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

July 12, 2011

PRESENT

Keith Harkins (for Trudy Fisher, Chair), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Craig Orgeron, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Ray Barksdale (for Melinda McGrath), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Jack Moody (for Leland Speed), Mississippi Development Authority
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
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

Mike Womack, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

Craig Orgeron, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. Vice Chairman Orgeron asked Jim Steil to lead the discussion of the changes he had asked to be made in the draft minutes for the Council meeting on May 24, 2011. Following the discussion, the motion was made by Jeff Mullins and seconded by Michael Caples to approve the Council meeting minutes for May 24, 2011, as amended. The motion was approved.

The Strategic Plan Report was presented by Keith Harkins who handed out a list of MCCRSGIS Coordinator duties. Jim Steil suggested additional Coordinator duties. Mr. Harkins asked the other Council members to send in their ideas for consideration. Joel Yelverton will work with the Council to refine the list of duties. There are eight data themes, and Fairview Industries gave us guidelines on implementation. Mr. Steil will work on developing each data theme. The cadastral layer is reserved to counties, so Mr. Yelverton will work with the Mississippi Association of Supervisors to develop this layer.

Joel Yelverton presented the Council Coordinator's Report. Since the last meeting, he attended a meeting on the Gulf Coast in the Harrison County Courthouse. Attending were representatives from six counties, DMR, MDOT, and George Heleine from USGS. They discussed a coordinated GIS project to collect data at a cost savings to taxpayers. The representative for MDOT, a state funding partner, stated that they also need orthoimagery and offered $10,000 per county. Mickey Schmit of the NOAA Coastal Services Center said federal contractors had estimated the cost at $550,000. Other vendors have offered lower costs. A second, smaller meeting was held in Hancock County to discuss estimates on the cost. Representatives from the three Coastal counties and Pearl River County were there. Afterwards, Stone and George Counties decided to stay in the group if the costs were lower. The State Auditor informed them that this requires an inter-local agreement. The draft is under review. Next week at the Mississippi Assessors and Collectors meeting, the six counties assessors and GIS people will meet to work on the specifications. They will work with MDOT on this. They hope to go to bid in August.

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 22 counties in the central and eastern part of the state. MDOT, MDEQ, and the counties are now putting these data through the QA/QC stage.

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 54 counties with 18 counties in the review stage and 10 counties in the compliance stage for a total of 82 counties. FY 2009 funded preliminary map deliveries are expected to begin in the fall/winter of 2011. Counties involved in the FY 2009 transition to RiskMAP are Desoto, Tate, Lee, Lauderdale, George, Rankin, and Tunica.

Debra Brown of MDITS announced that Heath Prejean, who left MDITS and is now working for UMC, has been replaced by Brian Mason. Gary Hennington of The Geospatial Group gave an update on the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development. The Clearinghouse is live, and they have received good feedback on the recent changes in the Clearinghouse. Some adjustments have been made. Twitter capabilities were demonstrated. Ms. Brown said Google analytics are running now, and a lot of people are using this site including visitors from eight other countries. Some are using the viewer but most download the data. The Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse web address is www.gis.ms.gov.

Vicki Helfrich of MDITS presented the Broadband Mapping for Mississippi Address Improvement Plan. This state broadband initiative is based in the Office of the Governor with funding through a grant to support mapping and planning activities. This is a 5-year program which ends December, 2014, and is available for government work only.

The next meetings of the Council will be held on September 13 and November 8, 2011, with the locations to be determined.

Representative Scott DeLano requested suggestions on necessary legislation for the Council with recommendations to come from the Council. He plans to send a list of bills to Council members in December.

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