

**Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Board (GISB)
Summer Board Meeting**

**J.B. Hunt Center for Academic Excellence
JBHT 535 Executive Board Room-5th Floor
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701**

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 3, 2015
9:00AM - 3:00PM**

➤ **Board Meeting called to order by Vice Chair, Randy Everett at 9:05 a.m.**

➤ **Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Mr. Randy Everett (Vice Chair)
Dr. Jackson Cothren
Mr. Taylor Wynn
Mr. Hershel Cleveland
Ms. Phyllis Poche (Proxy for Margaret McMillan)
Ms. Sharon Hawkins
Ms. Amy Whitehead

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Margaret "Beth" McMillan (Chair)
Ms. Heather Stevens
Ms. Kasey Summerville
Mr. Glen Dabney

➤ **Chair Welcomes and Acknowledges Guests**

Guests:

Jeff Winter, AGISO Advisory Panel
Jerry Prince, AGISO Advisory Panel Proxy
Jim Rankin, Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development
Jason Tullis, University of Arkansas
Ivan Hoffman, President, Advisory Board to the Division of Land Surveys
Corey Scott, Data Scout
Robert McGee, ACD
Brian Culpepper, CAST
Tony Davis, Arkansas Game and Fish
Mike Wright, ASPS
Jay Young, ASPS
Justin Taffner, Survey Intern
Paul Walla, Professional Land Surveyor
Tracy Moy, Arkansas Game and Fish
Don Catanzaro

AGIO Staff:

Mr. Shelby Johnson, Arkansas Geographic Information Officer

Mr. Seth LeMaster, AGISO

Ms. Kayla Lyon, AGISO

➤ **Meeting**

- **Welcome:** The welcome was given by Jim Rankin, Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development. The Chair called for any corrections to the March 11th Meeting minutes. No one contested the March 11th minutes.

Motion: to accept the March 11, 2015 minutes- Dr. Jackson Cothren

Second: Ms. Sharon Hawkins

No discussion; Unanimously Approved.

➤ **Old Business**

1. **AGISO Report** (Shelby Johnson)

Parcel Mapping Project – Ouachita Co. is close to being delivered. IZARD Co. is almost finished. One of the last counties will be Lonoke Co. due to a change in their assessor in the last election. Drew, Calhoun, Dallas, and Randolph counties will be last as well because they are smaller counties. There have now been three (3) counties that have withdrawn from the project (St. Francis, Cleveland, and Garland). This restores some budget in the allocation of funds. No county is ever 100% complete, due to the ever changing nature of parcels There are sixty-four (64) counties published. They may not be complete, but they are useable. Eleven (11) counties are still not published.

MAP21/ARNOLD Project – Prairie, Sevier, Little River, Dallas, Cleveland, and Chicot counties have been completed. There are fifty-five (55) counties left to be finished. The deadline is March 17, 2017. We need the support of the county road foreman to determine paved or unpaved roads. FHWA is requiring all federal and state road systems to be done immediately. We have a four person staff working on this project full time. AGISO is continuing to work with the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department on this project. The goal is for the counties to take ownership of this data once it's complete and in their hands.

New Website— With AGISO's new website, they have better tracking and software that allows them to measure project utilization through downloads. Guest users outweigh their registered users. They are about to activate "best available leaf-off" imagery as part of their image services. They are also about to add USGS 24k topo images and GLOs to our image service. It's a manual process to update into statewide table. AGISO is currently doing research and training for automating that data updating process. They have moved from state owned servers to the Amazon cloud, which cut their costs down and greatly reduced the server cost area of their budget.

LiDAR— AGISO is hosting bi-monthly conference calls for LiDAR data. Anyone is invited, but they are asking that vendors not participate at this time. The biggest problem in collecting LiDAR data is that lack of coordination results in everyone competing with each other for the same grants or funding. Everyone has the same goal. Chris Cretini (USGS) held a meeting for a new bid proposal to collect LiDAR data. FEMA has a big interest, as well as Higher Education organizations, state agencies, and other federal agencies. AGISO has LiDAR data in their

repository. Benton Co. is still \$45,000 short on their LiDAR collection project scheduled for 2015. FEMA is flying Washington Co. \$235/sq.mile is a good planning rate for LiDAR collection projects.

Budget Addition— AGISO’s request for a Surveyor position was granted. AGISO wants to get this position filled as soon as possible. Because of the current hiring freeze, it is unknown at this time when this position will be filled. AGISO worked with the General Assembly to get special language stating that AGISO may use the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the creation, development, and maintenance of framework data. This allows AGISO to select a vendor on a variety of criteria, not just the lowest bidder.

AGISO also got special language added that allows the agency to transfer any remaining funds from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, at the end of each FY, to the agency’s GIS Trust Fund to use for operating and maintaining the Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure, creating, updating, maintaining and disseminating framework spatial data as defined by Arkansas Code §15-21-502. The funds in the GIS Trust Fund carry over from FY to FY. Appropriation in this fund is \$250,000.00. At the end of each year, AGISO will have to get it approved by the Legislative Peer Review Committee. AGISO will have to define what they are going to do with the funds, and have a plan in place for how they are going to spend it.

➤ **New Business:**

1. Introduction of Jay Young, ASPS Vice President, and Mike Wright, ASPS District 1 President
2. New Data to load on Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI)
 - a. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Data:
 - i. Buildings
 - ii. Fish Attractors
 - iii. Gates and Barriers
 - iv. Outdoor Recreational Access
 - v. Outdoor Recreational Facilities
 - vi. WMA Management Facilities
3. Statewide Imagery Procurement
4. Tour the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies

Introduction of ASPS Vice President, Jay Young, and District 1 Director of ASPS, Mike Wright— Jay Young had to leave the meeting early due to another obligation. Mike Wright was introduced and read a statement that Jay had prepared. The statement is attached to the minutes. Shelby responded to the statement. Shelby’s plan was for this to be a smooth transition. He is trying to learn about the Land Survey projects. We do not know how the Department of Agriculture planned for the divisions 1% budget cut. Shelby plans to meet with the ASPS and address any concerns they may have. Shelby assured them that all matters related to land surveying would be passed through the Land Survey Advisory Panel. We are unsure about whether or not we are going to need to move buildings or offices. ASPS will help provide advice to us. They are the real stakeholders of the Division of Land Surveys and Board. They’ll be the ones affected by rule making and need to be plugged into the decision making processes. It was recommended that the GISB write a letter extending an invitation to the Land Survey Board and ASPS to the next GISB board meeting.

New Data to Load on ASDI for AR Game & Fish Commission— Proposal to the board to load new data on Arkansas Spatial Data Infrastructure (ASDI). The data is from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regarding buildings, fish attractors, gates and barriers, outdoor recreational access, outdoor recreational facilities, and WMA management facilities.

Motion: Approve New Data to Load on ASDI for AR Game & Fish Commission – Mr. Herschel Cleveland

Second: Mr. Taylor Wynn

No discussion; Unanimously Approved

Statewide Imagery Procurement— Due to procurement regulations, the Statewide Imagery Procurement project specifications are not being made public at this time.

Motion: Approval of the Orthoimagery Specifications – Dr. Jackson Cothren

Second: Mr. Herschel Cleveland

No discussion; Unanimously Approved

Motion: To accept Shelby’s proposal of Option 1 – Ms. Amy Whitehead

Second: Ms. Sharon Hawkins

No discussion; Unanimously Approved

Discussion concerning the use of the remaining funds of the Statewide Parcel Map enhancement fund to use for the Statewide Imagery Project.

Motion: To accept remaining funds for the Ortho Imagery Project and authorize the agency to expend the balance of the Statewide Parcel Map fund to the Statewide Imagery Project - Dr. Jackson Cothren

Second: Mr. Taylor Wynn

No discussion; Unanimously Approved

➤ **Announcements:**

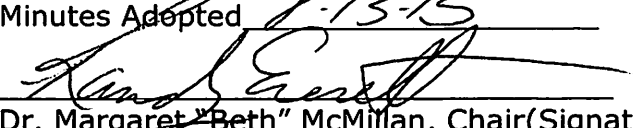
The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for coming and entertained the motion to adjourn.

➤ **Adjournment**

Motion: Ms. Sharon Hawkins

Second: Mr. Taylor Wynn

Next Meeting: September 3, 2015

Minutes Adopted 7-13-15


Dr. Margaret "Beth" McMillan, Chair(Signature)



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June 3, 2015

Shelby D. Johnson
Geographic Information Officer
Arkansas GIS Office
1 Capitol Mall Ste 6D
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Johnson,

We are writing in regard to HB1001 that was recently passed by the Arkansas Legislature relocating the Division of Land Survey to the Arkansas GIS Department.

We were unaware that this new legislation was being considered until after it had been drafted and was being submitted to the House and Senate to be passed into law. There was not much time to review the language of the bill and we had no opportunity to recommend revisions before it was passed.

This bill has caused some concern with surveyors of the state, the Board members of ASPS, as well as the National Society of Professional Surveyors Executive Committee who view this as setting a potentially dangerous precedent.

The purpose for the registration of professional surveyors is to safeguard the life, health, or property of the public. One of the primary issues we've identified is the placing of the administration of surveying activities under the jurisdiction of an entity within the state government wherein that entity has the authority to operate in regard to surveying matters without having a licensed professional surveyor involved. The potential for such action is especially demonstrated by the language in Section 137 of the bill, and in Section 143.

The wording in Section 137 (c) is troubling in that it gives to the Arkansas Geographic Information System Office, "*all powers, duties, and functions, including rulemaking, regulation, and licensing, promulgation of rules, rates, regulations, and standards, and the rendering of findings, orders, and adjudications*". The awarding of such powers presents the opportunity to undermine the actions typically reserved for the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors. Similarly, Section 143 (a) states that "the Arkansas Geographic

Information Systems Board *may* employ a State Surveyor to be the head of the Division of Land Surveys". Prior to passage of HB1001, Section 143 required that the State Surveyor supervise the activities of the Division of Land Surveys. The qualifications for a State Surveyor include that the person be "a registered professional surveyor". The option provided by HB1001 (Section 143) allows the Arkansas GIS Board *not* to employ a State Surveyor, opening the door for an individual who is not a registered professional surveyor to undertake the activities currently designated to the State Surveyor.

This bill potentially hands over all duties of the State Land Surveyor to an AGIS Board with no professional surveyors on it; duties that include administration of the GLO Remonumentation Program, setting minimum standards for professional surveyors, enforcing those minimum standards, and investigating complaints filed against professional surveyors. These tasks must remain under the authority of a licensed land surveyor and we feel strongly that the position of the State Land Surveyor should be an autonomous position in the AGIS Office to carry out these duties.

The State Land Surveyor and the Land Survey Advisory Board should not be subordinate to the AGIS Board, they should report to the same authority that the AGIS Board reports to.

We feel that it is important that the AGIS Board include licensed land surveyors in its makeup, and that the AGIS Advisory Panel include them as well. With our division now falling under the AGIS Department, this would allow the surveying community an opportunity to work with and have input into the administration of the department, and offer advice on surveying related matters that may come up.

At this time, ASPS plans to form a committee that will work closely with the Land Survey Advisory Board and the State Land Surveyor to create a draft revision that would then be submitted to the AGIS Board for review and implementation.

Land surveying and GIS are both admirable and honorable professions and we can strengthen one another by existing within the same department. The AGIS office has historically worked well with the State Land Surveyor and with ASPS. Our hope is to iron out the fine points of how to co-exist so we can mutually benefit from the reorganization.

Sincerely,

ASPS Board of Directors

cc: Office of the Governor
Attn: Rett Hatcher
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500 Woodlane, Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

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