

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

January 5, 2010

PRESENT

Trudy Fisher, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
John Michael Simpson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Kent Buckley (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jack Moody (for Gray Swoope), Mississippi Development Authority
James (Buck) Buchanan (for Charlie W. Morgan), Mississippi Forestry Commission
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS
Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District

ABSENT

Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Matthew Dodd (for George Lewis), Mississippi Municipal League
Michael Caples, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Colin Baird, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

Chairwoman Trudy Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. The motion was made to approve the Council meeting minutes for July 15, 2009, and October 6, 2009. Chuck Carr seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

The MDEM layer development activities were discussed. Cragin Knox of MGI gave a report on the Gulf Region Base Mapping Program which covers the five counties of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, and Stone. Other members of the MGI team are Jimmy Bradley, Nancy von Meyer, and David Stage. Data development completed includes the following: orthoimagery collected at six-inch and one-foot resolutions which can be found on the Council's website; planimetric features including transportation such as road center lines, curbs, and parking areas; a hydrographic layer which includes rivers, lakes, marsh areas and streams; a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) which shows contours of two-foot or five-foot intervals; and a new Public Land Survey System (PLSS) which has been developed for this area. The PLSS work is being done as a part of developing the parcel mapping. MGI has also collected additional digital information from all five of the Gulf Regional counties, including building footprints, jurisdictional boundaries, and

metadata. Nancy von Meyer complimented Barbara Yassin on the work she did on developing the metadata standard. It will be adopted as the national standard. Work continues on the statewide orthoimagery topography layer. This is a digital terrain model with 5' contours and will soon be on the server.

Steve Champlin, Project Manager for the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI), gave a PowerPoint presentation update on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project. As of December 31, 2009, FEMA funding was \$21,608,460 and spending was \$13,472,373. Since the last Council meeting, several county flood mapping meetings have been held. Twelve countywide preliminary DFIRMS have been delivered. Staff are continuing to deal with levee certification issues involving many different counties. Up-coming activities include delivering at least 6 countywide preliminary DFIRMS, holding 14 countywide officials and open house meetings, begin remapping areas involved in levee non-certification situations, and completing 10 countywide DFIRM projects.

Craig Orgeron of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (MDITS) gave an update of the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development. Average daily hits are over 16,600. Total registered users are 1,171. MDITS is looking at doing an update to the system, specifically at simplifying some of the design that was originally done in order to reduce the complexity. This should be done during the first half of the calendar year. They are trying to shift some of the infrastructure around to accommodate the development of applications that leverage GIS. The initial cost for the Geospatial Clearinghouse was \$954,130 for development and \$767,983 for infrastructure. The ongoing operational costs range from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Scott Samson, Geospatial Research Institute (GRI) at Mississippi State University, talked about the education and outreach efforts. Participants in the ESRI training courses have come from 67 counties. Estimated savings to local and state governments is \$1.7 million over 3 ½ years. More than twenty classes are scheduled for January through May. The East Mississippi Community College will be hosting many of the workshops. Three database-type courses are now being offered. A two-page flyer and a bookmark explaining the GIS education and outreach program were handed out. ESRI and GRI worked up a software grant to target rural local governments in counties under 75,000 population who are not using GIS. Applicants were given twelve months to implement their GIS proposal. ArcGIS software would be provided for one year. Formal presentations have been made at IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium and at the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Conference. Their website is <http://www.geospatial.msstate.edu>.

Miki Schmidt of the NOAA Coastal Services Center presented a report on NOAA's Digital Coast program. The Digital Coast website is www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast. Their mission is to support the state and local coastal research management communities. The website provides not only data, but also the related tools, training, and information needed to turn those data into useful information. Website content covers the nation's most pressing coastal issues which include land use planning, inundation, coastal hazards, and marine spatial planning. The partnership group that oversees the Digital Coast effort is led by the NOAA Coastal Services Center and includes five additional partners. They are the National Association of Counties, the Coastal States Organization, the National States Geographic Information Council, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, and the Nature Conservancy. Mississippi was a start-up state partner and

provides funding, through its NOAA MDEM grant funds, for the participation of the five additional partners.

The strategic/business plan update was presented by Dr. Nancy von Meyer of Fairview Industries. The three components of this plan are to update the 2003 Strategic Plan, to develop a return on investment strategy for the benefits of remote sensing and GIS coordination, and to develop a business plan to achieve long-term sustainability for data development and update. The first task is establishing a Project Workgroup which will be an advisory body to review strategies, identify key contacts, determine the best venues for outreach and review preliminary reports. Key agencies, both state and regional, will be represented in this workgroup. Dr. von Meyer requested that the agencies represented on the Council send her the name of a key contact person in their agency. This contact person needs to be in management and not technical support. This is to establish a subworking group to have teleconferences with.

Steve Champlin presented the 2009 Annual Report to the Council. Rick Ericksen made a motion to approve the Council's 2009 Annual Report, and Vice Chairman Litchliter seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Vice Chairman Litchliter suggested sending copies to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the Speaker of the House. He further suggested that the Report should be placed on the Council's website and a letter containing the website address should be sent to others.

Chairwoman Fisher reminded everyone that the next meeting date is April 6, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

Jim Steil introduced our new USGS liaison, George Heleine.

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