

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

**June 27, 2016**

**PRESENT**

Lee Smithson, Chairman, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
Dr. Craig Orgeron, Vice-Chairman, Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services  
Michael Bograd, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality  
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS  
Lisa Chism, Department of Revenue  
Kelly McMullan (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State  
Dr. Brian Mitchell (for Charlie W. Morgan), Mississippi Forestry Commission  
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District  
Richard Tolbert, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors

**ABSENT**

Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors  
Un-named Senator, Mississippi State Senate  
Shari T. Veazey, Mississippi Municipal League  
Scott Delano, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives  
Derrick Surette, Mississippi Association of Supervisors  
John Helms (for Brent Christensen), Mississippi Development Authority  
Rick Ericksen, Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists  
Matthew Dodd (for Gene McGee), Mayor, City of Ridgeland  
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association  
Michael Cresap (for Melinda McGrath), Mississippi Department of Transportation

Chairman Lee Smithson called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Chairman Smithson advised that there wasn't a quorum of Council Members present so the approval of minutes and any other items requiring a vote would have to take place at a future meeting. Chairman Smithson spoke to the importance of collaborative GIS in the state and hoped that this would continue to be the focus of this group. He introduced Joel Yelverton to give the Council Coordinator's Report.

**Council Coordinator's Report** - Joel Yelverton advised that 19 counties have agreed to coordinate their digital ortho procurement. The main area in this coordinated endeavor will be Piney Woods. The counties expressing interest in this 2017 flight are Alcorn, Benton, Clarke, Greene, Hancock, Issaquena, Jasper, Jones, Kemper, Newton, Pearl River, Perry, Prentiss, Scott, Smith, Stone, Warren, Washington and Wayne. Mr. Yelverton advised that he expects 18 of these 19 counties to fly. Currently these counties are working with their specific Boards of Supervisors to approve the Interlocal Agreements. These Interlocal Agreements state that these counties are

working together to procure a service. After the Interlocal Agreements are approved by the counties they will then go to the MS Attorney General's Office for final approval. Once approved by MS AG, a Request for Procurement (RFP) will be advertised. It is hoped that the RFP can be ready to go out by the last week of July or first week of August. Once a vendor is awarded, they will sign individual contracts with each of the counties. Flights will begin in the Fall of 2016. When the current project is complete, 74 of 82 counties will have taken advantage of the cost savings measures of the County Orthoimagery Project. Hancock, Pearl River and Stone counties flew five years ago and are now flying again based on the cost savings that they realize by the Interlocal Agreement.

**GIS Portal/Clearinghouse Update** - Billy Rials with MS ITS provided an update on the activities of the Clearinghouse 2.0. Mr. Rials reported that by pointing customers to MARIS for detail data downloads ITS has realized a 2.5 TB reduction in data storage. Going forward ITS is looking to update the map viewer portion of the Clearinghouse. A more mobile friendly map viewer is the goal. It is hoped that this will allow users to better utilize these map viewer services via Android, Apple and other mobile devices. Mr. Rials also advised that the server that currently houses the MCCRSGIS website is scheduled to be decommissioned. The MCCRSGIS website will be migrated to an ITS business partners, MS Interactive (MSI), platform, sometime towards the end of the year.

**DFIRM and MDEM** - Stephen Champlin with MDEQ updated the Council on Flood Mapping and MDEM activities. Mr. Champlin advised that five counties have been on hold in the Map Mod Project. They are Bolivar, Carroll, Panola, Quitman and Tallahatchie. They were on hold due to Levee Certification issues. These counties are now in compliance and are expected to be finalized during the first quarter of next year. Itawamba and Monroe were also on hold due to Levee Certification issues but are now moving forward with engineering and mapping.

There are currently 10 Active HUC 8 (Hydrologic Unit Code) FEMA Risk MAP MS Projects. The main difference between HUC 8 and Map Mod is that Map Mod is county based and HUC 8 areas are created by river basins. Two activities will be taking place between now and the next MCCRSGIS meeting. The Lower Pearl HUC 8 basin is partially contained within Marion, Lamar and Walthall Counties. There will be an Open House in Columbia where the public can view map products and ask questions on July 20, 2016. The Upper Tombigbee HUC 8 basin is partially contained within Monroe and Itawamba Counties. There will be a Flood Risk Review the week of August 8-12, 2016. Mr. Champlin also spoke to the importance of data sharing. He provided a graphic that depicted the flood polygons for Biloxi, MS. He was then able to use damage assessment data he received from MEMA to demonstrate that recent flooding in Biloxi impacted areas that were not in established flood polygons for Biloxi. He reiterated the importance of this data, and its use for determining areas that might need to be examined when new flood studies for these areas take place.

Current MDEM activities involve the Coastal LiDAR that was flown two years ago on the MS Gulf Coast. This LiDAR data is being distributed now. The 3DEP LiDAR for South MS should become available at any time. Mr. Champlin reiterated that the Coastal LiDAR is in big demand currently and makes up most of the LiDAR data currently being distributed. He also advised that virtually all of the LiDAR data is now available via MARIS's website. Another area of MDEM that is seeing activity involves the NHD (National Hydrography Dataset). The two areas being worked are the Northern end of the Upper Leaf and the Lower Leaf river basins. These areas have

been submitted and are now part of the NHD. The Chunky, Upper Chickasawhay and Sucarnoochie basins are under review and should be submitted back to the contractors in a couple of weeks for submittal to the NHD. The next areas to be worked will be HUC 8 basins along the MS Gulf Coast. This work had been pending on the Coastal LiDAR data to be made available.

A new product is being developed that will aid in the inventory of MDEM data. One of the elements will identify the orthoimagery data that has been collected in the state. Some of the information provided will identify scale, resolution and or location of the area/county collected. The date of imagery capture and funding sources will also be identified. This product will also provide information pertaining to each of the following datasets: Contours, LiDAR, LiDAR DEMs, Contours (LiDAR), Road Centerlines, Bridges, Edge of Pavement (Coastal MS), National Hydrography, Hydro Breaklines, Cadastral, Governmental Boundaries and Geodetic Ground Control.

**Education and Outreach** – Dr. Joby Czarnecki with Mississippi State University’s (MSU) Geosystems Research Institute (GRI) provided an update on geospatial education and outreach. She discussed the GIS classes that are currently offered through MSUs GRI and how savings are realized by teaching these classes to local and state employees. Dr. Czarnecki spoke about GeoDawg, a map viewer that Dr. Samson was instrumental in developing. It’s a simple GIS product that allows basic GIS functions to be accomplished by GIS novices.

**NSGIC** – Jim Steil with MARIS gave an update on the activities of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). NSGIC is approaching its 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and as such has hired a fulltime Executive Director. Her name is Molly Schar and she has experience with federal agencies and non-profit companies. The 2016 NSGIC Conference will be in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 24-28. NSGIC is currently working actively with the National Emergency Numbering Association (NENA) on ways to tackle NG911 and has begun having conversations with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC will start requiring telecom companies to better track the locations of cell phones. The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) has decided that addresses will become one of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) framework layers. The US Department of Transportation (DOT) and US Census Bureau will maintain joint stewardship of these layers at the federal level. Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Database (HIFLD) had a parcel summit recently and they are trying to decide if they want to maintain data that is commercially obtained or integrate local data as well. The commercial interests are supportive of this local integration. The FEMA Technical Mapping Advisory Committee (TMAC) has decided that flood mapping is a technically creditable program.

**Additional Business** – Chairman Smithson provided an update on his recent trip to DC to visit with members of the MS Congressional delegation. He advised that Congressman Palazzo was very enthusiastic with Map MS. He further stated that language had been drafted and will be placed in a transportation bill and presumably funded, hopefully for fiscal year 2017. Jim Steil reported that NAIP 60cm is being flown this year.

Chairman Smithson advised that the tentative date for the next Council meeting would be on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded.

**Meeting Adjourned**

