



Geographic Data Committee

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 6, 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	
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	
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	Ivalu Rose Erin Custer	
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	
Fort Bend County Engineer's Office	Richard Dela Mater Ronald Drachenberg	●
Galveston Central Appraisal District	David Arnold	



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Greater Fort Bend County EDC	Barkley Peschel	
Greater Harris County 911	Marc Berryman Greg Platek	
Harris County Appraisal District	Jackie Smith Chengyan Wu	●
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	Roger Forshee 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 Ed Johnson	●
Harris County Toll Road Authority	Jason C. Cowart Burt Lee	●
Houston Advanced Research Center	Mustapha Beydoun Will Alvis	● ●
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 & Associates	Ben Murphey Amanda Jaloway Matt Bruning	
LAN (Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam), Inc.	Derek St. John David Manuel	
LJA Engineering & Surveying	George Culver Brandon Copeland	●



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Magellan Consulting, Inc.	Virginia Appl Sam Wilson	
Mapping Solutions, Inc.	Jeff Schiel Tim York	
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	Eva Garza 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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<p>Aerial Imagery Status Report</p> <p>(cont'd)</p>	<p>survey monkey questionnaire as a kind of informal voting process to determine how the product will be delivered to participating entities. Robert replied that H-GAC is considering having the aerial imagery subcommittee download the files directly from Sanborn's project management website. The subcommittee would meet and be able to review the product first, and then have plots printed out for the GDC meeting to vote. Eva said it would be good if the digital format is also available to everyone after the subcommittee's review.</p> <p>Sanborn will be attending the March meeting, as well, to handle any questions regarding the selection of color. Karen will also provide details on the acceptance criteria for quality, settings for monitors, etc., so that everyone can look at imagery consistently.</p> <p>For the rest of February, Sanborn is going to be doing the pilot production and a big portion of the aerial triangulation.</p> <p>Karen discussed 3 maps. Sanborn is starting ortho production on the first block and continuing with DEM preparation. Sanborn will set up the project management site by the end of February. The plan is to use their site as a share point. In March, Sanborn will swing into full ortho production.</p> <p>The share point site is a user-friendly interface and will provide a secure login for committee members. Sanborn will post status information with graphics and send out an automatic email when things are updated.</p> <p>Karen is currently reporting weekly to Robert and Tanya, mostly by phone calls. She will make sure that any issues are tracked online, as well as upcoming deliveries, and will be posting client review status as well to be clear on who has what.</p> <p>Robert went back to answer Mark Hochstein's question. He and his staff researched the difference between .tiff and MrSID resolution to the naked eye. No supposed difference between a MrSID compressed image and a .tiff image to the naked eye. If Mark wants the pilot area .tiffs on the site because he thinks the resolution would be better, there is no "real" difference. Mark said no, just concerned about regular delivery.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein then asked how Robert was receiving the imagery from Sanborn (whether it was mosaiked) and indicated that he expected a delay between when H-GAC would receive the data and when it would be available for the participating entities due to some formatting by H-GAC.</p>	<p>Hugh Bender & Karen Adkins (Sanborn)</p> <p>Hugh Bender &</p>



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<p>Aerial Imagery Status Report</p> <p>(cont'd)</p>	<p>Robert said that he would clarify with Sanborn.</p> <p>Grant had a question about the coastal counties and asked Sanborn if they were going to be using the data that the state has created for Galveston and Brazoria counties. Karen indicated that they would be incorporating the LiDAR data from the FEMA program.</p> <p>Karen, further, indicated that there are mosaics that Sanborn is providing, but because of the way that the area is split up, before they can do some of the mosaics, they need complete counties. The mosaics will follow the .tiff and MrSID deliveries at a later date. Mosaics will be for Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties.</p> <p>Peter Price made a comment about the .tiff versus MrSID. From the standpoint of image processing, if your organization had decided to extract tree canopy, depending on how MrSID compression is done, it can introduce artifacts. So if you are doing something sophisticated, you do want the .tiffs.</p> <p>Karen indicated that the compression is 20 to 1 for the MrSIDs.</p> <p>Eva Garza asked Robert if H-GAC will be receiving metadata for the images. Robert said yes. Eva said sometimes the image will come in but not have a defined projection. When this happened in the past, she had a world file, but the software did not read it correctly. Robert asked Eva to keep the problem in mind when she starts to download the imagery, and if she starts having problems at the onset, just let Karen and Robert know.</p> <p>A committee member commented that to solve Eva's problem, need to be sure that we have .aux files. Robert asked Karen about giving .aux files, and she said no problem, have provided those to clients in the past.</p> <p>Robert discussed the three maps as well. There is a strong possibility of receiving deliverables as early as April and further deliveries coming on a monthly basis. The last deliverables will be the map caching portion and the Montgomery County mosaic. Once the imagery starts to be processed, H-GAC can provide samples for GDC quality testing.</p> <p>Robert asked the GDC if the members were willing to be invoiced as early as April with the condition that they would receive the data by late June or early July. H-GAC would receive data by end of May and H-GAC staff would put it on drives and have to the entities for their own QA/QC.</p>	<p>Karen Adkins (Sanborn)</p> <p>Hugh Bender & Karen Adkins</p>



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<p>Aerial Imagery Status Report</p>	<p>Jeremy Scott asked what the alternative was if members did not have time for QA/QC. Robert said the Aerial TAC would be reviewing the data, but H-GAC cannot do it all. The expectation is that by the time the data gets to the members, only a few issues will be left.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein said he sees no problem with paying for data when he receives it depending on the warranty – if something is found later, will it be corrected?</p> <p>Karen said samples will also help by providing opportunity for members to see whether Sanborn is moving in the right direction and to check for any problems. Karen will tackle any corrections as quickly as possible and will turn around within 30 days – 30 day review and correction cycle in the contract. Not a specific warranty, but known to live up to their word. If there is an issue with an extended review, will work with the GDC.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein commented that the concern is really about gross errors after final product is delivered – expect to be corrected. Karen Adkins agreed.</p> <p>Sanborn would like a continuous stream of corrections sent to them, tile by tile is ok. The issues should not take very long to correct.</p> <p>Jeremy Scott commented that we do not want the participating entities to feel rushed in their review, so Aerial TAC should meet in advance and do own review. Robert agreed.</p> <p>Karen commented that Sanborn wants most of imagery to be fully accepted before mosaics and map caching.</p> <p>Eva asked if problems are found after reviewing, does each entity still have time to get corrections. Hugh Bender commented that Sanborn has put up all the guaranties on the project based on a given timeline. Outside of contractual issues, Sanborn stands by its product for as long as it is out there and has always come in and corrected it, regardless of time beyond the review period.</p> <p>Karen commented that after a certain period of time, Sanborn will archive all of the working data. Sanborn will archive working tiles and tiles that are deliverable. If someone runs across corrupt tiles, easier to retrieve this way.</p> <p>A committee member asked about quality and if the technical committee considered getting hard copies of the sample images. Robert said each member needs to plot them out and check their laptop and desktop settings.</p>	<p>(Sanborn)</p>
<p>(cont'd)</p>		<p>Hugh Bender & Karen Adkins (Sanborn)</p>



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Data Migration Report	<p>Mark Hochstein asked why they did not meet with the STAR*Map committee. Becky responded that they used results that the TAC had come up with, but yes, small changes were made that have not come to the committee yet. Robert responded by saying that all of the field names were chosen by the STAR*Map TAC, however, the committee did not determine attribute field lengths. H-GAC needed to roll into the new STAR*Map update, so they took information from Marc Berryman and the statewide 911 to settle on a minimum length necessary to cover all information from agencies providing to them. Mark commented that he thought the committee had decided on such details, but Robert replied that it was not provided to H-GAC.</p> <p>The rural 911 program supports 8 different counties and at the county level data was stored in a variety of different formats, including shapefiles. Each county has had a different set of attributes.</p> <p>The partner counties for STAR*Map are Austin, Montgomery, and Galveston counties. Becky and Wenge received shapefiles from each county, but each had its own attribute fields.</p> <p>They exported the current STAR*Map from ArcSDE and gathered updated centerlines from each of the counties. Then they spent time reformatting each county's fields into the new format and merging all the counties together.</p> <p>The project is not 100 percent complete, but they have made great progress towards achieving their goal.</p> <p>There are two different options for distributing the new formats. First, the format is made public to anyone who would like to use it. For the 911 counties, Becky is asking if they would like to use it. If so, she is helping "roll" individual counties into that format. Otherwise, counties can keep their own format and provide us with updates.</p> <p>Note: Becky and Wenge's PowerPoint presentation entitled "GDC New Standard STAR*Map Data Model" and accompanying handout can be downloaded from the GDC website: http://www.h-gac.com/agendas/GDC%20agendas/default.aspx.</p>	(H-GAC)



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<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data Lease Renewal</p> <p>(cont'd)</p>	<p>A new contact that is working with the government sector has informed H-GAC that they can provide both the household and business database for the entire 13 county region for \$43,000.00.</p> <p>InfoUSA will be providing an online access point for our website. In the past H-GAC provided the partnering entities with a cd with the datasets once a year. Now each participating entity will be given a username and password and could download the data whenever they want, including updates throughout the year.</p> <p>Jackie Smith asked whether the contact had shown H-GAC how to download the data. Robert replied no, but the data can be downloaded in Excel. Tanya commented that the contact had agreed to come down and do a training session at the GDC meeting.</p> <p>Someone asked what kind of source information that InfoUSA has shown to H-GAC. Robert said to check their website, but his understanding is that they get the data from census information, etc. and pull it into one source.</p> <p>This is the first time that the GDC has been able to get both datasets for entire 13 county region. As of Feb 5th, H-GAC has only received 10 responses back from GDC agencies for a total of \$21,000.00. H-GAC needs a firm commitment by the end of this week. The minimum cost is \$1,000.00 to participate. If an entity were to buy this data without the government discount, it would be a \$250,000.00 data set. Those who can afford to contribute more, it is welcome. H-GAC wants to start contract negotiations and get the contract finalized by the end of February.</p> <p>Jeremy Scott asked if H-GAC was turning away those members who want only one of the datasets. Robert said that H-GAC is still trying to get both datasets. If an entity wants only one dataset, they can pay \$1,000.00 and H-GAC will give them just one set. The datasets are packaged together. Tanya commented that H-GAC can separate the products and get only one dataset if it cannot get full commitment for the combined product. Mark Hochstein asked if the amount would be the same if bought separately. Tanya said no, but it is possible to be close to the same amount. She has not seen the amount yet.</p> <p>Robert commented that as of now, H-GAC has only talked to the contact person about buying both sets together.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein asked if the download would be by county and put up on the ftp site. Jackie Smith commented that</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera</p>
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<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data Lease Renewal</p>	<p>her organization has seen a demo of the download. The user does not simply download files, but instead has to do a search and can only download a small amount of data at a time. H-GAC needs to make sure that we are still getting the shapefiles. Tanya commented that H-GAC received the data in Excel and that H-GAC converts into shapefiles. Grant Garrison commented that the latitude longitude field must be in the comma delimited files or else H-GAC cannot create shapefiles.</p> <p>Someone commented that InfoUSA looks to be moving toward a self-service model to take some of the work off of their end. They must export the data initially on their end to provide the data on disks.</p> <p>Tanya made a follow-up comment. InfoUSA will provide everything that they have provided in the past. The web access is an add-on service.</p> <p>Robert said some entities would like to do their own geocoding, so they can have the option to receive the data on disk or can download directly from the website. H-GAC will, most likely, still geocode based on latitude and longitude if an agency wants it.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein asked if all the data for all 13 counties will be combined in one big file or whether it will be broken by county. Tanya said that H-GAC does not know yet, still in contract negotiations.</p> <p>Right now, we need to determine if the GDC can raise enough funding.</p>	<p>(H-GAC)</p>
<p>GIS Training 2008</p>	<p>The ArcGIS Server Enterprise (SDE) Tuning for SQL Server class (2 days) has been scheduled by H-GAC for March 10, 2008. Then on March 12, 2008, H-GAC has scheduled the Data Management in the Multi-user Geodatabase class (3 days). The cost for each person for both classes is around \$1,800.00. The classes cannot be taken separately. If an organization has a DBA along with a GIS coordinator, the organization should enroll both in the courses. The first classes deal with DBA tasks, and the second deals with coordinator tasks. An organization can save a lot of money by going through H-GAC versus ESRI (aprox. \$575.00 discount). Organizations need to get back with Amy Adkins by the end of this week.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) Partnership with H-GAC (cont'd)</p>	<p>Many GDC members do not have their GISP certification and have not had the opportunity to serve on any committees. This program will encourage involvement in the GDC and help members towards getting their GISP certification. H-GAC and GISCI are partnering up. Scott Grams is executive director of GISCI and has provided forms for those who have contributed time and effort on various subcommittees of the GDC, serving as chair, vice-</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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<p>GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) Partnership with H-GAC</p>	<p>chair, or secretary of the GDC, or as a chair of one of the subcommittees. A member fills out the electronic form, and has Robert or Tanya sign. If the person was not a chair, but a member of subcommittee, also need the chair to sign.</p> <p>Scott Grams wanted to know if the GDC would like to host a 2 or 3 hour workshop talking about what it takes to get GISP certification. GISCI will not provide travel funds for him to come down, and GDC does not have the money, but the GDC can do a teleconference with him.</p> <p>Their website provides information and gives point structure towards obtaining certification: http://www.gisci.org</p> <p>By raise of hands, many members indicated interest in the workshop and Robert said he would let Scott know.</p> <p>Samuel Garcia asked if Scott would be able to provide background on his organization and how it is structured. Robert said yes, he should be able to explain their affiliations, etc.</p> <p>Robert commented that there is a strong possibility that in a generation or so there may be a state GIS license. A certification program could become that licensing vehicle in the future. Such a change happened to engineers and surveyors.</p> <p>The GISP certification is good for career development.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>Nominations for New GIS Day Chair</p>	<p>Christina thanked everyone who helped out with GIS Day 2007 and asked for nominations. Jeremy Scott nominated Samuel Garcia. Samuel thanked him for the nomination, but respectfully declined. His job duties have changed and make it difficult for him to attend outside committees. He encouraged people to attend GIS Day as a fantastic opportunity for the local students to be introduced to GIS products. It is important to bring awareness to GIS issues.</p> <p>Maria Vera commented on how much the community appreciated the event.</p> <p>Robert said that Christina had been willing to be nominated again. Eva and Maria indicated that everyone should think about it and do nominations through email.</p>	<p>Christina Dischinger (HCPHES)</p> <p>Maria Vera (Houston TranStar)</p>
<p>Other Issues</p>		
<p>Geospatial Information Systems for Transportation (GIS-T) Symposium 3/17 – 3/19</p>	<p>The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AASHTO will be having their 21st Annual Geospatial Information and Transportation Symposium in Houston from March 16th through March 19th at the Weston Galleria hotel. A fee does apply and, if</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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	<p>one wishes to attend, go to their website and download the .pdf file.</p> <p>Jeremy Scott indicated that on February 22nd the registration cost goes up. Attendees need to get their registration in early to receive savings. Hotel fees and other costs are included in the handout and also on the website.</p>	
<p>Petroleum Users Group Conference 2/25 – 2/27</p>	<p>The conference is free if one registers in advance and is located at the Houston Marriott Westchase hotel. If one registers at the door, it costs \$50.00. Someone commented that about 1,200 people are expected this year and lots of technical people will be there.</p> <p>An audience member also announced another GIS event called SPAR, website address sparllc.com, on March 3rd through March 5th. There should be about 450 people attending. The event focuses mostly on 3-D GIS like LiDAR.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>GIS position</p>	<p>Eva Garza announced that she is looking for a temporary GIS specialist to help her around the center. She is looking for a recent GIS graduate from maybe a community college with a minimum of 1 year experience doing GIS.</p>	<p>Eva Garza (Rice University)</p>
<p>LiDAR Update</p>	<p>Grant Garrison asked Scott Lamon about the status of the LiDAR since it was now going to be closed to the partners. Scott clarified that the project is not closed because public money is paying for it. He explained that H-GAC is waiting on the Interlocal agreement from HCFCD and a lot of back and forth went on due to legal requirements. The Interlocal agreement has now been approved and signed by everyone necessary. Merrick should be coming down as soon as possible to start collecting the data. The data probably won't be delivered until April 2009, and once it is approved the data will be distributed to those people who ask for it. Annie Ding asked what data will be collected. Scott replied that all watersheds within Harris County, the City of Conroe, and all of Pearland will be collected.</p>	<p>Scott Lamon (HCFCD)</p>
<p>North Harris College GIS Program</p> <p>(cont'd)</p> <p>North Harris College</p>	<p>Peter Price informed the GDC that the GIS program at North Harris College has been deactivated. He is willing to discuss details individually. The administration looked at the student numbers and said that there were not enough people in the program. The GIS community needs to get the word out and think about ways to make students aware of the need in the profession as well as opportunities for education. The administration was told that GIS did not have sufficient job opportunities. He thanked everyone for the support that they have given the program over the years. All the students currently in the program will be allowed to graduate. Jeremy Scott asked if that applies to</p>	<p>Peter Price (North Harris College)</p> <p>Peter Price</p>



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GIS Program	both certificate and degree programs. Peter said yes. Should have 5 associates graduate this semester.	(North Harris College)
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Adjournment
Upcoming Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.
Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.



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GDC Guests	Contact
City of Houston	Kirt Arthur
City of Houston – Houston Emergency Center	Joel Avery
City of Missouri City	Sharon Heisler Penny Hornsby
City of Tomball	Delia McDonald
ESRI	Nicholas Popovich
Harris County Tax Office	Kurt Fortenbach
Sanborn Mapping	Karen Adkins Hugh Bender
TeachmeGIS	Ben Qualls Michelle Tuller
Texas Department of Transportation	Peter Sissons