

**NOAA, National Geodetic Survey**  
**HEIGHT MODERNIZATION COORDINATION MEETING**  
**DRAFT - Meeting Notes –October 9, 2008**

**In attendance:**

- call-ins from: KY (Wolfgang Ziegler), NM (Earl Burkholder), WA(Dave Steele), Nate Czech), CA (John Canas, Maria Turingan), OR (Ken Bays)TX (Gary Jeffress, Dan Prouty, Greg Hauger), IL (Amy Eller, Bev Herzog), CO (Dan Smith), KS (Ingrid Landgraf)
- in Silver Spring and other NGS, Lucy Hall, Bill Henning, Ajit Singh, Valincia Walters, Dan Winester
- Advisors/Coordinators: Brian Shaw (AR), Jim Harrington (AL), Marti Ikehara (CA), Pam Fromhertz (CO), Curt Smith (ID/MT), Chris Pearson (IL), Ross MacKay(KY), Curt Crow (MA/NH), Dave Rigney (MI), Dave Zenk (MN), Jim Richardson (NE), Bill Stone (NM), Scott Lokken (NC), Dave Conner (OH), Don Mulcare (TX), John Ellingson (WI)

**Grants**

FY08 Grants have been awarded. FY09 federal funding opportunity (FFO) has closed. There were 20 applications. We are contacting our reviewers to come to Silver Spring in October to complete reviews. It will likely be a while before we know about the budget. Nothing can be awarded until budget is set. There will be no new FFO announced in the December Omnibus.

**Models and Tools**

- LOCUS (Leveling online computing user service) - OPUS leveling is working in its simplest, no problem form. An interface is being designed to make it user friendly. It is expected this might be done by the next meeting. Contact Ajit Singh if you want to beta test the application.
- OPUS Projects – Mark Schenewerk is coding and testing application and provided a demo in Silver Spring. Computation of orthometric heights using OPUS was discussed and Mark will be working on that aspect.
- OPUS DB has initial operating capability. The hold up is issues revolving around the database handling of OPUS DB submissions vs. the more accurate blue book formatted and processed projects.

**GRAV-D – report from Vicki Childers, Manager of GRAV-D program**

- Funding: Through the NOAA PPBES (Programming, Planning, Budget, and Execution System) the first year to expect funding in the NOAA budget for GRAV-D is 2010. NGS is looking at other sources for funding, and is open to adapting the plan to accommodate opportunities that come up.

- An example of adapting to opportunities is the Alaska survey mentioned last month, aero gravity collected for an area about 400-500 km around Anchorage. Also there is a possibility to fly 85-90 hours over New Orleans. Plans for PR/USVI are on-again, off-again, but currently “on” for November. This will be a good test of the concept of developing the geoid model for the vertical datum because the islands are surrounded by water, separate from the mainland.
- Efforts continue on developing tools and procedures for processing the data in-house. Vicki and contractor Theresa Diehl both have software they have used in the past, and this is also being compared with processes used by NGA. Also the gravimeter came with software. We are trying to extract and combine the best of all applications.
- With the end of hurricane season, we are hoping the NOAA Citation aircraft will be available more. In February, NOAA will be retiring the Citation and replacing it with a King Air. The King Air will necessitate lower flight paths, but is more fuel efficient and has better endurance.
- Table Mountain gravity observatory facility is also being improved.

#### **Outreach, Education, Capacity Building**

- Renee reported on the NOAA Benefits meeting in Miami and the Great Lakes Regional Forum. Presentations and notes for those meetings are now online: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/heightmod/EventsArchive.shtml>
- A National HMP forum is planned for February 20 at ACSM in Salt Lake City. It will be a 4 hour forum in the morning, with the focus being on how GRAV-D impacts height mod, and the transition from the traditional height modernization methodology to the development of the new vertical datum.

#### **Other Business**