

NOAA, National Geodetic Survey
HEIGHT MODERNIZATION COORDINATION MEETING
NOTES
SSMC3, Room 8836

Date: Thursday, March 11, 2010
Time: **2:00-3:30 pm East Coast time**
Call In Number: 877-426-5014, PASSCODE: 8484480

Attendance:

Call-ins from: AK (Pat Kalen), IL (Sheena Beaverson, Amy Eller), NGS (Sonita Tiwari, Vicki Veilleux, Maralyn Vorhauer), WI (Dr. Dave Moyer), CO (Dan Winester), PA (Brad Foltz), LA (Roy Dokka), KY (Ingrid Landgraf, Danielle Kelly); MI (Andy Semenchuk)

Silver Spring: NGS (Christine Gallagher, Renee Shields, Gilbert Mitchell, Joe Evjen, Bill Henning, Steve Vogel)

Advisors/Coordinators: Jim Harrington (AL), Pam Fromhertz (CO), Dave Newcomer (FL), Ross Mackay (KY), Dave Rigney (MI), James Richardson (NE), John Ellingson (WI), David Conner (OH), Denis Riordan (LA), Dan Prouty (TX); Monroe Rivers (KS); Dave Minkel (AZ); Scott Lokken (NC); Mark Armstrong (OR)

Grants/Budget status (Sonita)

- The four competitive grants are ready to go out as soon as a NEPA issue is resolved. There is no status on the hard/soft earmarks, but we should have a status tomorrow morning (March 12). As a point of clarification, there was no new FFO, and the 4 competitive grants were awarded from the 2008 applications that had not been funded yet.

Infrastructure, Models and Tools, etc.
LOCUS, GEOID, GRAVD

No updates

TX HM level tool (Dan Prouty)

- There was a programmer change, and she is being caught up on the project. The estimated completion time for the Topcon level is the end of May. Scott asked if they were working with the Trimble level; TX does not have a Trimble level. Dave Minkel and Roy Dokka both suggested that they could get one on loan. Minkel is working with Sokkia now, they have a built in blue-tooth, and he will see if they want to get involved with project.

OPUS (Evjen)

- By end of month, OPUS extended output should include orthometric height using USGG2009 to help prepare the way for the new datum.
- 250 benchmarks were published in OPUS DB to compare with OPUS values in IDB. 67% matched within 4cm and 95% matched within 10 cm; however, there was not a good

correlation with peak to peak. The experiment could be repeated in OPUS RS because the full rinex files are still available

- OPUS Projects is still exclusively in the lab although some people are involved with testing it in the field a little bit.
- There currently is not NGS guidance on the ideal spacing for GPS on benchmarks, and the geoid team may be able to speak to it in more details; additionally, some guidance may be incorporating into National Height Mod plan. Geoid team is planning on using OPUS DB to help validate the next model, but it is not clear if they will use the data in the model itself. There will likely be 1-2 more models before the new datum, and theoretically a denser GPS on BM will help with the transformation to the new datum. Before beginning a field campaign for GPS on BM, perhaps begin with adding available data to OPUS.

RTK/RTN Guidelines and activities (Henning)

- Single base guidelines are out of draft, are dynamic, and just needed to be cleaned up by Bobbi for typos/aesthetics.
- RTN guidelines are still being edited internally, and then they will be passed on to PSC. Release for public comment is hoped to be around May/June.

CO-OPS (Dokka)

- Specs were released for putting CORS at sentinel stations

Outreach and Education

WEBSITE (Renee)

- Screen shots of pages from the website are attached to the agenda; the map on the home page will be the regional map rather than funding map. The regional pages will still take a bit of time, but Christine is working on a format for state pages that will provide overview and programmatic information while being maintainable. There will be room for partner and NGS contributions; send Christine any documents with Height Mod accomplishments in your state. Web will hopefully be live within 2 months.

CORBIN (Renee)

- NGS may create some short webcasts for the NGS and Height Mod page. Some of the issues they may cover are description of the datasheet, instructions to use OPUS, and verbal answers for FAQs. NGS is getting software to continue to develop projects such as these and webinars.
- Last week there were webinars on geodetic and tidal datums. Comments about the webinar were positive, the presenters (Dave D. and CO-OPS) did a good job, and Erika may have audio and video for the webinars to post on the web eventually.
http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/corbin/past_classes.shtml

UPCOMING EVENTS

- (Dokka) Hurricane Conference in Baton Rouge, LA, March 16-17 with 150 registered already. A lot of National Weather Service involved, but importance of heights will be

throughout conference. State Senator, heads of state agencies, and Ronnie Taylor are all attending.

- (Renee) Great Lakes Regional Height Modernization Consortium Meeting and Workshop will be in West Lafayette, IN on March 23-24. Renee and Bill Henning will both present, and registration is limited to 50 and likely full.
- (Renee) Federal Geospatial Summit is May 11-12, and the registration website will hopefully be live by Monday.

-Corbin calendar: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/corbin/calendar.shtml>

-NGS calendar: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/conferences.shtml>

Updates from States

- (LA, Dokka) USGS has been in contact to use LA RTN to establish heights on tide gages, and they want to create specs to use around the country. The contact has been with Charlie Demas, head of the LA Water Science Center. The project will tie in with many NOAA initiatives including storm surge and inundation modeling. They met one month ago, and they have begun to buy equipment. Renee asked to be kept in the loop because there are a number of groups working on the issue right now including one with USACE, USGS, CO-OPS, NGS and NOS.
- (CO, Pam) Attended a GOI, climate change meeting and will report back later.
- (AZ, Minkel) Set a station for AZ CORS, and will be migrating the 2 metro areas (Phoenix and Tucson) to GNSS reference system.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 8, 2010, 2:00-3:30 East Coast Time