



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 5, 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	
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	



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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	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	Ben Murphey Amanda Jalloway 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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Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
Call to Order	Eva Garza called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.	Eva Garza (Rice University)
Review of the February Minutes	The February 6th GDC minutes were adopted as circulated.	Eva Garza (Rice University)
Aerial Imagery Update	<p>Karen Adkins gave an update on the project status.</p> <p>As of today, Sanborn is completely done with flight, has QC'd all the imagery, and has moved forward with the production of the aerial triangulation (AT). Sanborn produced the pilot and provided three (3) different color samples. Some feedback has been received.</p> <p>Sanborn received all the DEMs needed, including the Montgomery County DEM that has been released for use on the project. For areas outside of the LiDAR DEM provided by H-GAC, Sanborn has the LiDAR DEM for coastal counties and Wharton county to use. Also, Sanborn is going to introduce, for areas without any existing DEM data, USGS source data to use.</p> <p>Project Management Site – Robert LaBarbera provided the list of users, and Karen forwarded the information on site access to the users. Everyone should have a login and password at this time.</p> <p>Eva Garza commented that she has been unable to login to the site.</p> <p>On the project site, Sanborn will post announcements, links to H-GAC and a link to the FTP site where pilot samples are stored. Scott Lamon's examples of color alterations are uploaded to that site now in the feedback section. Users can upload documents and make projects. Sanborn has also put the acceptance criteria from the contract on the site to clarify what is and what is not acceptable for the imagery. Sanborn, also, listed the project work plan - documented procedures and external procedures with H-GAC. The project site has an area for discussions. If one has any suggestions for the site, just let Karen know.</p> <p>Next steps - Sanborn is going to proceed with processing the ortho-imagery upon notice from H-GAC. Sanborn is waiting for the pilot review to be complete and input provided, so that any needed alterations can be made. Karen's anticipation was to come to a conclusion today on whether one of the pilot samples is acceptable. Sanborn wanted to move forward today, but some changes have been requested. Sanborn is going to continue with AT production. Sanborn has finished the first block of imagery</p>	Karen Adkins (Sanborn)



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<p>Aerial Imagery Update (cont'd)</p>	<p>that runs through Fort Bend and Harris counties, a heavily urbanized area. Sanborn will then move south to the coastal counties and north to Montgomery County. The Montgomery County DEM is being modified into production formats. In April, Sanborn plans to start deliveries. A key date Sanborn is trying to target is April 1<sup>st</sup> for Area 1 to be completed. In order to achieve that target, Sanborn needs to move forward soon.</p> <p>Robert took over for Karen in order to discuss the pilot samples.</p> <p>Scott Lamon asked if he could get a sample of the infra-red color grid. Karen said yes.</p> <p>The aerial review subcommittee has had the opportunity to download the pilot samples in order to determine what type of color-balancing that the GDC wants for the 2008 imagery.</p> <p>Robert showed various color samples, indicating comparisons between Sanborn, Kucera, and the examples Scott Lamon provided.</p> <p>Scott Lamon explained the “tweaking” that he did to each of the samples from Sanborn. To create different examples, he randomly ran the sharpen filter, increased the saturation, and increased the brightness and contrast by 10 percent each.</p> <p>Robert went further into the differing color in each sample, and Scott discussed the variations further between the 2006 and 2008 imagery. Different plotters show varying color schemes as well.</p> <p>The aerial subcommittee will review all of the samples to determine how the final products should look.</p> <p>The aerial review subcommittee will be meeting after the GDC meeting today in the conference room behind the receptionist area at H-GAC. Robert reiterated that Karen would like to have the subcommittee’s feedback on what needs to transpire next with regard to those samples. Robert has also tentatively reserved the same conference room for Friday morning, from 10:00am – 12 noon, if the subcommittee need’s to meet again this week. Robert will have Amy send out a meeting reminder to confirm whether the subcommittee needs to meet on Friday morning.</p> <p>Jeremy Scott commented that he believes it will be Thursday or Friday, before the subcommittee should make a decision on what direction they want to go in and reach an agreement.</p>	<p>Karen Adkins (Sanborn)</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p> <p>Scott Lamon (HCFCD)</p>



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<p>Aerial Imagery Update (cont'd)</p>	<p>Eva Garza commented that she would also like to have more samples with Scott's feedback to reach a clear decision. Not ready to just pick one at this time.</p> <p>Max Samfield asked Larry Nierth to show their tweaked examples, as well as, the A1 samples from Sanborn's plotter. Larry indicated that the samples were screen shots that he printed while using the swipe tool. Max, further, commented that while looking at vegetation on the pilot samples, grass looks very fuzzy and the A/C units on top of buildings look one-dimensional. In the 2006 imagery, the A/C units look 3-dimensional. He indicated that these issues can possibly be corrected with the color adjustment.</p> <p>Eva ended the discussion with the statement that there is plenty of room for discussion and the review subcommittee is meeting after the GDC.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>Oblique Imagery Update</p>	<p>Matt gave a project update for the oblique imagery.</p> <p>Pictometry is 96% done on imagery acquisition and should be finished by the end of the week. The delivery is set for late April or early May. H-GAC receives the primary copy, and the entities will get theirs within that week of delivery. Matt went over the hardware and software requirements for the imagery. (Further details are delineated in his PowerPoint presentation, currently available on the GDC Minutes &amp; Agenda website.) There are two ways to receive the imagery: 1) if an entity purchases the hard drive from Pictometry, Pictometry will put everything on the drive and ship it directly to the entity from corporate headquarters, 2) an entity purchases their own and Pictometry will bring the imagery to the entity and do a data transfer.</p> <p>Training will be scheduled by H-GAC and done by a Pictometry Customer Resource Manager on site at each entity's location. Pictometry would like the manager to do the training back-to-back in a two week period.</p> <p>Jackie Smith asked if the GDC will get a QC sample. Matt said Pictometry is not able to do so because the delivery is done all at once. Jackie also asked how the integration of the orthos are going to work, since the orthos are going to be received later in the summer, as are all obliques. Matt said there should not be a problem; Pictometry can take all orthos that they had before and make them part of the library.</p> <p>Eva asked if she wants only an area out of the whole project, just downtown, could it be delivered separately.</p>	<p>Matt Thomas (Pictometry)</p>



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<p>Oblique Imagery Update (cont'd)</p>	<p>Matt said that they usually give the whole area, but if an entity only wants one specific area, then they can provide just that after narrowing the area off the map.</p> <p>Matt said total area should take up about 2 TB.</p> <p>Eva asked if the imagery and software can be run off of an external hard drive. Matt said yes, no problem.</p> <p>Robert asked about what type of drive, USB 2.0? Matt said it all varies, but 2.0 would be perfect. One image is pulled at a time so need 4 MB at a time.</p>	<p>Matt Thomas (Pictometry)</p>
<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data Lease Renewal</p>	<p>H-GAC has received enough pledges for the amount needed to purchase the InfoUSA data, but barely made it with 19 participants and some participants contributing more than \$1,000.</p> <p>Robert indicated that the contract is done and H-GAC will download the InfoUSA data from their website today. H-GAC will make the data available on the FTP site for purchasing entities to download and will also send DVD's to the entities as well.</p> <p>The price schedule from InfoUSA indicates that the price will go up about 10% per year. The GDC needs more participation if it wants to continue to get this data. Eric Ebers will be here next month to describe how the data is maintained, its sources, how the data is collected, how the data is updated, etc.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein asked for a minimum amount for next year. Robert said the GDC will need a little over \$2,000 per entity if only 20 participants. The GDC can also leave it at \$1,000 to keep from pricing educational organizations out.</p> <p>Christina Dischinger indicated that there are a lot of other fields that can be included with the data. If InfoUSA is increasing the price, perhaps the GDC could ask for more fields.</p> <p>Jeremy Scott and Maria Vera indicated their appreciation of the girth of savings that H-GAC is getting through this purchase. Outside organizations are paying a lot more for the same amount of data. H-GAC is saving at least six figures. The GDC should look into keeping up this contract for years to come. Maria commented that InfoUSA scans in all the telephone books in the U.S., etc. InfoUSA is able to do other things such as mass mailings, etc.</p> <p>Eva Garza commented that it might be useful to get more education on how the fields are being applied in different</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data Lease Renewal</p>	<p>disciplines. She only uses the data for income purposes.</p> <p>Robert commented that ESRI's business analyst uses InfoUSA data, but ESRI does not allow the sharing of the license the way H-GAC is doing with InfoUSA.</p> <p>Mark Hochstein commented that, if the GDC puts literature together on the benefits of the GDC and the data and what it's about, the committee might get more members that would participate in the data acquisition.</p> <p>Eva Garza asked for the timeframe for the delivery of the data itself. Robert said it would take awhile to download and then hopefully by next week, put it on the FTP site, and then snail mail DVD's out to the entities, as well. Each entity will also receive a user account for the InfoUSA website, and Tanya stated she will add their URL to the GDC page. Thomas Schultz will be in charge of the usernames and passwords. Eva asked if the entities still must request a password. Tanya said no, H-GAC will automatically issue a password to participants.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>GIS Training 2008</p>	<p>The ArcGIS Server Enterprise (SDE) Tuning for SQL Server class and the Data Management in the Multi-user Geodatabase classes start March 10, 2008 and are grouped together. 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. Seven students are currently signed up, and five spots are still available.</p> <p>Eva Garza asked if the classes have to be purchased together. Robert said yes.</p> <p>Robert showed the website to sign-up: <a href="http://www.h-gac.com">www.h-gac.com</a>, under Regional Data &amp; GIS Services, then GIS products, then GIS training. The cost of the classes are \$1,800 total. This amount is about \$575 cheaper than what ESRI charges. There is a direct link on the website to ESRI and one can search for course descriptions.</p> <p>Eva Garza asked that a reminder email be sent about the training. Robert said yes, that would be done. An audience member asked if the classes were ESRI certified and whether an attendee will get an ESRI certificate. Robert said yes.</p> <p>Eva Garza commented that the classes will count toward the GISP.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>

GIS Day 2008 Chair –	Eva reported that Christina Dischinger has agreed to be	Eva Garza (Rice)
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Christina Dischinger	<p>the chair of GIS Day for the upcoming year. H-GAC did receive nominations, and the GDC is looking forward to lots of participation.</p> <p>Christina announced that she is having the GIS Day wrap-up meeting today, and if one wants to participate, stay right after this meeting in this room. The next meeting will be the official kickoff meeting – Tuesday, April 8th at 2pm, at the main Harris County Public Health office. She will send out official details later and would love to have new people.</p> <p>If you can't make the meeting, email to let Christina know you are still interested and to keep you on the email list.</p>	University)
<b>Other Issues</b>		
Geospatial Information Systems for Transportation (GIS-T) Symposium 3/17 – 3/19	The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AASHTO, will be having their 21 <sup>st</sup> Annual Geospatial Information and Transportation Symposium in Houston from March 16th through March 19th at the Weston Galleria hotel. The first day is a workshop. A fee does apply and, if one wishes to attend, go to their website ( <a href="http://www.gis-t.org">www.gis-t.org</a> ) and download the .pdf file. The total cost now for the symposium is \$325.00 and for the workshop is \$175.	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
Nominations for GDC Board	Eva Garza announced that next month the GDC will start nominations for the GDC Board / Executive Committee.	Eva Garza (Rice University)
Houston Area Arc User's Group (HAAUG) Meeting	The next HAAUG Meeting will be held tomorrow in this same room, March 6, 2008, at 4:30. The meeting will cover the ArcGIS Server using mobile applications. Mathew Pitman from ESRI out of San Antonio will be here. It's a great time to network and talk to ESRI representatives.	Mark Hochstein (City of Sugar Land)
Knudson – Name Change	Ben Murphy announced that since February 26, 2008, having acquired Northrup Engineering, Knudson & Associates is now known as Knudson LP.	Ben Murphy (Knudson)

Adjournment  
Upcoming Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.**  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.**



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<b>GDC Guests</b>	<b>Contact</b>
City of Houston	Kirt Arthur Al Lent
City of La Porte	Isaac Rodriguez
City of Missouri City	Sharon Heisler Penny Hornsby
City of Webster	Richard Parkin
Geodynamic Solutions Inc.	Bob Amos
Grounds Anderson, LLC	Brandon Grimm
HNTB	Noel Bowman
LJA Engineering	Marcia Yim
Michael Baker Corporation	Kimberly Hiller
Occidental Petroleum Corporation	Shyla Liebscher
Pictometry	Matt Thomas
Sanborn Mapping	Karen Adkins Hugh Bender
Surdex Corporation	Jeff Tippin
TeachmeGIS	Ben Qualls
Woolpert	Pam Cote