

Second Quarter Meeting Minutes:

1. Bryan Gillis, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. with introductions and an overview of agenda items including reference to an update to the by-laws. First time members were identified and welcomed.
2. As minutes were not available for the January 25, 2024 first quarter meeting, Bryan presented an overview of the actions taken including election of new officers, goals and objectives of the organization which include data sharing, collaboration, professional presentations, and the opportunity to impact on our community through outreach to schools.

3. Local Community Presentation

- a. *Open Data Project Presentation: Vice Chairperson Miriam Salazar, GIS Specialist for the City of Sugar Land.*

Miriam provided insight into the Sugar Land's Insights project's initiation and phased approach to implementation of providing public data. Driven by the Data Innovation Group, a committee was established to act as a liaison with the data engineers responsible for providing the data to assist with the process. The initial actions taken to establish direction included determining what data is available from each department, the acquisition of internal data, cleaning and formatting the data, abiding by legal requirements, and providing the data in a variety of formats. A compilation of individual repositories within an Open Gov site allows for a one stop shop of available data from multiple departments providing a configurable tools such as a matrix to capture specific measures. This identifies departments that might need additional assistance or resources. Phase 2 will include the expansion of the functionality of Open Gov by providing comprehensive dashboards and other tools to assist with resource management. Miriam discussed obstacles such as abiding by legal requirements, moving departmental data from paper into digital formats, and abiding by the established initiative of providing accurate, current data publicly. She presented a demo of a very compelling and comprehensive site to access a wide variety of information. Miriam highlighted the "showcase" feature that allows the team to spotlight items. The unified effort of bringing a variety of data from internal sources under one umbrella has been successful in reducing the number of Public Information Requests (PIR), developer and entity requests for data since it is available via a weblink.

<https://data.sugarlandtx.gov/>

4. Guest Presentation

- a. *Geospatial Engineering and Land Surveying Career and Technical Education Pathway Presentation: Seneca Holland, Geospatial Analyst III at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi (Conrad Blucher Institute)*

Seneca provided a thorough overview of the institute's history focusing on the GSC program which is the only four-year accredited GIS and land serving program in the nation. Identifying the need to address an impending shortage of surveying professionals, Ms. Holland supplied information regarding the programs offered, the outreach being performed, and opportunities available. She identified an issue with not being able to fill a GIS-centric, exciting position with a competitive salary within her organization. It appears to be an industry-wide issue that has her institution's attention. The need to introduce younger students to the expansive nature of and well-paying jobs available in our field is at a critical point. Reasonably priced courses and an identified pathway to move from education to career are available online or in person. From field equipment to articulation agreements to labs and data support, TAMU Corpus Christi has a long history of supporting education and outreach efforts to promote the fields of geospatial engineering and land surveying. She provided handouts and cards for anyone wishing to contact her.

<https://www.conradblucherinstitute.org/>

5. By-Law Review

a. FBEDC Updates – George Culver (LJA)

- i. Due to what appears to be an imminent dissolution, the by-laws need to be revised to address the removal of Fort Bend Economic Development Council (EDC) from this group's documentation. With that said, Mr. Culver conveyed the need to extend our gratitude for not only providing a meeting space for the group spanning two decades but for advocating for a field that was wholly unrecognized and supporting our vision in encouraging leadership engagement, especially with County Commissioners. George made a convincing argument for the group to provide an official proclamation or similar statement documenting the wide array of support we have received from the EDC.

b. Treasurer Updates

- i. As the EDC is identified as the treasurer for the group, it was determined that a review of the financial component of the by-laws be addressed. Verbiage regarding membership fees, contributions, etc. within the by-laws will need to be reviewed and revised based on the rapidly changing nature of our industry and established objectives of the group. The updated by-laws will be shared with all members via email prior to the third quarter meeting at which time a discussion and vote will take place.

6. GIS Day Subgroup

Soma Chatterjee from the City of Sugar Land provided an update and timeline for this year's GIS Day Event on November 22, 2024, at the University of Houston – Clear Lake from 9 am to 1 pm. Volunteers are needed and can sign up at the location below. Ms. Chatterjee provided a general overview for new members of the day of GIS for students and professionals. A question regarding how students were selected provided an opportunity for organizers to discover that emails sent to the counselors at an ISD do not get bounced back. This could possibly open the door for expanded student participation.

<http://www.houstonareagisday.org/>

7. Proposals

a. Industry Liaison

Chairperson, Bryan Gillis, proposes the addition wording into the by-laws for a member to be elected as a representative of private industry for the purpose of relaying relevant information, providing specific insights into public/private relationships, and operating in good faith to serve the consortium and public at large. George Culver (LJA) expressed concerns regarding introducing a private entity into the by-laws of an organization that has strictly been public for over twenty years. The decision needs to be carefully considered.

- i. George brought up a change in legislation that affects cities regarding a property owners' ability to petition to be removed from a city's ETJ. The concern was voiced regarding updates and ensuing compliance with the legislation. Individuals indicated that the City Secretary would be the best point of contact for such documents, but it was asked if that individual knows to provide the document to GIS to keep jurisdictional boundaries accurate. A specific case involved a city council's decision to take no action upon receipt of a petition. This places GIS in a conflicting situation as the law requires the boundary to be updated within 30 days but the jurisdiction is not approving the request. Additionally, as there is no specific time frame stated, this could open the door to a stream of individual actions based on petitions that have a 30 day mandated turnaround time with GIS personnel constantly updating a boundary.
- ii. David Dignum (HCAD) identified a similar issue with SITUS address coordination between the addressing authorities and those tasked with maintaining accurate and current alpha/number address configurations.

b. Writing Subgroup

Proposed and approved by vote to form a writing subgroup to create a commemorative document in recognition of the EDC's twenty year commitment to our group.

8. Announcements
  - a. Future Meeting Dates
    - i. Third quarter meeting: will take place on July 25<sup>th</sup> at the City of Sugar Land.
    - ii. Fourth quarter meeting: TBD
  - b. Other
    - i. Abrin Brooks indicated that the 2024 Texas GIS Forum will take place in Austin from October 21-25, 2024.  
<https://geographic.texas.gov/texas-gis-forum/2024/index.html>
    - ii. Bryan identified HGAC's Geographic Data Workshop as a good resource for new members. Meetings are available online.  
<https://www.h-gac.com/geographic-data-workgroup>
9. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.