



Fort Bend GIS Consortium Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 10:00

*City of Sugar Land – Council Chambers
2700 Town Center Blvd, Sugar Land, TX 77479*

1. Introductions

- a. Miriam Salazar, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM asking attendees to add their names to the sign in sheet at the entrance of the Council Chambers and agendas were made available.
 - i. The letter of appreciation for the EDC was presented. A motion was made to approve and seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. Current officers will sign and send the letter on behalf of all consortium members.
 - ii. Individual attendees introduced themselves and their organizations, identifying those attending for the first time.

2. Review Last Meeting

- a. Penny Hornsby, Secretary, indicated that the Minutes from the 3rd Quarter Meeting on August 20th, 2024, had been posted to the website and sent to all consortium attendees via email for review. A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. A unanimous vote to approve the minutes as written was received.

3. Member Presentation

- a. **Katy ISD - Geospatial Needs of an ISD: Bryan Gillis, Senior Geospatial Engineer for Katy ISD**

Bryan Gillis provided a comprehensive overview of the GIS currently in place for Katy ISD. Launching the Katy ISD District Map & School Assignment by Residential Address application and entering an alpha/numeric address identifies whether the address is within the boundary. The comprehensive site provides critical information to students and parents regarding the schools to which they are currently zoned (with links to individual school sites) AND the next academic year's school assignments based on rezoning. This team of one provides clear and current information as well as bus routes with pick-up and drop-off times applicable to the user, maintains addressing data, attendance boundaries, while supporting any geospatial needs during an election cycle with a Katy ISD item on the ballot. The elections component involves extensive verification of addresses to ensure accuracy. Previously, for properties split by school district boundaries, the determining factor identifying the school which a child will attend was based on the location of the child's bedroom. Bryan clarified that KISD updated its policy so that if KISD is a line item on a resident's tax bill, the child will be considered in-district.

Internally, the need for extensive data collection in gaining insight into imminent development's impact on the acquisition of land and the construction of new schools to accommodate pupils residing in new subdivisions, apartments, etc. was presented and provided attendees with an expanded understanding of the geospatial needs for a school district. The data provided from historic records, TEA, demographics, parcel data from multiple county central appraisal districts, etc. utilized in making these projections is further complicated by the educational alternatives such as charter and private schools as well as state and federal mandates and language barriers. Bryan's presentation affirmed the need for the sharing of authoritative data between public agencies, especially related to street centerlines and address points.

4. Open Table Discussion

- a. Houston Area GIS Day: Miriam Salazar
 - i. The GIS Day Committee meeting was scheduled at the same time as our meeting, but Soma Chatterjee provided information for Miriam to present.
 1. A GIS Day Professional Map Contest flyer was distributed to all attendees.
 2. Clarification regarding the two-day events and offerings was provided.
- b. Hosting USGS at the first quarter of 2025 Meeting (all attendees)
 - i. Bryan has been in communication with Michelle Fischer, a geographer for the USGS, National Geospatial Program, User Engagement Office. She serves as the National Map



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Liaison to Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. She works to develop partnerships and data acquisition agreements in those states to ensure the availability of elevation and hydrography datasets for a broad range of users and applications. Ms. Fischer is willing to come from Louisiana to present to our group for our first meeting of 2025. Attendees demonstrated a keen interest in all of the options presented but it appears [The National Map | U.S. Geological Survey](#) earned the most. However, the education related options align with our objectives and might provide beneficial insights and ideas.

- c. FBC GIS Consortium Hosting of Data and Applications
 - i. Bryan has been conferring with Fort Bend County to determine the feasibility of the county being the default location for data and applications. Jeff Alexander, Fort Bend County GIS IT, provided an update regarding the status of their Open Data Hub and provided a “sneak peek”. The thorough and well thought out site looks to be near completion and will be a standard upon which all of us will aspire. He indicated that the county is open to becoming the repository. Discussions will continue to determine what this will entail and how it will remain current and accurate, including establishing standards and protocols.

5. By-Law Review

- a. ARTICLE III. Membership
 - i. Although the meeting is open to all GIS users in and around the county, the need for a current membership roll identifying a primary and secondary representative from public and private agencies to ensure current and accurate contact information, amassing a quorum when a vote is necessary and abiding by the representation verbiage within the By-Laws.
 - 1. Maintenance of the membership rolls could be provided through a simple Survey123 link on the website or a mass outreach effort through email.
 - a. Discussions still underway regarding the hosting of data and applications. Once finalized, a membership drive will be performed.
- b. Article IV. Consortium and Officers
 - i. Executive Officers
 - 1. Changes to the term of service for each officer of the Executive Committee shall be one year has been approved by committee vote to two years.
 - a. Revision to this wording is pending.
 - 2. Item 4. Treasurer.
 - a. All references to a treasurer and to the Fort Bend Economic Development Council (EDED) acting as such and perform said duties shall be removed from the By-Laws entirely.
 - i. The organization no longer exists.
 - ii. The consensus is that no financial component will be relevant to the activities of the Consortium as no dues, cost sharing or acquisition of data or services is anticipated.
- c. ARTICLE V. Cooperative Purchase, Projects, and Products
 - i. Purchases
 - 1. All reference to FBEDC shall be removed.
 - ii. Projects
 - iii. Work Programs and Budget
- d. ARTICLE VI. Financial Management
 - i. Disposition of Funds
 - 1. Recommended that Article be removed competed from the By-Laws.



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6. Announcements

- a. Future meeting dates: February 6, 2025
 - i. City of Sugar Land, City Hall Council Chambers
 - 1. 10 AM – 12 PM
- b. GIS Day Subgroup
 - i. November 21st to 22nd
 - ii. University of Houston – Clear Lake – Bayou Building, 2700 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058
 - iii. Brief discussion regarding outreach, student attendance and the need for volunteers.
<http://www.houstonareagisday.org/>
- c. FBGISC Mappy Hour
 - i. November 15th at Bar Louie in Sugar Land Town Center at 5 PM.

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.