

HEIGHT MODERNIZATION COORDINATION MEETING
DRAFT - Meeting Notes –Thursday, April 9, 2009

In attendance:

- Call-ins from: AL (John Russell), CT (Tom M.), FL(Horace Roberts), IL (Amy Eller, Bev Herzog), KY (Wolfgang Ziegler), LA (Roy Dokka), MI (Andy Semenchuk), NC (Gary Thompson), NM (Earl Burkholder), OR (Ken Bays), PA (Brad Foltz), SC (Matt Wellslager), TX (Greg Hauger, Dan P.), WA (Frank Fisher, Gwen Roy, Dave Steele), WI (Paul Hartzheim, Dave Moyer)

- Silver Spring: CO-OPS (Tom Landon), NGS(Lucy Hall, Tim Hanson, Gilbert Mitchell, Renee Shields, Sonita Tiwari, Vikki Veilleux, Maralyn Vorhauer, Erika Wilson, Dan Winester)

- Advisors/Coordinators: Jim Harrington (AL), Ed Carlson (HI), Curt Smith (ID/MT), Chris Pearson (IL), Ross MacKay (KY), Denis Riordan (LA), Dave Rigney (MI), Dave Zenk (MN), Scott Lokken (NC), Warren Payton (NJ), Dave Connor (OH), Cliff Middleton (TX), John Ellingson (WI)

Budget and Grant

Gilbert Mitchell

- The Omnibus bill has passed but the divisions have not received their allocation. The budget has only the President’s request for the Height Modernization Program and 3 or 4 earmarks which are classified as hard earmarks. “Soft earmarks” are identified by Congress in report language as something it would like to see awarded (therefore an “earmark”) but haven’t been listed in an actual appropriations law (therefore “soft”). NOAA is re-evaluating it’s understanding of hard vs. soft earmarks and NGS is awaiting guidance.
- We received strong support from NOAA’s Administrative Assistant, Jack Dunnigan, to get stimulus funding for the Height Modernization program. Unfortunately upper management in DOC/NOAA judged that the Height Modernization Program did not rank high enough to receive stimulus funding. The stimulus funding NOS receives will go to eliminate the hydrological survey backlog. NGS encourages the states to seek stimulus funding from other venues to maintain the momentum to modernize the height system. Some of the stimulus funding from other agencies may be distributed through Grants.gov.
- NGS has no funding for competitive grants as in previous years (in FY2008 we had almost \$2.5M for discretionary competitive Height Mod Grants). At present time, the only certainty is that the states with designated earmarks will receive funding.

Models and Tools

- **Status of Geoid09**

Renee Shields

- Dan will do his final retrieval from the database the first week in May and is on track to release the Geoid09 by the end of May.
- Maralyn will get the codes and software in place to use the Geoid09.
- The idea of publishing the metadata about the geoid model used for computing the GPS orthometric heights on the datasheet has been suggested. System believes this information is being loaded, but is not currently being published on the data sheets.

Outreach, Education, Capacity Building

Erika Wilson

- **Geodetic Leveling Workshop – April 21-23, Corbin, Virginia**
- **Introduction to CORS – May 19, Corbin, Virginia**
- **CORS for Advanced Users – May 20, Corbin, Virginia**

For more information or to request the scheduling of a class to meet your training needs, contact NOS.NGS.Corbin.Training.Center@noaa.gov or email Erika.Wilson@noaa.gov.

Events – meetings and workshops

- **Great Lakes Regional Workshop and Height Modernization Forum – March 17-18, 2009.** Agenda is available online: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/conferences.shtml>
- **3-Day NOAA Training in Tide, Water Levels, Storm Surge, Sea Level Rise, NOAA Products, Services and Applications Workshops – March 24-26, 2009 in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette, LA.** Agenda is available online: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/conferences.shtml>
- **Geodetic and Tidal Datums Workshop – April 15, 2009 in Santa Cruz, CA.**
- **Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) 2009 Spring Conference – April 28-29, Champaign, IL** (<http://www.ilgisa.org/Events/upcomingconference.aspx>)
- **Proposed Western Regional Meeting – May, Oregon or Washington**
- **Proposed Southeast Regional Meeting – June, Ashville, North Carolina**
- **Proposed New England Regional Meeting – Oct/Nov**
- **Precise Digital Leveling Workshop – May 12-14, Albuquerque, New Mexico** <http://www.nmps.org/documents/WorkshopFlyer.pdf>
- **CORS Seminar – May 21, Oshkosh, Wisconsin**

Great Lake Region

Paul Hartzheim and Dave Moyer

The report spotlighting the Great Lakes Regional Height Modernization Program is attached.

CO-OPS

Tom Landon

- Annual station inspections and leveling are now being performed in the Florida west coast, Alaska, Chesapeake Bay, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.
- Reconstruction work is needed at Saline Pass, Galveston Pleasure Pier and Galveston Pier 21, Texas. The tidal station at Point Isabel, Texas will be

relocated. The tidal station at Rock Port, Texas may be upgraded to sentinel storm tide station.

- An elevated platform was installed at Lake Charles, Louisiana. Elevated platform will be installed at tidal station Freshwater Bayou Locks, Louisiana.
- There is a NC Tidal-Geodetic workshop scheduled for 4/23-24, jointly presented by NGS and CO-OPS.

Updates from States

North Carolina

Gary Thompson

North Carolina A & T will host a Height Modernization Workshop on September 18-19 in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Gulf Coast Region

Jim Harrington

Mississippi DOT has contracted leveling from Pensacola, Florida through Mississippi to just across the Pearl River in Louisiana. A northern line will go from Mobile, Alabama through Hattiesburg to Natchez, Mississippi.

Washington

Dave Steele

The focus of the next GIS Council will be Height Modernization and Floodplain Mapping. Dave is doing a presentation.

Louisiana

Roy Dokka

LSRC will have a booth at the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors annual meeting demonstrating various Height Modernization issues on April 22-25.

Pacific Region

Ed Carlson

Leveling and GPS survey of Palau.

Illinois

Amy Eller

- Chris Pearson (IL NGS advisor) will be presenting a workshop on "An Introduction to the GPS System" at the IL GIS Association meeting on April 27.
- Chris is doing a presentation on "The Future of the National Spatial Reference System--What it Means to Illinois" at ILGISA on April 28.
- Amy Eller (IDOT) and Bev Herzog are doing a presentation of "The Illinois Height Modernization Program" at ILGISA on April 28.

Other Business

Next meeting will be held Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 2:00 Eastern Standard Time.