Meeting Summary

Item 1. (Imagery)

This item was brought forward at the behest of Commissioner Patterson, regarding the need for more frequent (yearly) imagery accusation covering the County due to rapid development.

Michael Wainright discussed two options involving imagery services: Digital Globe and Nearmap.

Robert LaBarbera brought up a product called Arc2Earth.

Glen Whitehead, from Fort Bend CAD, indicated that the Appraisal District already acquires imagery from Pictometry biannually that is intentionally staggered with the HGAC's acquisition years. This imagery is already freely available through FBCAD for any local government.

Further discussion revolved mostly around the Pictometry option and it was decided to attempt to get a Pictometry representative to present next meeting.

Item 2. (Addressing)

This item was a general discussion of addressing issues related to GIS, focusing particularly on the need for coordination and identifying/fixing addressing issues.

Topics covered ranged widely from discussions of HGAC's StarMap product, to specific examples of incorrectly or poorly addressed streets.

Robert LaBarbera discussed processes he had previously used, or seen used, at the county and regional level, as did Glen Whitehead. Brenda Pope briefly touched on Next Generation 911.

On the topic of coordination, it was agreed that some form of cooperation between consortium members would be beneficial. At a minimum some system of sharing information across neighboring jurisdictions and organizations should be devised, for example by combining each entities point data into a single dataset and publishing as a service. A further step, harder to implement, would be to set up a formal system where local jurisdictions and addressing authorities regularly push data to the county, who amalgamates the data and pushes a master set back down regularly (basically some form of replication).

A resident and representative of the City of Kendleton was also in attendance to discuss specific local issues of inconsistent or poor addressing in her community. In her area several roads are addressed to multiple post offices and this has caused many problems including delayed emergency response, poor mail and service delivery, even uncertain voting jurisdictions and political representation. It is hoped better coordination, driven by GIS data, will help identify these types of problems and assist in making the case to correct the issues.

Item 3. (City of Sugarland Presentation)

Dionne Bryant, of the City of Sugarland and Houston Community College, gave a presentation that explained HCC's GIS program and internships and showcased some of her City's webmaps and apps.