geospatial industry in Mississippi. Their mission is to build a research-based world class geospatial technology industry in Mississippi and to train a workforce. They have no legislative authority, just outreach and coordination. EIGS was established in 2003 to provide similar but enhanced support previously provided by its predecessor, the Mississippi Space Commerce Initiative (MSCI).

The Technical Users Group (TUG) report was given by Mr. Steil, TUG Chairman, with several handouts. The 2006 National Agricultural Imagery Program (NAIP) two-meter color film imagery should begin arriving in about thirty days. The data are collected statewide during the leaf-on season. The Public Land Survey (PLS) is being re-digitized to match the DRG. The digital parcel

effort was presented to the assessors at their annual meeting. A contact list for county mappers is being developed. The National Grid is a coordinate system which is based on military specifications and has been adopted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA. Mr. Steil encouraged the Council to adopt the National Grid. The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) will hold its annual meeting October 1-5 in Little Rock, Arkansas. We have a Council level membership so all who are involved with the Council are potential NSGIC members at no cost. NSGIC is working with the National Digital Orthophoto Program (NDOP) Committee and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to create a new nationwide aerial imagery program that will collect and disseminate standardized multi-resolution products on set schedules. They are trying to request funding in the 2008 budget. Under this program, NAIP will provide annual one-meter, natural color imagery over all states, except Alaska and Hawaii. Data collection will be during the leaf-on season. In addition, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) will produce one-foot resolution imagery once every three years. This imagery will be acquired during the leaf-off season in natural color. MML has a practitioners group.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Commission Hearing Room in the MDEQ building at Southport Center in Jackson.

John Michael Simpson introduced Ray Barksdale, who will be the head of the GIS program for MDOT.

Since there was no other business, Chairman Chisolm adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.