

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

January 6, 2009

PRESENT

Trudy Fisher, 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
Kent Buckley (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jack Moody (for Gray Swoope), Mississippi Development Authority
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS
Matthew Dodd (for George Lewis), Mississippi Municipal League
Joel Yelverton, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Colin Baird, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Warren McKinnon (for J. Ed Morgan), Mississippi State Tax Commission
David Shaw, Mississippi State University, Policy Advisory Committee Chair
Talbot Brooks, Delta State University, Technical Users Group Chair

ABSENT

Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Charlie W. Morgan, Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
George Phillips, Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Chairwoman Trudy Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. She asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for October 7, 2008. Jim Steil proposed two revisions. The motion was tabled for further consideration until the next meeting on April 7.

The Gulf Region Base Mapping Report was given by Bill McDonald of MGI. The report discussed four MDEM data development elements: orthoimagery, transportation, topographic base mapping data, and ownership data enhancement. Orthoimagery was the first undertaken and completed in its entirety during 2007. This data was being used immediately by local engineers and governments, primarily by the private sector engineers who were, at that time and still are now, working on implementation of the Gulf Region Water and Waste Water Program.

Steve Champlin, Project Manager for the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI), gave an update on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) program.

Deb Breazeale, of MDITS, gave an overview of the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development. The Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse (MGC) application goals include leveraging the Clearinghouse with hardware, software, and data; building relationships among state agencies, other states, and vendors; and offering effective solutions through cooperation and cost sharing.

Gary Hennington of the Geospatial Group gave examples of applications. Information sources, strengths, and interoperability were discussed. Base maps from service providers such as Google, Microsoft, and custom providers could be used. Information from various agencies could be added to this base map through MDITS.

Mr. Hennington introduced a new program from Project Homeland entitled Mississippi Analytical Geospatial Information Connection (M.A.G.I.C.). It is running now at the Fusion Center for Homeland Security. Partners in this program are DPS/OHS/Fusion Center, MEMA, MDITS, The Geospatial Group, ESRI, and the State of Virginia. Potential partners are DOC, MBI/FBI, MDOH, State of Arkansas, and local responders. The vision is to use one common viewer which could be used by multiple agencies.

Dr. David Shaw of Mississippi State University (MSU) announced the NOAA Digital Coast Initiative. Part of the funding MSU receives from NOAA comes through the Coastal Services Center (CSC). Digital Coast is a partnership of several entities. The partners are the National Association of Counties (NACO), the Coastal States Organization (CSO), the National Association of State Floodplain Managers (NASFM), the Nature Conservancy, and NSGIC. MSU sponsored a two-day workshop for the five partners held last month in Biloxi. Further information may be obtained on their website at csc.noaa.gov.

Dr. Shaw reported on the education and outreach efforts. He said Dr. Scott Samson is continuing to work with city and county governments in GIS training. There are sixty counties that have had some level of training. This new round of grant funding will allow some counties to begin initial training and others to begin tier two level training.

Cragin Knox handed out copies of the draft 2008 Annual Status Report for this Council. Mr. Knox thanked everyone for their contributions to the report. Two additional maps will be added to the report; one shows the educational outreach counties and the other one shows the county status on the DFIRM mapping. Chairwoman Fisher asked for a motion to approve the 2008 Annual Status Report. Joel Yelverton made the motion to approve the 2008 Annual Status Report, and Chuck Carr seconded the motion. It was approved.

Chairwoman Fisher reminded everyone that the next meeting date is Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

Jim Steil introduced a visitor, Craig Skalet, the USGS Director of Emergency Operations. He also announced that John Breckenridge is the new USGS Geospatial Spatial Liaison for Alabama and Mississippi. Mr. Steil suggested that the Council adopt the National Grid Standard. Talbot Brooks supported Mr. Steil in the motion. Chairwoman Fisher stated that she was not prepared to vote on it today because it had not been researched by various staff members. Chairwoman Fisher asked

everyone to look into this further and that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

Jim Steil mentioned that IHL had applied for an FGDC cap grant to help with the strategic plan to support the business plan under development. Mr. Knox stated that he has \$50,000 put aside out of this year's subgrant through Mississippi State to develop that strategic plan. Chairwoman Fisher asked Dr. Shaw and Mr. Steil to get together to coordinate the efforts. She asked that a report be given on this at the next meeting.

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