



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 4, 2008, 9:30 am

Member Agency	Contact	Present
Alterra Technologies	Jim Stevens Matt Kelly	
Brazoria County Engineer's Office	Kevin Sherrodd Eric W. Dyess	
Burditt Consultants, LLC	Paul Howard John Ross	
CDS Market Research	Josh Wadley Charlie Savino	
CenterPoint Energy	Cindi Salas John Chambers	
City of Alvin	Ron Rosenwald Doug Ross	
City of Conroe	Les McKay Angela Slayton	
City of Houston, Houston Emergency Center	Ed Loomis	
City of Houston, Planning and Development	Max Samfield Larry Nierth Chris McPhilamy	● ●
City of Houston, Public Utilities Division	Greg Johnson Anthony Powell Kirt Arthur	●
City of League City	Rick Brezik Andra Caudel	
City of Pasadena	Charles Vaughan Matt Ross	
City of Pearland	Michael Masters	
City of Sugar Land	Mark L. Hochstein Erik Schenck	●
City of Tomball	Delia McDonald Erin Knesek	
City of West University Place	Bart Harms Gary McFarland	
CivilTech Engineering, Inc.	Annie Ding	●
Claunch & Miller, Inc.	Doug Wilson Joshua Vickrey	●
CLR, Inc.	Scott Fair Hugh Clarkson	
Contract Land Staff	Leon Law Kevin Taliaferro	●
Cypress Creek Emergency Management Services	Toivo Sari	
Dodson & Associates, Inc.	Mark Starks Michael Henze	



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Fort Bend County Engineer's Office	Richard Dela Mater Ronald Drachenberg	●
Galveston Central Appraisal District	David Arnold	
Greater Fort Bend County EDC	Barkley Peschel	
Greater Harris County 911	Marc Berryman Greg Platek	
Harris County Appraisal District	Chengyan Wu Thang Nguyen	●
Harris County Emergency Services District 7	Alan D. Lankford Tim Highley	●
Harris County Flood Control District	Scott Lamon Michael Walters	●
Harris County Information Technology Center	Mickey McGee Travis Conner	●
Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services	Christina Hailey Dischinger Stefan Nawrocki	●
Harris County Public Infrastructure Department Architecture & Engineering Division	Samuel Garcia Andre C. Bally	●
Harris County Tax Office	Bryan Dunaway Kurt Fortenbach	●
Harris County Toll Road Authority	Jason C. Cowart Burt Lee	●
HNTB Corporation	Noel Bowman Heather Standley	●
Houston Advanced Research Center	Mustapha Beydoun	
Houston Airport System	Katherine Luu Brandon Williams	
Houston Community College	Richard DeBose	
Houston Fire Department	James Hugo Adrian Trevino	
Houston TranStar	Maria Cristela Vera	●
Houston-Galveston Area Council	Tanya Nguyen Robert LaBarbera	●
Katy Area Economic Development Council	Steven Perry Lance LaCour	
Klein Volunteer Fire Department	Rich Jones	
Knudson	Ben Murphey Raul Hinojosa Matt Bruning	
LAN (Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam), Inc.	Derek St. John David Manuel	



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LJA Engineering & Surveying	George Culver Brandon Copeland	●
Magellan Consulting, Inc.	Virginia Appl Sam Wilson	
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County	John Labio Bryan Carroll	●
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	Vince Hamilton Daniel Bally	●
Montgomery & Associates, LLC	Crystal Carreon Dehui Su	
Montgomery County 911	Chiu-Wen Ray Robert M. Gunter	●
North Harris College (now, Lone Star)	Peter E. Price Michael Konvicka	●
Pate Engineers, Inc.	Cheli Cellmer Amanda Menard	●
PBS & J	Timothy P. Ledet Gray Rackley	●
Port of Houston Authority	Grant Garrison Brian Doolittle	
R7 Solutions	Bryan Hassin Kraettli Epperson	
Rice University	Esther Crawford German Diaz	●
Sam Houston State University Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas	David William Webb David R. Hoffpaur	
TCB (Turner, Collie & Braden)	Bruce Davidson Lori Lakatos	● ●
Texas Department of Transportation	Kathy DeBettencourt Cindy Gloyna Jeremy Scott	● ●
Texas Medical Center	Marilyn A. Robinson Bassem Nassif	
Texas Southern University	Dr. Qisheng Pan Dr. Lalita Sen	
Texas Water Development Board	Felicia D. Retiz Erik O'Brian	
University of Houston, Department of Economics	Janet Kohlhase	●
Waller County Economic Development Partnership	Vince Yokom	



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Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
Call to Order	Jeremy Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 9:36 a.m.	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
Review of the May Minutes	The May 7th GDC minutes were adopted as circulated.	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
Results of GDC Officer Elections	<p>Jeremy did a brief recap of the results for the election for the position of Secretary of the GDC. Scott Lamon and Larry Nierth were in the election and Scott Lamon won the position. Mark Hochstein has resigned from his position with the City of Sugar Land. With the vacation of the Chairman's position, based on article 4 of the Bylaws, the Vice Chair becomes the Chairman. As the new GDC Chairman, Jeremy Scott appointed the new Vice Chair as Scott Lamon and the new Secretary as Larry Nierth.</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera mentioned that in the past the secretary was the person in the past the reviewed the existing minutes that the administrative assistant would compose from the recorded meeting. The new responsibility is that the secretary will take notes from the action items and use these as the basis for the minutes.</p>	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
Aerial Imagery Update	<p>Karen Adkins was present at the meeting via Web X to give the GDC an update on the one foot and six inch imagery.</p> <p>Sanborn is continuing to go through the imagery and post it to the online QA tool for the Aerial Review committee. Karen showed various graphics of the delivery progress, and mentioned that there were pockets in the delivery area of the twelve inch imagery that have not been uploaded yet. These were dense areas that required more work. The quality of the imagery is very good, and it is anticipated that the number of corrections that need to be made will be few. Sanborn has completed the rectification process, and is currently focusing on the central section of the delivery area including central Harris County.</p> <p>The first tile of Sid imagery has also been uploaded to the H-GAC ftp site for use in checking horizontal accuracy.</p> <p>For the six inch imagery, the aerals in Fort Bend, Harris and Galveston counties have been rectified and seemed. They are working on the QC for these areas at this time. Target time frame for delivery of the six inch aerals is the end of June.</p> <p>Karen mentioned that she was made aware of the importance to the GDC in having clarity in areas containing features of high elevation, and extra resources have been allocated to these areas for additional QC. Additional</p>	Karen Adkins (Sanborn)



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	<p>areas are being added every to weeks to the QA online tool. All the edits that the aerial review committee finds will be reviewed by Sanborn after the main labor intensive sections of Harris County are completed.</p> <p>In July, final corrections will be made and the hard drives will be loaded for delivery to H-GAC. All the imagery will be available for review online prior to delivery. The corrections that Sanborn makes based on the input from the Aerial Review Committee will be visible in the online QA tool. August 15<sup>th</sup> is the delivery date.</p> <p>It was brought up that the imagery visible on Google Earth and Google Maps is showing a copy write of Sanborn 2008. There was concern that this may be the imagery that H-GAC has not yet taken delivery of. Karen said that the imagery on Google is different, and composed of different flights of lesser tolerances that have also occurred in 2008.</p>	
<p>ArcGIS Imagery Server Demo</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera mentioned that ArcGIS Image Server is different from ArcGIS Server. It is a specific application that allows one to load multiple datasets of imagery or raster based data. Loading the imagery directly into SDE is going to take a lot of server space, and SDE's performance is not as fast as ArcGIS Image Server.</p> <p>Thomas Schultz showed the data structure within ArcGIS Image server, pointing out the definition file which points to the service overviews. This is very similar to ArcGIS' pyramids. Using an Image Server service is much faster than using a raster dataset in SDE. The service overviews are pulled in first, and as you zoom in, higher resolution overviews are used until the actual image is used.</p> <p>Different services can be created for different years of imagery, LiDAR, DRGs, etc. Thomas showed an example map that combined several services for LiDAR and USGS DRG data. These services can also be used in combination with other services in Google Earth by using a KML network link.</p> <p>ArcGIS Image server is a self contained program that comes with the editor tool for ArcMap that creates the image services as well as the image service client.</p> <p>Minimal computer requirements would be a good dual core server with the imagery stored preferably on a SAN.</p> <p>Creating the image service with the 2006 imagery took a few hours to run and set up the service overviews. The difference in using ArcGIS Image server is that you are</p>	<p>Thomas Schultz (H-GAC)</p>



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	<p>looking at setting everything up in a day, verses several months in SDE which must mosaic the individual tiles.</p> <p>Nick stated that he would be happy to provide quotes for the software to interested members.</p>	
GIS Day Update	<p>GIS Day plans are in full swing. We are still in need of mentors for this year, so contact Christina if interested. The next GIS Day planning meeting is being held at the University of Houston Central Campus on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am. Email Christina for directions if needed.</p> <p>The cost to vendors and exhibitors this year has not been worked out yet. The cost has slowly risen over the last few years. Last year, the minimum to set up an exhibit was \$100.00. This year the minimum may be \$250.00 instead. The price increase is needed to maintain the same level of services received in the past. Sponsors are needed as well, so any amount given over the \$250.00 level would be considered a sponsorship. Christina also mentioned that exhibitor status is not a tax write off, but sponsor status is tax deductible.</p> <p>The space at last years GIS day event for the exhibitor area was insufficient, and this year's cost increase is attributed to the renting of the larger Houston room and all the rooms along its periphery. This also keeps in line with the goal of keeping the children more centrally located while on campus.</p>	Christina Dischinger (HCPHES)
Other Issues		
Voting on Postponement of August GDC Meeting	<p>The ESRI Conference is being held during the regularly scheduled meeting time. A determination needs to be made as to weather we reschedule the meeting or cancel it for the month of August. Monday August 11<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, August 13th after 2:30pm are the alternative times. Of the members present twenty-five hands were raised in favor or rescheduling the meeting for Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, and five hands were raised in favor of the following Wednesday, August 13th. There was no interest in completely skipping the August meeting. The time to meet was briefly discussed. It was decided to take another vote during July's meeting to see if the consensus was the same. As a precaution, the meeting room has been reserved for Monday August 11<sup>th</sup>.</p>	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
Fall 2008 GIS Training Suggestions	<p>Robert asked if the committee had any suggestions for the fall GIS training schedule at H-GAC. One internal request was for a Microsoft .NET class. Also bought up was the possibility of doing an ArcGIS Image Server class and an ArcGIS Server class. It was also mentioned that with the</p>	Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)



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	<p>release of ArcGIS 9.3, ESRI will be changing the structure of their introduction training classes. The traditional Intro to ArcGIS I and ArcGIS II will actually be the second and third level classes.</p> <p>Nicholas Popovich stated that October 16<sup>th</sup> will be the official ArcGIS 9.3 rollout.</p>	
Miscellaneous	<p>The Houston Area Arc User's Group meeting will be meeting at H-GAC (conference room A) on June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to about 6pm. Geocortex will be the ESRI business partner making a presentation on their software that automates some of the tasks that would normally require more advanced programming.</p> <p>Robert mentioned that Scott Graham at GISCI is no longer with GISCI. He has gone to work for a consulting firm.</p> <p>Nick stated that on July 17<sup>th</sup>, ESRI is hosting a free seminar presentation for law enforcement. This will be a live seminar here in Houston.</p> <p>Nick also mentioned that there is work being done that utilizes ArcGIS Image Server to host Pictometry imagery. Fardosht Amirpanahi asked if both a license for Pictometry and ArcGIS Image server would be needed, and Nick answered yes. Jeremy also mentioned that Jackie Smith would be a good contact for the Pictometry license agreement. Scott Lamon brought up that when it comes to sharing pictometry imagery, the licensing is closely tied to the budget from which the monies are pulled to purchase the license.</p> <p>Peter Price mentioned that they use ENVI at the college, and they will be evaluating ENVI's feature extraction tool over the summer. The software locates and extracts features based on spectral and spatial information. The types of information the software can extract include building footprints, vehicles, and tree canopies. Peter asked if there was interest in seeing a demo of the software after they complete their evaluation. Everyone was in agreement that a demo to the GDC would be a good idea. The base price for the tool is about \$4000.00 plus an additional \$900.00 for the plug in.</p>	Various

Adjournment  
Upcoming Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:44 a.m.  
Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.**



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<b>GDC Guests</b>	<b>Contact</b>
City of Houston	Fardosht Amirpanahi
City of La Porte	Isaac Rodriguez
City of Missouri City	Sharon Heisler Ralph Granados
Contract Land Staff	Tyler Holmes
ESRI	Nicholas Popovich
Fort Bend County Appraisal District	Juling Bao
Geodynamic Solutions Inc.	Bob Amos
HNTB	David Terry
Sanborn Mapping	Karen Adkins
Texas Department of Transportation	Peter Sissons Sheila Gaden