

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

**University of Central Arkansas  
Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center  
201 Donaghey Ave  
Conway, AR 72035**

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
9:30AM - 12:00PM**

➤ **Board Meeting called to order by Chair, Beth McMillan at 9:40 a.m.**

➤ **Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:**

Dr. Margaret "Beth" McMillan (Chair)  
Mr. Randy Everett (Vice-Chair)  
Mr. Taylor Wynn  
Ms. Sharon Hawkins  
Ms. Amy Whitehead  
Mr. Glen Dabney  
Mr. Anthony Davis  
Honorable Beth Rush  
Dr. Jackson Cothren  
Mr. Danny Games

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Russell Gibson  
Honorable Rusty McMillon  
Mr. Mark Myers

➤ **Chair Welcomes Board Members**

**AGIO Staff:**

Mr. Shelby Johnson, Arkansas Geographic Information Officer  
Mr. Seth LeMaster, AGISO  
Ms. Kayla Lyon, AGISO

➤ **Meeting**

➤ **Welcome:** The Chair called for any corrections to the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes. No one contested the December 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes.

**Motion:** To accept the December 2, 2015 minutes- Mr. Danny Games

**Second:** Mr. Randy Everett

**No discussion; Unanimously Approved.**

➤ **Old Business**

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

**NSGIC MidYear Conference**— AGISO is thankful for the cohesiveness of the GIS Board and for the openness of GIS data in Arkansas compared to other states. Arkansas was featured in a StateScoop magazine article on the AGISO involvement in the National Address Database. Ms. Sharon Hawkins and Mr. Jonathan Duran will be attending the GIS-T conference in Raleigh, North Carolina in April and speaking on a panel about Arkansas leading the way on MAP21. Senator Cotton has endorsed the National Geospatial Data Act and Arkansas is only the second state in the U.S. to do this. While at the conference, AGISO met with Congressman Westerman's office about 911 problems in Garland County and their attempt to regionalize their PSAPs. Shelby was appointed to serve on a sub-committee of the Local 911 Systems Blue Ribbon Committee to help solve this problem. A national 911 coalition has called for the next generation 911 to be available in 4 years, but Arkansas will not have this availability for at least 15 years. Most of the lines for the zones stop at county lines, but there are places where the zones need to be configured differently. A potential recommendation from this subcommittee will be that the GIS office be tasked with re-configuring these zones.

**Parcel Mapping Project** –AGISO is making final payments and the final QCs will be delivered soon. Most of Arkansas has parcels for the vast majority of each county. There are a few counties that are not completed. Yell county is under contract with TASC. They have borne the cost on their own to have TASC do the parcel mapping in their county, which will be about a 3-5 year process. Crittenden, Sevier, Grant, and Sharp counties are having the parcel mapping done in house on their own. Phillips county is using another firm, Delta Mass Appraisal, to complete their parcel mapping. Nevada, Newton, Searcy, Fulton, Independence, and Greene counties are characterized as not done or really started and will need assistance/mandate. Some are scarce on resources. The Nevada county assessor previously indicated to AGISO they're not doing it until the state makes them. Independence and Greene have resources and could do it, they just haven't. Without current parcels, it limits their efficiency for reappraisal. Those counties have it on paper, just not digitally. The value of mapped parcels to the state as a whole is great. The big questions are "does the state need to force the counties to comply with converting parcels", and "how do we identify and secure the funding"? County judges and state level committees can produce legislation to make them do the work. Bear Chaney, the Director of Assessment Coordination Department could mandate it by rule. For rural counties, other entities like Farm Bureau could possibly put the pressure on for these counties to participate. Mr. Glen Dabney said, "Of the approximately 30,000 parcels in Greene County about half have been mapped. Additionally, Greene County is mapping approximately 1,000 additional parcels per year". It could be a good idea to combine parcels and 911 management problems to get counties to work on this.

**MAP21/ARNOLD Project** – Referring to the AGISO Report Power Point, the counties shown in green have been completed. The counties shown in red and blue are the ones AGISO or AHTD are working on. It's scheduled to have that delivery this year and as soon as it's done AGISO will go back and work on county and city roads. The project is a little more than halfway done, but there is still a lot of work ahead. AGISO is in the process of adding another contractor to help with this work.

**Address Points Update**— Jackson County will partner with AGISO to put together address points in their county. There is not a clear path forward to get Hempstead, Conway, Lonoke,

Phillips, St. Francis, Independence, Fulton, and Clay counties finished. If AGISO decides to use the extra budget, one county can participate each year, but it would take 6 or 7 years to complete.

**Municipal Boundary Update**— AGISO has had numerous meetings with the Secretary of State's Office, AHTD, and the U.S. Census Bureau trying to synchronize all the lists. Some mayors sent in annexations to the SOS, but not to the Census Bureau and vice versa. AGISO is the single point of contact for the 2017 Boundary and Annexation Survey. Hopefully later this year AGISO will sign an agreement with the Census Bureau. AGISO has processed about 15 cities for new annexations since the fall. The 2020 Redistricting meeting will be March 23, 2016.

**ASDI – Use Report**— There have been about three quarters of a million requests for water in February and a little less for January. These requests are direct connect, pulling and using this information. It refreshes every time you pan. The image service requests are not as impressive, but still pretty impressive. It is being used by people from all over the United States. For plats, there are probably around 170,000 uploaded currently.

**Division of Land Surveys** — The plats database backlog was originally 36 boxes and the agency was getting them scanned and added to the system. There are currently 12 boxes left, plus what comes in the mail daily. John Thornton, the state surveyor is coming into his position of authority nicely. For the Monument Program the State Surveyor is increasing the contract fee starting July 1<sup>st</sup> to \$500 from \$350. This is in hopes that surveyors will get involved. The Land Survey had a full time staff of 4, and it had to reduce two positions across the agency. The agency made the decision to cut the Agriculture Program Manager Position and an Administrative position. The agency had a FOIA request about the agency cuts and AGISO and the Division have done their best to be above reproach. The next step is to get a surveyor hired to support the municipal boundary work plus what John has to undertake.

➤ **New Business:**

**Statewide Imagery Need**—

Before the general discussion of the potential statewide aerial photography program began, with the permission of the Chair, Mr. Glen Dabney shared a prepared statement. The statement began as follows.

"Several years ago I was asked to serve on the GISB as an advocate for business in AR. I have enjoyed working on the Board and speaking up for free enterprise in the state whenever necessary.

Since the statewide aerial photography issue came up I have been negligent in that I have not spoken to this Board from the perspective of small business in AR. I have not acted as a business advocate as I agreed. Before I excuse myself today, I feel compelled to share with you some thoughts.

The comments I want to make have nothing to do with aerial photography specifications yet the points should be seriously considered as they have an impact on business in Arkansas."

Dabney is an advocate for aerial photography in Arkansas. He said he would like to see Arkansas tax dollars spent in such a way as to support Arkansas businesses instead of Arkansas

tax dollars being spent on firms residing outside of Arkansas. Dabney commented, "It should also be noted the AGISO several years ago contracted to have a GIS Strategic Plan created. Much time and expense went into the development of the plan. The plan calls for a three year cycle for the collection of aerial photography in AR. A cycle which would potentially provide to AR small business an opportunity to participate in a statewide AP program."

Dabney also stated, "If work is contracted to out of state service providers Arkansas tax dollars will leave the state. Local employment opportunities will be impacted, local schools will have less money for operations, universities will have less opportunity for graduates in Arkansas and government entities will lose tax revenue."

In his closing comments Dabney said, "In September of 2015 I had a meeting with AR Representative Lampkin, AR Representative Wardlaw, Monticello Economic Development Director McDaniel and the AGISO Director Shelby Johnson here in Little Rock at the State Capitol Building. In that meeting it was agreed that the AGISO budget would be amended, and it subsequently was amended, to say that any firm collecting aerial photography in AR in the 2015-2016 budget year must reside in Arkansas. This is a strong statement of support by the AGISO office for keeping the proposed aerial photography project at home. I hope that Shelby shared this with you."

Dabney ended his comments by saying, "I will step outside the meeting room for now. Please let me know when the discussion of aerial photography is complete so that I may return for the remainder of the meeting."

On conclusion of Dabney's comments he acknowledged the potential conflicts of interest related to staying in the GISB meeting to discuss the potential statewide aerial photography program due to his ownership of an orthoimagery acquisition company. It was Dabney's intention to once again leave the GISB meeting, as stated above, as he had in the past when discussions of the potential statewide aerial photography program was on the meeting agenda. Mr. Taylor Wynn, Mr. Randy Everett and Dr. Jack Cothren questioned the necessity for Dabney to leave the meeting and encouraged Dabney to stay. Shelby Johnson was asked if he knew specifically if Dabney needed to leave the meeting. Shelby Johnson and Seth LeMaster stated that they had spoken with the Arkansas Ethics Commission, Arkansas State Auditor's Office and the Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration and did not have conclusive information indicating whether or not Mr. Glen Dabney should leave the meeting. More Discussion followed and the Board did not see a conflict of interest at the time so Mr. Glen Dabney remained in the meeting.

The agency reviewed the status of the imagery procurement process with the Board. In June, the board discussed that with the money already provided AGISO could complete an imagery acquisition for approximately half of Arkansas; and in subsequent years AGISO would partner with other agencies to cover the remainder of the state. At the National States Geographic Information Council meeting in October, AGISO learned about another imagery program. The agency provided an overview of an alternative state digital ortho-imagery procurement option, which would provide high resolution, statewide coverage, within current budget and funding. The strategy would procure an Imagery as a Service (IAAS) solution under a License Agreement for 3 years. If Arkansas renews the license at the end of the 3 years, the state will see a refresh product in 2020. The 4 year old product will become public domain and the new product is then under license. The quote from that plan is \$885,000, compared to the normal planning price is \$30-\$35/sq. mile, which would roughly be \$1.85 million. This offer is half in reduction of price. AGISO received \$750,000 of General Improvement Funding for the imagery program. Through our partnerships with other agencies, AGISO already has the funds to purchase this offer. After

discussion by the Board, it was decided that further information was needed to be gathered before a decision could be made on an image program.

AGISO would like to know if the board desires to move forward with Hexagon or not? With Hexagon, the data would not be public domain. The most prominent problem is finding long-term consistent funding for this project. If we are in a procurement process, then can we do a public/private partnership to get a larger pool of supporters? If imagery as a service is chosen, could AGISO do interagency agreements and get a renewal of the appropriation the agency already has? The agency cannot get everyone on board by itself. It's a staffing issue and it's an advocacy issue.

Ms. Amy Whitehead, asked, "Can Municipal league or AAC also be a voice for this project?" It's the board's job and not our agency's job to work on advocating for this.

Mr. Taylor Wynn, asked, "What is the best way for board members to talk to representatives?"

Dr. Jackson Cothren asked, "Given that we want to develop a long range plan, how can we best use the money we have to promote the plan now"? Mr. Shelby Johnson, responded, "Funding is in AGISO's account and the agency has the authority right now, but we have to get that authority every year from the general assembly. The money cannot be spent for anything else. One avenue AGISO can try for extra funding is the Cultural Natural Grant Council. They are a state entity that manages a grant program and focuses on state owned land and structures. There is no guarantee AGISO would get this grant and there is an application process. Another option is spreading it out over two Fiscal Years. We can give a hard copy of the data to any state agency, as long as it's not downloadable."

Mr. Randy Everett observed, "If the state is paying for something that the majority of the citizens cannot access, then that might be a problem the Board or AGISO does not want to be involved in. If the money was available now, would the agency still choose to go statewide over imagery as a service?"

Mr. Shelby Johnson responded, "Imagery as a service can be served from the platform right now. Customers could get a subscription and if their on the website they wouldn't be able to download, just view only."

Mr. Glen Dabney observed, "If a business had to purchase a license themselves, they're paying two times."

AGISO suggested a meeting just on imagery in order to have a plan before July 5, 2016. There needs to be a proposal for the June Board Meeting. The board can meet again in April possibly. Mr. Danny Games mentioned that board members and AGISO staff can attend meetings with possible donors until all contacts have been exhausted. Ms. Sharon Hawkins requested a survey be created for the GIS Forum Users to complete at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Motion to explore state of funding from other agencies, setting up a new meeting before the next board meeting, and creating a GIS Survey to be handed out: Mr. Anthony Davis

**Second:** Ms. Amy Whitehead  
**No discussion; Unanimously Approved.**

➤ **Announcements:**

Board members are able to designate a proxy for meetings. If a proxy is needed, contact Kayla Lyon (kayla.lyon@arkansas.gov) and she will provide them with the proper form.

➤ **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Ms. Amy Whitehead  
**Second:** Dr. Jackson Cothren

**Next Meeting:** June 1, 2016

Minutes Adopted

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

*Margaret E. McMillan*

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

*with corrections.*