

**NOAA, National Geodetic Survey
HEIGHT MODERNIZATION COORDINATION MEETING
DRAFT NOTES**

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2011

Time: 2:00-3:30 pm East Coast time

Attendees:

Call-ins from: Rayce Ruiz (ID), KY (Wolfgang Ziegler), Sheena Beaverson (IL), Dave Zilkoski (NC), Earl Berkholder (NM), Greg Hauger (TX), Dave Steele (WA), WI (David Moyer), NGS (Dan Callahan), Karl Brown (NPS-CO), Larry Hothem (USGS-VA)

Silver Spring: NGS (Renee Shields, Gilbert Mitchell, Jonetta Johnson, Michael Dennis, Ross Mackay; CO-OPS (Tom Landon)

Advisors/Coordinators: Chris Pearson (IL), Dave Rigney (MI), Scott Lokken (NC), Cliff Middleton, Dan Prouty (TX)

Introduction/Welcome/RollCall (Renee Shields)

General announcements: Business end of meeting will be conducted first with Giovanni joining us by around 2:30.

NGS Activities

Michael Dennis: Planning for adjustment of passive control to the Multi-year CORS solution is underway. Dale Pursell will be assisting as a contractor to develop guidelines for use of software needed for the adjustment. An internal announcement has been distributed and FAQs are being developed to accompany the official announcement. The target completion date is end of this calendar year, 2011. The project will be called NA2011, and the datum will be NAD 83 (2011) with epoch date 2010.00.

Tom Landon – CO-OPS

Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network (TCOON) partners have established 2 single pile Sentinel Sites (hurricane hardened water level observing stations) at Galveston and Texas Point on the Sabine River. Four Sentinels were built after Katrina. Greg Hauger added that CORS will be established at these 2 Sentinels.

In the Caribbean, a sea level station is being established this month on the island of Barbuda. It will be a water level station only, no CORS due to budget limitations I'm told.

In Mobile Bay, CO-OPS will be installing three water level stations on bridges in June in support of the Mobile Bay Storm Surge Monitoring Network. Two additional stations will be installed during July and August under and IDIQ contract, making a total network of five stations. The work is being funded by a FY10 earmark to establish the network for Mobile County.

Greg Hauger reported on plans for leveling to water level stations that he is working on for CO-OPS and USACE. Renee asked that Greg notify Steve Gill of whatever plan there is so that if there is overlap with the tri-lateral water level gage update activity we can coordinate the projects.

Dave Z asked about the status of the 2010 Louisiana project. Renee reported that we have received everything from 2 of the 3 contractors doing the work, but the 3rd contractor still had some deliverables to resubmit. Otherwise Renee isn't sure where this stands.

Dave Z asked if the GRAV-D data collected in the Gulf has been looked at yet to see how that will influence the geoid model in the Gulf, if we are near using this data in the geoid model. Renee will find out. Larry Hothem mentioned that he had attended the GRAV-D webinar, and NGS had reported at least one interim model would be released before the new geopotential datum is implemented. Renee confirmed NGS is planning on a GEOID12, after the NA2011 project is completed.

Renee had a few announcements on upcoming events:

- The next monthly meeting will be pushed to July 21 so as not to conflict with the ESRI User Conference in San Diego. The August meeting is canceled for summer break. Monthly meetings will resume the regular schedule September 8, possibly with a DSWorld demonstration.
- There will be a free 2-day seminar in New Orleans June 20-21 on GPS heights and real time best practices.
- There is a tentative Gulf Coast regional height mod meeting being planned for the morning of June 22.

Updates from States – e.g. outreach, projects

Larry Hothem mentioned that at the ASPRS National conference last month in Wisconsin both he and John Ellingson, WI advisor, participated on a panel organized by Fugro that was attended by about 40 people. Something that came out of the workshop is interest in organizing a session on heights at the next national conference, March 19-23, 2012, in Sacramento.

Chris Pearson mentioned a Future of Heights workshop he giving to a Chapter Meeting of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association

Scott Lokken: reported on some projects he is working on to submit to NGS ahead of the deadline for NA2011. Also Gary Thompson has had a scholarship named after him at the San Hills Community College, and he is awarding it there today.

Monthly presentation

Presentation: Updated coordinates and velocities for NGS Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS)

This presentation was the 4th time this webinar has been given. The discussion covered the most recent realization of CORS coordinates. The updated coordinates and velocities, both horizontal and vertical, use the latest models, methods, and orbits.

Before getting started, Dr. Sella provided a link to a web page where additional information on the project could be found.

<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CORS/data.shtml>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page, select the link to New Realization of NAD 83 to see information on the Multi-year CORS solution.

If you thought of any questions after the meeting, or were unable to attend but have questions after viewing the presentation, please contact Giovanni Sella (Giovanni.Sella@noaa.gov).

You will find the presentation linked to the schedule at:

<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/heightmod/Presentations/HeightModMonthlyMeetingSchedule.pdf>

Q&A:

Question: When this is released, will OPUS provide output using exclusively absolute antenna calibrations rather than both absolute and relative or a choice.

Answer: Yes. We are working on providing both on the beta site before this is implemented so users can compare, but we haven't yet gotten that working. NGS will not provide a transformation. To get back to results using relative calibrations you will need to use HTCP.

Question: Has OPUS been using absolute antenna models already.

Answer: OPUS-S has for about 9 months. There is minimal impact for short lines, but you see big improvement for long lines.

Question: Will accuracy estimates be provided for the MYCS and for velocities.

Answer: We have that information but we have no easy way to make it available through our existing products and services. We could provide those in table format.

Other business

Highlights during ACSM/Survey Summit and ESRI User Conference:

In San Diego July 11-12 there will be a 2-day workshop on OPUS Projects. (This was previously listed as a 1-day session.) This workshop is not listed in the ACSM or Survey Summit program and is being held at the Courtyard by Marriott San Diego Downtown. More information is available on the NGS Corbin Training Center web page.

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

Please send any feedback on the new format of the meetings (e.g. having guest speakers, arrangement of agenda, topics you'd like to hear about) to Renee Shields. (renee.shields@noaa.gov).

Next meeting: Thursday, June 9, 2011; 2:00-3:30 East Coast Time

Next month's speaker and topic: "Network of Sea Level Rise Sentinel Sites within NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS)" by Galen Scott.

Recent Past Events

April 14-15, Little Rock, AR – Arkansas Society of Professional Surveyors Spring Conference and Meeting

April 18, May 26, Webinar – Modernization of the National Spatial Reference System

April 19-21, La Vista, NE – Nebraska GIS Symposium

April 27, Groton, CT – Meeting of US State and Local Government Subcommittee of the CGSIC

May 9, Webinar – GRAV-D: Informational Update

May 10-12, Corbin, VA – River and Valley Crossings workshop

Upcoming Events

May 24-26, Corbin, VA – Geodetic Digital Leveling

May 26, Webinar – Modernization of the National Spatial Reference System

May 26, La Jolla, CA – at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, California Spatial Reference Center semi-annual Coordinating Council Meeting

June 20-21, New Orleans, LA – National Real Time meeting – surveying best practices

June 14-16, Gallup, NM – Leveling workshop

June 20-21, New Orleans, LA – GNSS Heights and Real Time national meeting

July 7-15, San Diego, CA – ACSM sponsors Survey Summit in conjunction with ESRI

Mid-July, date TBD, Webinar – Geodetic and Tidal Vertical Datums

July 11, San Diego, CA – FGCS semi-annual meeting

July 11-12, San Diego, CA – OPUS Projects Manager Training

July 17-21, Chicago, IL – Coastal Zone 2011

November 1-4, Indianapolis, IN – GIS Pro 2011 (URISA)