

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

July 15, 2009

PRESENT

Trudy Fisher, Chair, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
David Litchliter, Vice Chair, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
John Michael Simpson (for Larry L. "Butch" Brown), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Mike Womack, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Charlie W. Morgan, Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory
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
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District
Colin Baird, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Dannie Reed, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives

ABSENT

Jack Moody (for Gray Swoope), Mississippi Development Authority
Gerald McWhorter (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Tommy Moffatt, Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association

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, and January 6, 2009. The motion was made by Chuck Carr and seconded by Jim Steil. The motion was approved.

The MDEM layer development activities were discussed. Bill McDonald of MGI gave a report on the Gulf Region Base Mapping Program. The planimetric features for the five counties involved in this program have been collected and delivered. Dr. Nancy von Meyer of Fairview Industries in Pendleton, South Carolina, presented the Gulf Region ownership data development portion. Points discussed were: Public Land Survey System (PLSS) enhancement, parcel publication, parcel improvement, building footprints, jurisdictional boundaries, and coordination of intergovernmental data sharing through the Clearinghouse. Bill McDonald presented the statewide topographic data development portion. This was part of the FY08 NOAA grant. It involves the digital terrain model (DTM) which is the digital 3D model of the earth's surface. The end product is the 5' interval contour layer. A map of Mississippi was shown with priority areas of the state highlighted, which

covers approximately 35,000 square miles. The final development activity building off of the Gulf Region planimetric data is the attribution of the transportation network adding road names and address ranges. The pilot of this has been delivered and is in review. A centroid will be provided.

David Mooneyhan of the Gulf Coast Geospatial Center (GCGC), USM, spoke about NOAA's Height Modernization Program. Height modernization is basically high accuracy GPS from continuously operating reference stations (CORS), spaced around 40 kilometers apart throughout an area. NOAA funded GCGC in 2004 the first time. GCGC was designated by NOAA in 2008 as the Mississippi Spatial Reference Center (MSRC). There are six or seven other ones in the country. Educating the public about the elevation of the land is an important part of their work. This will eventually replace the benchmark system. His email address is David.Mooneyhan@gcgcusm.org.

Steve Champlin, Project Manager for the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative (MFMMI), gave an update on the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) program which started in 2003. Preliminary maps have been delivered to 31 counties. Forty-two counties are in the engineering stage and seven in the production stage. MapMod was the funding program for the first six years. MFMMI has just started a new program in FY 09 called Risk Map. The next subject was the lidar project that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is doing in the Delta portion of Mississippi. The Corps of Engineers began flying in January, 2009, and collected about 75% of the data. The remaining Yazoo River basin will be flown this winter. This will cover about 14,600 square miles. They will develop one-foot contours for the entire area.

Craig Orgeron of the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services gave an overview of the GIS Portal/Clearinghouse development. The focus of the PowerPoint presentation was the cadastral layer showing property ownership, inventory of property ownership, PLSS Section, PLSS Township, and state boundary. Total registered users to date for the Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse (MGC) is 953. GIS applications being developed for MDITS clients and their status are: MAGNet, complete; MEMA, planning phase; SOS, requirements phase; MDA/Tourism, proposal phase; MapITS, 95% complete; MDAH, 60% complete; and MDAH (Archeology), planning phase.

Michael Bograd presented the MDEQ Office of Geology staff recommendation to the Council regarding the U.S. National Grid. The statement was "The Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems recognizes that the U.S. National Grid (USNG) is a preferred grid reference system for printed maps used for homeland security, emergency management, and first response purposes. Therefore, it is recommended that the USNG be made available for public use and distribution by the Mississippi Geospatial Clearinghouse as a sub-layer for the base map collection of geospatial data. It is further recommended that when the USNG is used on printed maps for the above stated purposes, the publisher should follow FGDC standards for displaying the USNG." Mike Womack made the motion that the Council accept the recommendation. Jim Steil seconded the motion, and the Council approved the recommendation.

Chuck Carr presented a resolution recognizing the coordination between the Council and the Mississippi Planning and Development Districts. A couple of wording changes were suggested. Mike Womack made the motion that we adopt the resolution with the suggested changes. Warren

McKinnon seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The signed resolution as approved is attached to these minutes.

David Shaw of Mississippi State University (MSU) reported on the education and outreach efforts. Mississippi State University's Geosystems Research Institute (MSU/GRI), in cooperation with the Council, recently announced that it is accepting proposals from agencies in Mississippi's local governments for the development of a community project utilizing GIS. Proposals will be accepted through July 31, 2009. Accepted proposals will be announced by August 31, 2009. Grant recipients will receive a one-year license for ESRI's ArcGIS Desktop GIS software to implement a community project that demonstrates the application of GIS. Dr. Scott Samson and his team have conducted 124 workshops with 1535 participants representing 56 counties. They are offering eleven different courses. They are providing, free of charge, a large flatbed scanner so that any of the municipal and county governments that want to scan hard copies for electronic presentation may do so. Dr. Samson is working on creating some copyright-free tutorials that use open-source GIS software.

Dr. Shaw then gave an update on the strategic/business plan. We recognize that we need a business plan for sustainability. Out of the funding that came from NOAA the past two years, we have set aside \$100,000. We are going to bring people in who do this for a living and have a national scope to help us develop this business plan. We have a request for proposals which should go out within the next few days. We will be asking consulting businesses to provide us with a proposal for services.

Bill Cook of Geosystems Research Institute gave a PowerPoint presentation on GIS disaster response. It focused on research and applications regarding transferring technology developed from Katrina debris information to state agencies. They make models designed to pinpoint what damage occurred and where it is. The elevation layer is the most important thing. The most difficult thing that they have in the research environment is making the models operational.

Jim Steil announced that one-meter resolution NAIP is being flown again this year.

Vice-Chairman Litchliter reminded everyone that the next meeting date is Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

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