



Fort Bend GIS Consortium Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 10:00 AM

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

1. Introductions

Miriam Salazar, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM asking attendees to add their names to the sign in sheet at the entrance of and table within the Council Chambers.

2. Review Last Meeting

- a. Approve Meeting Minutes: Bryan Gillis, Vice Chairperson, indicated that the Minutes from the 4th Quarter Meeting on November 7th, 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.

3. USGS Presentation

The National Map (TNM) Presentation by Michelle Fischer – National Map Liaison for AR, LA, OK and TX

Via a virtual presentation, Michelle indicated that a large part of her job is coordinating acquisitions nationally via local, state, and tribal partnerships and reducing redundancy.

A brief history identifying past methods of acquiring data, the challenges in creating uniformity, maintaining quality, and accuracy with a substantial variety of data from many sources. Efforts have been underway to systematically create and implement solutions to provide data to GIS and non-GIS users in a variety of format upon which they can rely while being mindful of fiscal responsibility. There are 56 services within the national map that can be accessed through interactive maps and exported by selection or direct access via Amazon Cloud Service.

USGS has a goal to provide nationwide LiDAR for the entire country by 2026. They provide data for use during disasters and emergencies via GIRT (Geospatial Information Response Team). Their site contains a wealth of event notifications, news releases, applications, resources, research results, real time data, training videos, and opportunities to connect.

The presentation provided a unique opportunity to see the extensive and thorough efforts by this organization to meet the needs of the GIS community and the population as a whole.

The PowerPoint presentation is located on the FBC GIS Consortium website or by clicking [here](#). The USGS website can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

4. Legislative Announcements

- a. Senate Bill 2 – Education Savings Accounts
A bill has been introduced providing \$10,000/child to apply towards private or charter school enrollment.
- b. Senate Bill 4 – Homestead Exemption
A bill has been introduced to increase the amount of the exemption of primary residential homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000.
- c. House Bill 4 – Personal Data Protections
Relating to the regulation of the collection, use, processing, and treatment of consumers' personal data by certain business entities; imposing a civil penalty.



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- i. Members can keep up with Texas Legislation 2025-2026 89th Legislature items using the link contained [here](#).

5. Education Outreach Update

- a. Katy ISD – Miller Career & Technology Center

Bryan has made outreach progress with Katy ISD and will be presenting GIS related material to students within the Engineering & Architecture Programs.

- b. SkillsUSA – Regional & State Competition

Bryan will be participating in the SkillsUSA statewide competition. The SkillsUSA Championships brings together industry and labor representatives, educators, and the public to watch students compete in leadership and hands-on skill events for a full day. The SkillsUSA Championships begin at the local level with contests in classrooms nationwide. Winners advance through district and state competition, and the winners make it to the national event.

Bryan will be partnering with them to run the actual competition and looking to make changes to the exams administered as part of these competitions to include more spatial centric content.

6. Officer Nominations & Elections Reminder

- a. Q3 Meeting – Nominations

Members are encouraged to consider an officer position on the consortium board. The opportunity to establish objectives, collaborate with a wide variety of individuals, entities, and organizations is unique, and demonstrates leadership and engagement within the GIS community on one's resume. Current officers are available to assist with any questions and can provide guidance and mentorship for those interested.

- b. Q4 Meeting – Elections

Elections for new officers will be held during the last meeting of the year.

7. Announcements

- a. Future meeting dates:

Discussion item was presented regarding meeting rooms. The Sugar Land Council Chambers is great for presentations. However, the preference by the majority of those expressing an opinion prefer a conference room to provide more collaboration. Options were discussed with Fort Bend County, LJA and Sugar Land offering locations.

- i. May 15, 2025
- ii. August 14, 2025
- iii. November 14, 2025
- iv.

- b. Presentation suggestions included another emergency management meeting focused on the freeze event and activation with Caroline Egan from Sugar Land Office of Emergency



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Management providing her expertise. George Culver from LJA Engineering has offered to provide a presentation involving growth in Fort Bend County using GIS data. Members are encouraged to contact leadership with ideas and offers to present.

8. *Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.*