

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

October 5, 2010

PRESENT

Craig Orgeron (for David Litchlitter, Vice Chair), Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
John Michael Simpson (for Larry L. “Butch” Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Mark Sanders (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jack Moody (for Gray Swoope), Mississippi Development Authority
James 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
Michael Caples, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District

ABSENT

Trudy Fisher, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Richard Tolbert, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

John Michael Simpson, Acting Chairman in place of Trudy Fisher, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. Chuck Carr made the motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for April 6, 2010, and July 6, 2010. Craig Orgeron seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Craig Knox of MGI gave a PowerPoint presentation on the MDEM layer development activities. Work is continuing on ortho-identifiable points in southwest Mississippi. New hydrography is being done at 1:4,800 in the upper Big Black, the upper Pearl, and the Coldwater basins. The existing hydrography is at 1:24,000. DEQ’s Dam Safety information has been integrated into the data set. Road centerline data at 1:4,800 has been received for thirteen counties in the Delta. When the topography data for seventeen counties in southwest Mississippi is completed, the entire state will be done in either 2-foot or 5-foot contours.

Steve Champlin, Project Manager for the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI), gave an update on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project. The Vicksburg USACE has finished collecting LIDAR in the Delta, and the data should be arriving soon. Additional data from the uplands is expected in December. FEMA funding and spending were discussed. The funding to date is \$23,978,165. Spending to date is \$17,198,230. Since the last Council meeting, eight countywide final officials' meetings and "flood hazard open house" meetings have been held. Seventeen countywide preliminary DFIRMs and FIS have been delivered. We are continuing to deal with levee certification issues involving many different counties. Pearl River levees in Hinds and Rankin Counties have been certified. Levees on the Tenn-Tom in Monroe and Itawamba Counties are not certified. Nor is the levee on the Coldwater River in Tunica County certified. Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL) agreements are being sent to the Mississippi Delta counties. Up-coming activities include having six countywide DFIRM projects go effective for NFIP insurance purposes (bringing the total to 48), holding eleven countywide officials and open house meetings, continuing remapping areas involved in levee non-certification situations in Tunica County, continuing work on FY09 county projects which includes the Rankin County countywide DFIRM update project, and attending the annual FEMA Region 4 Partner Conference in Atlanta in October.

Mr. Champlin is working on the Council's annual report, and he will be contacting everyone who contributed last year to update the information.

Debra Brown of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) gave an update on the Portal/Clearinghouse development. They are making great progress with the upgrade. It is now in the testing phase and should be released soon. Gary Hennington of The Geospatial Group presented the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse update report. The development team is composed of eight people including ITS staff. Several slides of screen shots from the updated website were shown. They are focusing on keeping the design clean and simple. There will be "green sticky notes" for emergency topics such as the recent oil spill. You will be able to look at all data or just MDEM. Data sets will be set up according to themes such as "environmental." There will be an index screen with icons for the themes. The viewer uses Splash technology. MDEM map products will be available. There will be an address locator and links to other places. Historic Mississippi maps can be found on this site.

Joel Yelverton, Chairman of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), gave a brief history of the Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems from its beginnings to the present, leading up to the need for a Geospatial Strategic Business Plan. Fairview Industries, represented by Nancy von Meyer and David Stage, was chosen to develop this plan. The PAC has been providing guidance. Dr. von Meyer presented a draft review of the Geospatial Strategic Business Plan. GIS is being actively used in Mississippi and the private sector is engaged and involved. However, funding is a huge challenge due to the current economy.

GIS strengths, challenges, and opportunities were discussed. Included in the report were NSGIC's nine criteria for a successful statewide GIS program. Recommendations and implementation plans were presented to the Council, along with expected costs for implementation. A list of potential funding possibilities was presented. Additional public comment will be gathered by the consultants during October, and a Final Report will be submitted by November 30, 2010. Acting Chairman Simpson thanked Dr. Von Meyer for the presentation and said the Final Report will be taken under advisement by the Council when received.

The Council will meet on the following future dates in 2011: January 11, April 5, July 12, and October 4.

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