

NOAA, National Geodetic Survey
HEIGHT MODERNIZATION COORDINATION MEETING
Draft Meeting Notes – April 10, 2008

In attendance:

- **call-ins from: CA(Maria Turingan, John Canas), CO (Dan Smith), FL (Horace Roberts), ID(Amy Eller, Rayce Ruiz), IL(Beverly Herzog), KY(Danielle Buchannan, Roberta Young), LA(Roy Dokka), MT (Steve Niday), NC (Jerry Nave, Gary Thompson),NE (Jim Langtry) NM (Earl Burkholder), OR (Ron Singh, Ken Bayes), TX(Gary Jeffress), WI(Dave Moyer, Nathan Czech), WA(Gwen Roy, Dave Steele); Nic Donnelly (visiting from New Zealand)**
- **in Silver Spring and other NGS, Renee Shields, Valincia, Sonita Tiwari, Eric Linzey, Dave Doyle, Ronnie Taylor, advisors from attending states (AR, CO, IL, KY, MS, ID/MT, MN, MI, NC, OH, TX, WI)**

Special Report: None

Program Developments

Grants

- All grant packages have been submitted to NOAA GMD. There were 14 competitive grants and 3 earmarks for height mod. GMD has 90 days to get the grants through the process and approved, so hopefully that will happen on time and they will be awarded by July 1, 2008
- FFO is being prepared for the June Omnibus to announce the competition for FY2009.
- Pam Fromhertz asked how long do grantees have to spend funds, and how they are made available. Grant funds are expected to be used during the time period of the grant. In the case of the Colorado grant, the application dates were July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. NOAA understands there can be delays, so there is a mechanism to request extensions. Grant funds are made available through an account to draw down as grantees spend the funds. They are not released as a lump sum payment.

Outreach – website, publications

- Website: Rearranging items in events archives. Adding categories for Regional and National events.
- Test webinar offered to other NOAA offices on Datums 101, presented by Dave Doyle and Galen Scott of NGS, and Allison Allen of CO-OPS was considered very successful. Other online presentations will likely be made available in the future.
- Pam Fromhertz mentioned that users have to scroll all the way to the bottom of the NGS home page to get to the height mod link. Renee suggested contacting the web master. Note: He must be tiring of taking so long to have an impact also – he contacted me after receiving an email from Pam, and lo and behold, Height Modernization now has a link in the left bar menu. Thanks, Pam!
- No new information about publications. Online Bench mark reset guidelines still are only providing a pdf copy of the current form, not the new online form.

Events – meetings, workshops

- Complete - Apr 8-9, Mobile, AL – Height Mod forum and Regional forum/mtg was well attended and very successful. Presentations will be available online soon. One of the presentations involved the use of GPS and RTK for precision agriculture. A group of farmers in Alabama have combined resources to build a CORS for the National CORS. It is located to fill a gap in the existing National CORS in their area.
- Apr 16-18, Corpus Christi, TX – Subsidence Workshop
- May 2, 9, Ontario and San Jose, CA - 2 Real Time Symposiums
- May 8, San Jose, CA - CSRC Semi-annual meeting
- May 2, Wichita, KS – Regional forum, hosted by TAMUCC
- Date TBD, Greensboro – Real Time Workshop
- June 6-9, WVAGP – HM workshop (now confirmed)
- August 25-29, Cayman Islands – URISA Conference
- August 28-29 – leveling workshop, NC; presented by Curt Smith
- September 18-19 – GPS workshop in Greensboro at NCA&T. This has been a very successful event with 2 tracks, advanced and beginner, and covering everything from field to processing. This is the 5th year for this event.
- Oct 7-10, New Orleans, LA – URISA Conference
- TBA – Dave Zenk says there is interest in a Height Mod forum in Iowa and Minnesota. The plan is to hold a regional forum accessible to MN, IL, IA, and WI. Partners in Wisconsin have also talked about a regional forum, so these events will be combined if possible.
- Brian Ward reported that a leveling workshop is planned in Arkansas, date TBD, probably June.
- New Mexico and Denver, CO are also planning leveling workshops later in the year, date TBD.

Software developments

- Update - Texas HM Level Tool under development at TAMUCC. Work continues for the module for use with the Leica digital level. Currently the debugging is for general leveling data collection and will serve the other vendors equipment when that is made available. Some vendors have not been particularly cooperative in providing the information needed to develop this for their equipment. A new version will be available in the next few weeks. The link at TAMUCC - <http://meridian.tamucc.edu/THM/HomePage> .
- An online leveling data processing application is being developed at NGS – OPUS Levels. It will allow for submission of leveling data, which will be processed at the NGS server. A NAVD88 field elevation will be sent back to the submitter via email, just as the OPUS application does with GPS data. This will be helpful for many users who may not require a final adjusted NAVD88 height but can use the field height.
- Pocket GPS Manager (PGM) – designed to simplify creation of blue book files in GPS projects for submission to NGS; also includes features to manage GPS static campaign surveys. An update on enhancements will be provided soon by CSRC for the web site.

Specifications and Guidelines

- No news.

Other Business

- The NGS Real Time policy is being refined by the NGS Executive Steering Committee. Renee will work with those involved in writing this policy, and with the grants office, so define the policy regarding Real Time Networks and the limitations using federal funds, i.e. Height Modernization grant funds.
- The next monthly phone conference will be Thursday, May 8, 2008, 2:00-3:30 ET. John Canas asked if it could be rescheduled to not conflict with the CSRC meeting. Renee will think about it, but is more inclined to have someone hold it for her in order to keep the regular schedule.