



Department of Transformation and Shared Services

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

Secretary Joseph Wood

Director Shelby Johnson

Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Board

Second Quarterly Meeting

Ashley County Assessors Annex and online via MS Teams

303 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 | 10am - 12pm

MINUTES

The Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Matt Charton, Board Chair. Roll call taken to establish a quorum. Quorum of members present; meeting proceeded.

○ **GIS Board Members Present:**

Mr. Matthew Charton, Chair
Dr. John Nowlin
Mr. Scott Lane
Hon. Beth Rush
Mr. Scott Alsbrook
Mr. Darin Mitchell
Hon. Rusty McMillon (proxy Judge Jim Hudson)
Mr. Scott Foster
Mr. Darrell Allen
Mr. Doug Melton

○ **Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Jonathan Askins
Dr. Cody Decker
Mr. Terry Cleaver

○ **GIS Staff Present:**

Mr. Shelby Johnson
Mr. Jonathan Duran
Mr. Casey Vannoy *via Teams*
Ms. Nita Weeks

○ **Guests Present:**

Mr. Chris Cretini, USGS
Mr. Jake Mashburn, ARDot
Ms. Sharon Hawkins, ARDot
Mr. Morgan Taunton, ARDot
Ms. Stacy McCrory, Ashley County Deputy Assessor
Mr. Jason Nichols, Delta Mass Appraisal
Mr. James Hartshorn, EFS GeoTechnologies

○ **Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2023 Meeting***

Motion to approve: Beth Rush

Second: John Nowlin

Motion Unanimously approved.

○ **Welcome and Opening Remarks, Matthew Charton, Chair**

- ◆ Chair welcomed members and guests.
- ◆ Judge Jim Hudson welcomed all to Ashley County.
- ◆ Beth Rush welcomed all to the new Ashley County Assessor's Annex.

Arkansas Geographic Information Systems Board

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- **Agency Report** via PowerPoint, presented by Shelby Johnson, Director
 - ◆ Reviewed the statistical reports for the year-to-date, notably:
Ninety-one mileposts restored and perpetuated on the boundary of Arkansas and Oklahoma. This is a long-term project to precisely position corners common to state and county lines and will eventually include Arkansas' state line with Louisiana. Mr. Johnson opened the topic to questions and comments.
 - John Nowlin asked if changing the map corners would cause subcounty lines to also change. Mr. Johnson explained that staff member Jennifer Wheeler makes those adjustments, and they are published every six months.
 - Darin Mitchell remarked that AR State Parks found a Choctaw/Cherokee line marker stored in Old Washington State Park. A Board discussion ensued about the possibility of creating a heritage site, feasible grant money for the restoration, and advertising of the project. Daniel Phillips will reach out to Darin Mitchell to investigate available options.
 - ◆ Shelby Johnson announced Daniel Phillips has been voted Surveyor of the Year by the Arkansas Society of Professional Surveyors. Further, the Division of Land Surveys was awarded the Project of the Year for their work on the Choctaw/Cherokee Line.
 - ◆ Census Bureau Coordination and outreach: Counties have been reducing their number of townships, sometimes down to as few as one. The Census Bureau believes there is a lack of granularity at this level and has suggested the use of Justice of the Peace units instead. A lengthy discussion followed.
 - ◆ Staff Update: Melissa Walker joined the GIS staff on an Academic Visa which ended May 31. TSS has authorized an emergency hire procedure and the GIS Office continues to advertise the position.
 - ◆ Coordination Activities were held in March, April, May, and June.
 - ◆ Jonathan Duran presented NSGIC news, including:
 - President's Planning Meeting; 126th OGC Member Meeting; NACo GIS Subcommittee; COGO Congressional Breakfast.
 - Advocacy: NSDI Governance; FLAIR (Federal Land Inventory Reform) Act of 2019; Geospatial support for infrastructure.
 - Annual Conference in New Orleans, September 25-29. Shelby Johnson invited any Board members who would like to attend to contact him and arrangements will be made.
- **Old Business**
 - ◆ *FY 2023 - FY 2025 Strategic Plan Draft* was introduced at the March meeting for Board review, comment, and recommendations for updates, and held over until this meeting for vote. Since the March meeting, Independence and Conway Counties have completed their address point files. *Clerical error correction:* Change second instance of MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE 2 to MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE 3. MEASURABLE_OBJECTIVE 2 verbiage changed to "Foster and coordinate the maintenance..." to recognize Independence and Conway Counties completion of their address points.
Motion to adopt as amended: Darin Mitchell
Second: Beth Rush
Motion unanimously approved.
 - ◆ **Lidar Update**, via PowerPoint presented by Chris Cretini, USGS
Chris Cretini gave updates on two projects:
 - Arkansas - Complete the first round of 3DEP data, including 25,000 sq. mi. of eastern Arkansas, and land area pockets not previously acquired.
 - NRCS Project - Due to leaf growth, 2022 data collection was pushed to 2023-2024. The anticipated timeline: award by August, with flying season of December through March; data by late summer 2024. Mr. Cretini stopped for questions and observations:
 - ◇ It was suggested the acquisition team check for flooded rice fields and other flooded fields due to duck season.
 - Chris ◇ ~~John~~ Cretini explained USGS publishes in "working units" and within the Arkansas 25,000 sq mi, there will be approximately five working units. Each unit will be published as they are ready and approved.

- Jonathan Duran gave a brief presentation on the value of QL1 to Economic Development in the state, and the savings in time and money to business. This led to a larger discussion of the possible economic outcomes of having QL1 data sitting on the shelf, ready to use. The board agreed to promote QL1 through outreach and coordination with other agencies and proposed a draft letter be drawn to this end.
Motion to promote QL1 through outreach and coordination:
Motion to approve: John Nowlin
Second: Darin Mitchell
Motion unanimously approved.
- ♦ **94th General Assembly Update**, Shelby Johnson presented an update on the changes to fire district reporting due to Act 39 adopted by the 94th General Assembly.
 - Arkansas Code §12-10-329 requires each fire district to maintain an accurate map of the fire district, certified annually by the Mayor, County Judge, or County Fire Coordinator, and to transmit this map to the Arkansas GIS Office. The GIS Office will maintain these maps for use by the Arkansas 911 Board and others.
 - The GIS Office will coordinate with ADEM, Act 833 Fire Portal funding. The goal is to incorporate the annual map certification into the portal next year.
- **New Business**
 - ♦ **FY24 Official General Revenue Forecast**
 - Funding is insufficient to support a new position in Matt DeLong's area.
 - Funding is insufficient to support digital Orthoimagery on a three-year rotation.
 - ♦ **GIS Data Load for Community College Districts.**

The GIS Office was asked to provide this information then realized it had never been published before. The Board is asked to approve this data load.

Motion to approve data load: Scott Lane
Second: Scott Alsbrook
Motion unanimously approved.
 - ♦ **Fulton County Tax Parcel Mapping Grant Application**

Shelby Johnson explained how Fulton County has aggressively moved forward to make this grant application a success. He also explained how Cherokee Village will impact the cost of mapping compared to other recent parcel tax mapping grants. The Trust Fund will be able to pay this cost.

Motion to award grant application: Beth Rush
Second: Matt Charton
Motion unanimously approved.
- **Special Presentations** (these reports were given during lunch and after agenda items)
 - ♦ Sharon Hawkins, ARDot. "ADA Ramp and Sidewalk Facility Evaluation: How ARDot is measuring, assessing conditions, and reporting compliance on ADA facilities along the highway right-of-way".
 - ♦ Aaron Shew, Acre Trader. Demonstrated the use of tax parcel GIS data for agricultural real estate investment.
 - ♦ Beth Rush, "How GIS Transformed the Assessor's Office: Then and Now"
Ms. Rush presented a video and photographic account of the Crossett County Assessor's Office transformation from handwritten records to computer-based parcel assessments.
- **Other Matters to Come Before the Board**

Shelby Johnson presented Beth Rush with a Plaque of Recognition and enumerated the accomplishments she has overseen in her county and on the GIS Board.

Motion to adjourn: Scott Lane
Second: Beth Rush
Motion unanimously approved.



Mr. Matthew Charton, Chair

10/18/23

Date