

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

**April 6, 2010**

**PRESENT**

David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services  
John Michael Simpson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation  
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  
Matthew Dodd (for George Lewis), Mississippi Municipal League  
Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors  
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association  
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District  
Colin Baird, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors  
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

**ABSENT**

Trudy Fisher, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
Mike Womack, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State  
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland  
Michael Caples, Mississippi Association of Supervisors  
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate

Vice-Chairman David Litchliter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. Mr. Litchliter asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for January 5, 2010. The motion was made by Chuck Carr and seconded by Rick Ericksen. The motion was approved.

Cragin Knox of MGI gave a PowerPoint presentation on the MDEM layer development activities. The digital orthophotography layer is now complete for the entire state. The elevation model and contours have been completed for most of the state with the exception of the seventeen counties in the southwest corner of the state. These counties are Wilkinson, Amite, Pike, Walthall, Marion, Lamar, Forrest, Adams, Franklin, Lincoln, Lawrence, Jefferson Davis, Covington, Jefferson, Claiborne, Copiah, and Simpson. They are on schedule to be developed this year. To date, nothing has been done by the Council on the Geodetic Control layer. This year MGI will be collecting sixty ground control points (GCP's) in the counties listed above. The GCP's will be reasonably permanent, stable, repeatable, and in publicly accessible locations. For the hydrographic layer, MGI will be developing higher resolutions. They now have 1:24,000 scale data sets. The new

scale will be 1:4,800 or better. For the transportation layer, work is continuing on road center line data. Talbot Brooks offered data for the transportation layer in the Delta. Jim Steil asked to get together with someone on the hydrography data to discuss NHD guidelines.

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. Since the last Council meeting, ten countywide final officials' meetings and "flood hazard open house" meetings have been held. Six countywide preliminary DFIRMs have been delivered. FEMA Region 4 has approved the seven county scoping reports and project budgets for the FY09 Risk Map program. Staff are continuing to deal with levee certification issues involving many different counties. Up-coming activities include delivering at least one countywide preliminary DFIRM, holding four countywide officials and open house meetings, begin remapping areas involved in levee non-certification situations, completing six countywide DFIRM projects, and completing a significant part of the engineering and begin mapping on the twenty FY08 countywide projects.

Craig Orgeron of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (MDITS) introduced Debra Brown, who is replacing Deb Breazeale as the GIS point person for MDITS. MDITS has contracted with The Geospatial Group to help them with their Clearinghouse upgrades, designs and implementation. Gary Hennington of The Geospatial Group presented the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development and update report. The money that MDITS received through the NOAA grant has been used to purchase additional storage and software and to design a new Clearinghouse. MDITS plans to purchase a server and more software and to implement the Clearinghouse upgrade. As part of the Clearinghouse evaluation, they received feedback from the MDITS staff, other state agencies, and the private sector. They found out that those interviewed wanted to be able to view and download data quickly and easily. They wanted GIS services like a Google Map, and they wanted to be able to search through the Clearinghouse. Upgrade goals were: simplify design, process oriented, MDEM focus, and upgradability. Upgrade benefits will be reducing storage needs and operating cost and providing rapid deployment. The Secretary of State's Office has a big project, in conjunction with MDITS, involving the State Lands Management System. This pertains to pipelines, agency held lands, and leasing 16th Section lands.

Scott Samson, Geosystems Research Institute (GRI) at Mississippi State University, talked about the education and outreach efforts. FY2010 funding will be through the NOAA/MDEM grant. There is a continued demand for workshops. ESRI put a freeze on all new authorizations because they have a major release coming up, possibly in June or July. ESRI will be requiring more certifications for trainers. Dr. Samson is on a federal list that has access to Homeland Security Information Protection. He may be doing emergency management type workshops. There will be a two-day "open source" GIS workshop this summer. They are in the process of setting up a grant for the community college faculty who are beginning to take GIS into the classroom. Robert Jackson with the Harrison County Tax Assessor's Office in Gulfport was so impressed with some of the courses he took that he made a presentation at the National 14th Annual GIS/CAMA Technologies Conference entitled "The Impact of State-Sponsored Extension Training for Local Government." They are working with ESRI on a software grant program for local governments. There are fourteen projects going on which are due in October. A NOAA digital coast meeting will be held in Jackson on April 13 and 14. The Digital Coast is part of the NOAA/MDEM project.

The strategic/business plan update was presented by Dr. Nancy von Meyer of Fairview Industries. Dr. von Meyer introduced Pierre le Roux, a new member of her team which also includes David Stage. Pierre le Roux works with Aero-Metric and is a registered land surveyor and engineer from Huntsville, Alabama. She has been working with Dr. David Shaw, Joel Yelverton, and Scott Samson. This project has been divided into eight tasks. Task 1, which was establishing a project workgroup, and Task 2, which was a preliminary assessment to set the baseline, have both been completed. Task 3 establishes a return on investment by defining the benefits. Task 4 involves gathering information through outreach and acquiring input. This is being done through directed interviews, targeted canvassing, and broad outreach. Task 5 is drafting a business plan. Task 6 is planning for sustainable funding for supporting the programs. Task 7 is creating the documentation for updating the strategic plan. Task 8 is data inventory through the FGDC CAP grant.

Vice-Chairman Litchliter reminded everyone that the next meeting date is July 6, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

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