

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

November 8, 2007

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
Dave Benway (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Clay Lewis (for Gray Swoope), Mississippi Development Authority
Charlie W. Morgan, Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory
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
Jeff Lewis (for Colin Baird), Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Warren McKinnon (for Joe Blount), Mississippi State Tax Commission
Talbot Brooks, Delta State University, Technical Users Group Chair

ABSENT

Gerald McWhorter (for Eric Clark), Secretary of State
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, Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
George Phillips, Mississippi Department of Public Safety
David Shaw, Mississippi State University, Policy Advisory Committee Chair

Chairwoman Trudy Fisher called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed those present. She asked for a motion to approve the Council meeting minutes for July 24, 2007. The motion was made by Chuck Carr and seconded by Rick Ericksen to approve these minutes. The minutes were approved.

Chairwoman Fisher announced the retirement of Cragin Knox following 26 years of service and thanked him for his work with the Council. Mr. Knox also served as the Council's representative to the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). Dr. Scott Samson, of the GeoResources Institute at Mississippi State University, was asked to serve in this capacity. Chairwoman Fisher also recognized and thanked Andy Taggart and Barbara Collier, who are now retired from the Council, for their years of Council work.

A report on the status of the statewide orthoimagery project was given by Bill McDonald of Mississippi Geographic Information (MGI). Mr. McDonald introduced his partners, Scott Edelman, president of Watershed Concepts, and Ki Hong Pak, also of Watershed Concepts. All of the orthoimagery has been delivered statewide for the two-foot orthoimagery project.

The Gulf Region Base Mapping Report was given by Bill McDonald. The one-foot and six-inch orthoimagery was completed and delivered two months ahead of schedule. This MDEQ project was done in conjunction with the Governor's Office as a part of the post-Katrina, HUD-funded \$650 million water/wastewater infrastructure project in Stone, Pearl River, Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties. Dr. Scott Samson of Mississippi State University and his staff have been training the counties' staffs on how to use this data.

Steve Champlin, Project Manager for the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI), gave a PowerPoint presentation for the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) mapping project report. It showed a detailed comparison between the old paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps and the new DFIRMs. FEMA's funding history for the program was also discussed. These flood maps are available on the MFMMI website <http://geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps> or DEQ website <http://deq.state.ms.us>.

Cheryl Crawford, ITS GIS Project Manager, gave a status report on the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development. The portal has been available since August, 2007. ITS is currently loading the new two-foot, statewide orthoimagery on the Portal/Clearinghouse.

John Michael Simpson, Council representative from MDOT, and Joel Yelverton, Council representative from MAS, led a discussion on plans to acquire parcel data from the counties for use on the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse.

Ms. Crawford announced that the channel building contract was awarded to The Geospatial Group (formerly IMS). There will be one channel for each of the seven MDEM layers, as well as various channels for agency-specific data. Ms. Crawford briefed the Council on the Mississippi Project Homeland Pilot. The purpose of the Project Homeland Mississippi Pilot project is to provide state users (State Operations Center, Critical Infrastructure Protection Office, Fusion Center, and others) with the ability to view state data and information products via a customized user interface.

Chairwoman Fisher stated the MDEQ budget request had included money to support the delivery system funding.

Dr. Scott Samson of the GeoResources Institute at Mississippi State University delivered the report on education and outreach efforts. They had 180 participants in their workshops. The Mississippi State Tax Commission played a big part in these workshops. ESRI has recognized that this training has increased interest in GIS in Mississippi. A schedule of the workshops for November and December was distributed.

Talbot Brooks of Delta State University, the Technical Users Group (TUG) Chairman, gave the TUG-related activities. Chairwoman Fisher and Vice Chairman Litchlitter led a discussion on current MDEM standards.

Joel Yelverton briefed the Council on GIS-related topics that were discussed at the National Association of Counties meeting.

Chairwoman Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.