

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

May 24, 2011

PRESENT

Keith Harkins (for Trudy Fisher, Chair), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Craig Orgeron (for David Litchlitter, Vice Chair), Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Mike Cresap (for Melinda McGrath), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Mark Sanders (for Mike Womack), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Jack Moody (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
Van Crump (for Charlie W. Morgan), Mississippi Forestry Commission
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS
Quincy Mukoro (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
Richard Tolbert, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

ABSENT

Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

Keith Harkins, Acting Chairman in place of Trudy Fisher, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. The motion was made and seconded to approve the Council meeting minutes for January 11, 2011. The motion was approved.

Keith Harkins gave a presentation on the Strategic Plan Report. A group of several Council members including Michael Caples, Craig Orgeron, Ray Barksdale, and Jeff Mullins have been working on this for several weeks with their focus being on coordination. A summary of the Fairview Industries Strategic Plan Report was read with funding being a key issue. Next a summary of the Coordination Implementation Plan was presented. The recommendation of Fairview Industries was to combine our current coordination with a full time GIS Coordinator. It was suggested that perhaps we could outsource the coordinator until funds were available for a full-time coordinator. DEQ suggested Joel Yelverton serve this function and he agreed. Following a lengthy discussion detailing the differences between a GIS Coordinator and a Council Coordinator, Quincy Mukoro made a motion that Joel Yelverton be hired as Council Coordinator

and that a committee be established to decide on his duties after Joel begins. The motion was seconded by Steve Gray (MAS) and the motion passed with no nays. MEMA and MDOT declined to vote.

Cragin Knox of MGI gave a PowerPoint presentation on the MDEM layer development activities. The focus was on the statewide road centerline project. Road centerline data at 1:4,800 have been received for thirteen counties in the Delta. MDOT and the counties are now putting these data through the QA/QC stage. They plan to follow the same procedure this year for the central and eastern counties. A meeting is held each month with MDOT to discuss each county. The data will be put on the Clearinghouse.

Steve Champlin, Project Manager for the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI), gave an update on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) project. DFIRM maps are effective in 48 counties with 18 counties in the review stage and 16 counties in the compliance stage for a total of 82 counties. Preliminary map deliveries are expected in the fall of 2011.

In FY 2009 the DFIRM program transitioned into the Risk MAP Program for FY 2010-2014. The Coordinated Needs Management Strategy (CNMS) statewide database work for determining current and possible future unmet mapping needs was begun. Projects for FY2010 RiskMAP program include the Pearl River above the Strong River in Hinds and Madison Counties, the Jordan River in Harrison and Hancock Counties, the lower Pearl River in Pearl River and Marion Counties, levee mapping and unmet needs in Jones and Forrest Counties, and lidar for the future Tenn-Tom Waterway Restudy Project. MEMA's Automated Geographical Network Information System (AGNIS) web map viewer, produced by Jackson State University and Radiance Technologies, was recently launched. It is designed to help local government flood plain managers.

Gary Hennington of The Geospatial Group presented information on GIS initiatives by other state agencies. The focus was on the GIS Task Force Flood Response Team which worked many long and hard hours helping with the recent record breaking Mississippi River flood. This involved 27 federal, state, and local governments and a couple of private industries. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History has a historical resources inventory database with 47,000 properties which is on the web now. It has lots of data plus maps.

Scott Samson, Geosystems Research Institute (GRI) at Mississippi State University, talked about education and outreach efforts. Foundation courses for ArcGIS 10 will be offered this summer. A Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse mini-course and other mini-courses are being developed. NSGIC submitted his name to Homeland Security to give him access to some information in the Homeland Security Information Program (HSIP) for a HSIP Freedom course. He is the Mississippi contact for the International Charter which is a consortium of commercial and governmental satellite data providers. Charter activation allows impacted areas to receive satellite imagery at no cost in case of a disaster.

Debra Brown of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) gave an update on the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development. She has received a lot of feedback on the recent changes in the Clearinghouse, but she would like feedback from all of the members. Gary Hennington of The Geospatial Group showed pages on the Clearinghouse and demonstrated the

changes. Mrs. Brown said they are talking to the Bureau of Buildings about mapping all their properties.

Jim Steil announced that MARIS presented GIS sessions at the 12th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference held in Biloxi May 10-12 as requested by Representative Scott DeLano. 18 presentations from six states and Canada were represented despite cancellations due to the regional flooding. Representative Delano worked closely with the Department of Marine Resources to make the GIS sessions possible. DMR has requested that the GIS sessions become a regular part of the annual conference.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on July 12, 2011.

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