



Geographic Data Committee

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 13, 2008, 2:30 pm

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	Sharlett Chowning Nan Stout	
City of Tomball	Delia McDonald Erin Knesek	
City of West University Place	Bart Harms Gary McFarland	
CivilTech Engineering, Inc.	Annie Ding	
CLR, Inc.	Austan Lupher Kyle Bertrand	
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 Ed Johnson	
Harris County Toll Road Authority	Jason C. Cowart Burt Lee	●
HDR Claunch & Miller, Inc.	Doug Wilson Joshua Vickrey	●
HNTB Corporation	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	Matthew McCauley 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 John Laser	● ●
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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Call to Order	Jeremy Scott called the meeting to order at approximately 2:36 p.m.	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
Review of the June Minutes	The July 2nd GDC minutes were adopted as circulated.	Jeremy Scott (TXDOT)
Aerial Imagery Update		
Status of Aerials	<p>The aerial imagery is completed and is in the process of being organized by county for delivery to H-GAC. All imagery has been posted online as of July 20th. Sanborn has gone through the edits that were given through the online QA/QC tool. The edits to these areas were based on the error type and whether or not it met the acceptance criteria. Everything will be delivered Friday 15th. The data will be delivered in NAD 83, but NAD 27 world files will be delivered as well. It was requested that Sanborn address an issue that occurred with the 2006 aerials where a message was displayed stating there was not a projection file associated to the images, even though they were projected. Jeremy mentioned that in the MrSID GeoViewer, with the Gen 2 version of compression, there is a problem with display. Karen mentioned that they are testing Gen 3 of the compression right now. Scott asked when the delivery for the cached imagery would be delivered. Karen mentioned that it should be delivered within 30 days of the server relocation. Robert mentioned that they are planning to load the imagery directly in to ArcGIS Imager Server, and this process checks the imagery for file errors as it loads. Also, Karen mentioned that the edits and responses to the QA/QC tool will be delivered in the form of shapefiles along with the aerials. Robert mentioned that he would have these shapefiles added to the H-GAC website.</p>	Karen Adkins (Sanborn)
Participant Delivery Procedures and Cost Breakdown	<p>Robert went over the image distribution policy handout. All of the cost sharing partners will receive their area along with the county where the selection was made. H-GAC will be providing the hard drives for the cost sharing participants. After the data is initially provided, if you need a larger area that was not initially requested, there will be a fee. H-GAC will also need a hard drive to make the transfer. The priority goes to the cost share participants. For GDC members that did not cost share, they must wait until all cost sharing members have received their data and have had a chance to check it over. Robert is estimating that it will be late fall to early winter until the data is opened up to the general public and to non cost sharing GDC members. For the public and non cost sharing GDC members, they will be requesting the data through the H-GAC website. No downloading will be</p>	Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)



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<p>Participant Delivery Procedures and Cost Breakdown</p> <p>(cont'd)</p>	<p>involved. The data will be put on hard drives so the requester can pick it up. Jeremy asked if there was a check out period or waiting cue for the hard drives, and how long it would this period of time would be. Robert replied that the requests would be dealt with on a first come, first served basis. Tonya mentioned that there would be no wait and that ample hard drives would be available. Robert mentioned that their workflow included having several copies of the data pre-loaded to drives in anticipation of future orders. Robert mentioned that H-GAC will furnish vendors with the imagery for H-GAC sponsored projects.</p> <p>Chiu-Wen Ray had a question about the \$2500 charge for the regional request. If she wants additional counties, does she need to pay \$2500. Robert confirmed that this was correct, and Chiu-Wen mentioned that this was new.</p> <p>Bruce wanted to know if the hard drive they order will contain tiff files only or also the MrSID version. Robert said that it depends of if they were a partner. If they were a cost sharing partner they will receive both. If you were not a cost sharing partner only the MrSid imagery will be provided. Robert mentioned that you can still load MrSid imagery into SDE as opposed to the tiffs, it just takes a little longer.</p> <p>There would have to be discussion on weather or not the cached data would be part of the deliverable for non cost share data requests because the size is close to 3 terabytes. This is all in jpeg format. Grant asked if the item for \$2500 being the cost for regional coverage was something that the cost share members agreed to, or if it was voted on by the GDC members. Robert said there was no voting, and it was done because of in-house issues at H-GAC (resources, time, and cost). Grant wanted to know if this cost was open to discussion. There is concern, particularly with cost sharing partners over this \$2500 fee.</p> <p>Robert explained that the aerial committee is trying to get more people to cost share for a larger area. In order to do this and deal with the resource issues internally at H-GAC, they have made the county to be the lowest common denominator for an aerial extent for delivery. In many cases the members will be getting extra data for free because of this process. If there are more participants that would like to have the entire region, then they need to state this in the Aerial Committee meetings and cost share in the whole region.</p> <p>Christina asked if there were smaller counties with smaller</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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<p>Participant Delivery Procedures and Cost Breakdown</p> <p>(cont'd)</p>	<p>populations that we were not able to collect imagery for. Robert said yes, and this was something that needed to be discussed early next year when the Aerial Committee reconvenes. It would be good to get the entire 13-county region flown. The outer rural areas could be flown at a lower resolution than the major urbanized areas. Currently our coverage area doesn't cover anything west of Fort Bend County, and east of the Harris County and Montgomery County line.</p> <p>Christina mentioned that there are H-GAC members that are part of smaller counties that cannot afford to be in the cost share so those areas were not flown. In the future can we offer these areas for the \$2500? Robert mentioned that it all depends on whether we can get these counties to come together and participate financially on the future cost share.</p> <p>Grant mentioned that an average county costs about \$60,000 to fly @ 1 foot pixel resolution, so you're going to have to have a lot of \$2500 participants to cover the cost. There's more to it than just the individual cost shares.</p> <p>Chiu-Wen Ray mentioned that if non-paying participants request Montgomery County data, the request needed to come to Montgomery County, not the GDC. The revenues collected for selling the data is used for the next round of ortho purchases. Is this something that has now changed? Robert said that they could still sell their data. Chiu-Wen Ray mentioned that this method means that someone could come to H-GAC to buy the data rather than going to Montgomery County. Robert mentioned that the cost used to be \$1500 for the entire region. Chiu-Wen Ray said that in the past the data would need to be purchased from Montgomery County, not H-GAC. Robert said this was incorrect because the data has never been licensed.</p> <p>Chiu-Wen Ray said she would have liked more discussion on the topic. Robert mentioned that there is the future possibility of having the vendor distribute the data to the members on their own without H-GAC. Jeremy mentioned that he thinks it is a great thing that we have a common place here at H-GAC where the data can disseminate out.</p> <p>Doug asked what would prevent someone from filing an open records request asking for the orthos under the Freedom of Information Act. This would only allow us to recuperate the cost of the CD and transfer time. Robert said that the imagery should not fall under the category of qualifying data under this act.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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<p>Participant Delivery Procedures and Cost Breakdown</p> <p>(cont'd)</p>	<p>Chiu-Wen Ray mentioned that it is hard for her to justify the additional \$2500 cost to get the regional data. As participants, they do their best to cover the areas that they need to get. She doesn't think she can request the additional funds.</p> <p>Scott mentioned that an ArcGIS image service could be provided for members to save on costs. Robert stated that this is a good idea but it is not known if H-GAC can support the bandwidth draw of multi-agencies requesting large amounts of imagery. This would need to be tested.</p> <p>Jeremy asked that the topic be tabled, but that though the continued discussion with emails, but to try to see if there are any ways in which the costs may not be increased. Getting more people in at the beginning to participate in the cost sharing will help everyone.</p> <p>Robert mentioned that an email will be sent out asking the members how they would like to receive their imagery (pick up when available, pick it up at the next GDC meeting, or mailed out).</p> <p>Grant asked approximately when the imagery would begin to be delivered out from H-GAC. Robert mentioned that it would probably be 2-3 weeks to a month.</p> <p>The imagery was cached at the ESRI recommended levels.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>GIS Day Update</p>	<p>We now have a keynote speaker, General Glen Shaffer. The website has also been updated. General Shaffer will talk about jobs and careers in the intelligence industry with GIS and remote sensing.</p> <p>Grant is coordinating the presenters for Thursday (professional's day). The GIS Day website has a form available that will contact him. We will have a separate small room that can contain 75 people for the presentations, which is double the size of last year's room. Brochures are available for sponsorship, which we need. If you want to be an exhibitor, you need to go to the website and fill out the form soon as the spaces do fill up. Exhibitor booth fees are \$250. Map Gallery space is available as well, coordinated though Harris County Engineering.</p> <p>Maria is handing the mentorship program. These presentations can be based on how your organization uses GIS, or it can be project based. We can help you set up a GIS project if need be. The GIS Day is a great way to do some GIS outreach in the community.</p>	<p>Christina Dischinger (HCPHES)</p>



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GIS Day Update (cont'd)	<p>There are three scholarships available this year; one for college students, one for high school students, and another for teacher training. The teacher training scholarship is free training at the Teach Me GIS training Facility.</p> <p>The next GIS Day meeting is at the main Health Department office tomorrow (14th).</p> <p>Jeremy asked if there were any criteria for those considering being a mentor. Maria states that patience and software are helpful, but ESRI can help with getting evaluation software for hands on use.</p>	Christina Dischinger (HCPHES)
STAR*Map Editor Update	<p>Chris mentioned that his update would be over the addressing tool that is currently being developed at the City of Houston. There have been a few enterprise model changes that the tool had to accommodate dealing with the address point feature class.</p> <p>The beta version of the addressing tool should be out by the second week of September. The City's enterprise GIS servers are up and running. Fardosht can help with connections to the server. Jackie Smith mentioned that all the user needs is ArcCatalog to connect.</p> <p>Jeremy asked in there were any specific requirements for those that want to edit with Starmap. Chris said the only thing is SDE and the tool currently runs on ArcGIS 9.2.</p>	Chris McPhilamy (City of Houston)
GIS Training – Fall 2008	<p>Stacia wanted to go through some proposed training classes that they are thinking to hold at H-GAC, and also provide an update on ESRI's future training facility that is slotted to open very soon in Houston. Recent conversations revealed that ArcGIS Server and .NET are areas where many GDC members would like to grow. Two classes have been identified.</p> <p>Intro to Programming ArcObjects Using the .NET Framework is a 3 day class. There needs to needs a basic familiarity of .NET prior to taking this class. (Robert mentioned there are 5 seats left for this class)</p> <p>The second class is Developing Applications with ArcGIS Server using .NET. This class should be taken after the first one. This is also a 3 day class focusing on VB.NET (or C#) programming for customizing ArcGIS Server web applications. (Robert mentioned that there are 4 seats left for this class). Stacia mentioned that you really need to know your way around ArcGIS Server and .NET before you take this class, so you should have already taken the Introduction to ArcGIS Server class.</p>	Stacia Canaday (ESRI)



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<p>GIS Training – Fall 2008 (cont'd)</p>	<p>Each class will cost \$1440, which is a \$30 savings per course. Robert mentioned that they want to have the classes toward the end of October or the beginning of November (prior to the Holidays). Robert also mentioned that they were thinking to have the classes in a two week period (both classes, Monday-Wednesday), as opposed to running the classes Monday to Monday straight through.</p> <p>ESRI will be opening up their new training facility to serve intermediate and advanced level training needs. Programming, Oracle, SDE, and development related courses will be the focus. The tentative schedule is in October to have an ArcGIS Web Administrator Class, which is a brand new class for IT professionals, and GIS managers. In November they want to offer the Intro to ArcGIS Server class. In December ESRI will try to get Dave Peters to do a class in System Design. Classes can hold 12 students with no option for extra students. ESRI and H-GAC are trying to coordinate their classes so that they compliment each other.</p> <p>Andy mentioned that the budget cycle of his organization makes it difficult for them to sign up for these classes, and it would be helpful to have the schedule posted 6 months to a year in advance. Stacia said she can work with you to get the upcoming schedule hammered out to where you will know what is offered.</p> <p>Robert mentioned that H-GAC needs to have 9 students for a class to make at H-GAC. Stacia said they need to have at least 5 students at the ESRI Training facility for a class to make.</p> <p>Tonya asked what was the difference between the Developing Applications with ArcGIS Server and the ArcGIS Server Web Administration class. The Developing Applications class is geared for programmers and developers. The ArcGIS Server Web Administration class is more geared towards GIS Managers and network / IT admins. There is no programming in the ArcGIS Server Web Administration class. The difference between the Microsoft Web Administration classes (IIS) and the ArcGIS Server Web class is that the ArcGIS Server Web class is focused exclusively on ArcGIS Server examples for the GIS professional.</p> <p>The prices of the classes offered at the new ESRI Training Center and the classes offered at H-GAC will be the same. Agencies that send 5 or more people to the ESRI Training center will receive a 10% discount.</p>	<p>Stacia Canaday (ESRI)</p>



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Other Issues		
	<p>Robert mentioned that Bill Bass has developed a demographic model, and is serving it out on a test ArcGIS Server here at H-GAC. He'd like to demo the service at the GDC.</p> <p>Nick with ESRI mentioned that at the September 2nd Houston Area Arc User's Group meeting there will be a presentation about Model Builder. Also there is an upcoming Water Seminar Series on September 18th focusing on how GIS can be used in the organization (free from 9am-3pm @ Hyatt Regency Hotel). This seminar is geared more toward managers. October 16th is the 9.3 rollout presentation for ArcGIS. More info is available on the ESRI website. Nick will email the links to Robert.</p> <p>The new ESRI Training center will be located near the intersection of Wilcrest and Westheimer.</p>	

Adjournment
Upcoming Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:02 p.m.
Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.**



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GDC Guests	Contact
Chambers County	Tommy Bridwell
City of Houston	Cheng-Hua Feng Jackie Smith
City of Sugar Land	Lary Dorrington
City of Webster	Richard Parkin
Dannenbaum Engineering	Bola Fashokun
ESRI	Nicholas Popovich Stacia Canaday
HCPHES	N. McConnell
Sanborn Mapping, Inc.	Karen Adkins
S&B Infrastructure, Ltd.	Pablo Castro
Texas Department of Transportation	Peter Sissons