

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

**September 6, 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  
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 Surrette, 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  
Lisa Chism, Department of Revenue  
Kelly McMullan (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State

Chairman Lee Smithson called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. Chairman Smithson advised that for the second meeting in a row, a quorum of Council Members isn't present so the approval of minutes and any other items requiring a vote would take place at a future meeting. Chairman Smithson said that was ok, because he wanted to focus on fostering a truly open dialogue and having council meetings in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) would better encourage these types of conversations. He further stated that the current technology being used in the EOC would lend well to the level of technology being discussed at the council meetings. Chairman Smithson asked if anyone was opposed to the suspension of Robert's Rules of Order during the meetings unless issues pertaining to funding or voting were being discussed. There was no opposition. Chairman Smithson acknowledged again that there was no quorum but asked if anyone would like to discuss anything from the last meeting. There was none. He introduced Joel Yelverton to give the Council Coordinator's Report.

**Council Coordinator's Report** - Joel Yelverton began by reporting out on the 2015-2016 County Orthoimagery collection. He advised that the delivery was almost complete and that most of the counties had received their imagery or would be over the next couple of weeks. There were

19 counties involved in this process. The final process will involve the counties paying the vendor for the orthoimagery, memorandums of agreement between MDOT and counties, and then MDOT will reimburse each of the counties \$10,000.00 once proof of payment to the vendor has been verified. The 2016-2017 County Orthoimagery Project will primarily involve the Piney Woods area of the state. Additionally, there will be three river counties, Warren, Issaquena and Washington. In Northern Mississippi, Alcorn, Prentiss and Benton counties will take part in the project. Any counties in this group that haven't participated in the project before will be eligible for the MDOT \$10,000.00 reimbursement. Hancock, Pearl River and Stone counties will be flown during this time as well. They were flown in the 2012 project so they won't be eligible for the MDOT reimbursement but they will be able to realize great cost savings due to being flown with the other counties. The RFP has been completed and is out for final review by counties, MDOT and MDEQ. If there are no issues the RFP will be published on September 14, 2016. It will be open for two weeks and will then be reviewed and scored. The contract award will take place on October 24, 2016. Going forward, six counties have been identified that haven't taken advantage of any of the County Orthoimagery Projects. It is hoped that they might like to participate. The Metro area has also been mentioned as interested in future collections.

**Map MS Outreach Update** – Haley Feather with MS 811 reported on her recent visits to counties in Mississippi to gauge support for Map MS. She advised that statewide point addressing would greatly improve the ticketing process of detecting underground utility and pipelines. Tickets opened by those wanting to dig/excavate in an area could be resolved faster and safer. She began visiting the counties in the early summer of 2016. Her goal was to conduct outreach and update contact information for GIS personnel and E911 Coordinators in each county. She also discussed point addressing with them. In May of 2016, Haley was able to visit all of the counties in North MS in a week. In August, she was able to visit South MS. This resulted in contact being made with seventy-six of eighty-two of the counties. Visits to two of the remaining counties, Wilkinson and Amite, have been put on hold due to them dealing with flooding issues. Counties remaining to visit were Franklin, Humphreys, Sharkey and Issaquena. Haley added by and large the majority of seventy-six counties visited had some form of GIS being utilized. Forty-one counties have been identified as having some type of GIS, another eight are in the process. With regards to point addressing, 19 counties have completed it and 12 are in the process. Counties were generally positive, receptive and willing to participate in Map MS. Funding was a big re-occurring concern as well as keeping the effort in-house vs. the use of third parties. Time of effort due to E911 coordinators additional duties and responsibilities was also listed as a concern as well as the need for better technical and policy understanding of GIS capabilities. Concerns voiced by GIS personnel involved the need for creating a basic point addressing schema that met the needs of all parties involved. Another concern was creating justification for when re-addressing was absolutely necessary. Counties don't want to re-address, to do so would be as a last resort. Finally, GIS professionals want to see the trend by policy makers to sell data stopped. A closer working relationship between GIS professionals and E911 coordinators is needed. Just the education and awareness of what the job entails for each would go a long way in helping further this endeavor. Haley advised that NextGen 911 is the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) technology that will be GIS driven and will require E911 coordinators to actively embrace point addressing.

**DFIRM and MDEM** – Barbara Yassin with MDEQ updated the Council on Flood Mapping and MDEM activities. Barbara advised that with regards to Map Mod and Countywide DFIRM projects the counties of Bolivar, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie and Carroll have reached the compliance stage and will become effective in the first half of 2017. Itawamba and Monroe counties are in the engineering stage.

Risk Map updates are meetings were held for the Lower Pearl and Tenn-Tom HUC 8 Basins. The Lower Pearl meeting was an Officials and Open House meeting that was held in Columbia, Miss. on July 20, 2016. The Tenn-Tom meeting was a Flood Risk Review meeting in Amory on August 11, 2016. Attendance was very good at the Tenn-Tom meeting. The new Levee Analysis Mapping Plan (LAMP) was demonstrated at this meeting and was met with great enthusiasm from those in attendance. Due to the Natural Valley mapping method and new LiDAR elevation data collected by MDEQ and state contractors a significant reduction in some areas of the 1% Annual Chance Special Flood Hazard Area was realized.

The MDEM and LiDAR project updates are that the 6 Mississippi coastal counties and NRCS LiDAR are now available from MARIS. The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) counties in southern Mississippi have not been received as of yet. It is expected soon.

MDEM Hydrography data update for the Upper and Lower Leaf is that they have been accepted into the US Geological Survey National Hydrography Dataset (USGS NHD). Chunky/Okatibbee Basin is completed and awaiting acceptance and addition to the USGS NHD. Chickasawhay is in the conflation stage.

**SOS Y'all Business Application** – Gary Hennington with the Geospatial Group demonstrated the Mississippi Secretary of State's (SOS), "Y'all Business" application. He highlighted the importance of this application with regards to educating organizations wanting to locate businesses in the state. He advised there are approximately forty layers of data that are available for users to view pertaining to MS. Information by county, for everything from businesses, education and health help to convey data organizations need in order to make decisions on where to locate new businesses. The Mississippi SOS is leveraging ESRI's ArcGIS Online (AGOL) to provide users with a rich spatial experience to existing MS data.

**MEMA Common Operating Picture (COP)** – Mark Sanders with MEMA demonstrated the MEMA Common Operating Picture (COP) application. He explained that the need for creation of the COP was so that one dimensional or tabular data could be displayed spatially. This is especially important during the response to an emergency event or disaster in the state. MEMA currently uses a software product called WebEOC owned by a Intermedix. WebEOC is used to communicate, track and manage all aspects of the response to an emergency event or disaster. In the last year ESRI and Intermedix have partnered to create an API that allows WebEOC data to be shared with ESRI through their AGOL cloud based GIS. This has greatly enhanced the operating picture during response, by spatially conveying the locations and statuses of critical infrastructure and assets, to include human resources as they are being deployed throughout the state.

**Additional Business** – Chairman Smithson reiterated the fact that the MEMA COP was for everyone to utilize and hoped that other partners would seek out ways to integrate their data with it. He doesn't want us to operate in silos with regards to information sharing. Chairman Smithson advised that he would be traveling to Washington, DC on September 7 where he hoped to again champion the cause for funding Map MS with our Congressional Delegates. He hopes to make the case that not only will this save lives but it will be a great return of investment not only for MS811 but also County E911 and utility providers. The Disaster Reservist Program was also highlighted by Chairman Smithson. He briefly described how the program worked and how important it was for response and especially recover after disasters in the state.

Jim Steil reminded everyone about the upcoming GIS Conference on October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in Long Beach. He also reported NAIP 20-inch leaf-on imagery has been collected and will be available around Thanksgiving.

Chairman Smithson advised that the tentative date for the next Council meeting would be on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. The meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting Adjourned**