

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

Date: Thursday, October 13, 2011
Time: 2:00-3:30 pm East Coast time

Attendees:

Call-ins from: IL (Amy Eller), KY (Wolfgang Ziegler), NGS Corbin (Perky Falconer, Dan Callahan), NC (Gary Thompson, Dave Zilkoski), NM (Earl Burkholder), MT (Byrce Larson), WA (Dave Steele), WI (Leonard Perfetti); FEMA (Paul Rooney)

Silver Spring: NGS (Renee Shields, Ross Mackay, Dave Doyle, Gilbert Mitchell, Christine Gallagher, Steve Vogel, Ronnie Taylor); SC (Lew Lapine)

Advisors/Coordinators: Brian Ward (AR), Pam Fromhertz (CO), Curt Smith (ID/MT), Dennis Riordan (MS), Monroe Rivers (KS), Mark Armstrong (OR), Dave Newcomer (FL)

1. NGS/CO-OPS Project Activities

NGS staff still wrapping up Geoid Slope Validation Survey in TX; the project ran into FY12. It will take a while for data to come in and complete related analysis.

Currently, a Great Lakes Region workshop is going on in Columbus, OH and will continue tomorrow. Giovanni Sella, Michael Dennis, Gerry Mader, and Dave Conner are all giving presentations on behalf of NGS.

NA2011 remains on schedule. Final retrieval from database is planned by end of this week. Recently uploaded projects include Southern LA (horizontal and ellipsoid, not orthometric heights), AL data, MS GPS horizontal data (waiting on leveling for orthometric heights), and TN project. Those were the last of the special problem projects NGS wanted to make sure were included in NA2011; all the data from these projects will contribute to NA2011.

Q (Gary Thompson) – What is the status of transformation parameters for NA2007 and NA2011?

A (Renee Shields) – NGS has a contract to look at and study the benefits/feasibility of creating a transformation tool. If it is determined to be a worthwhile investment of resources, then work would proceed to create the transformation tool. If a transformation tool is not created, NGS will provide guidance to users on how to deal with the conversion to the new realization. Michael Dennis would be the NGS point of contact to get more details. Renee does not have a current update on the status of this effort, but will find out more before the next Height Mod meeting.

2. NGS Outreach/Education

- Great Lakes Region workshop is ongoing.
- USACE Community of Practice will be in New Orleans next week; Dave Doyle will be attending.
- GeoTech ongoing in Silver Spring. It is an annual meeting co-sponsored by ASPRS- MidAtlantic Region and NGS.
- Bart Wilson of Delaware DNR gave a Height Mod presentation at the Delaware Association of Surveyors meeting; the state is reconsidering their Height Mod efforts in light of reality.
- NGS has started planning next geospatial summit at beginning of next Esri User Conference in July 2012 in San Diego, CA. Summit will be on Sunday before the User Conference plenary – it will be a six hour day. NGS is currently preparing a “save the date” to be available online and sent out by Esri. On the Tuesday following the User Conference plenary, there will be a two hour special interest group (SIG) meeting. This summit will be a little different from federal geospatial summit in 2010; NGS is targeting the GIS community rather than other federal agencies. We are also expecting some attendees from the Survey Summit in San Diego preceding the Summit.

3. Updates from States – e.g. outreach, projects

NC (Gary Thompson) – (1) 4 county-wide Height Mod projects are in progress. (2) As part of the floodplain mapping program, NC is using a mobile lidar scanner to map some of the roads in 500 yr or 100 yr floodplain in eastern NC. This effort will determine first floor elevations of structures adjacent to roads. The first phase will occur in eastern coastal counties; once complete, additional eastern counties will be scanned. (3) Additionally, aerial imagery was collected for the entire state in 2010; the 911 board is currently funding a re-fly of 25 coastal counties, and 25 more counties will be flown next year if funding is approved.

IL (Amy Eller) – IL leveling contracting going through U of I; Sheena Beaverson would have a more complete update, but she is in OH will most of the IL Height Mod group. Three IL Height Mod folks will attend Corbin training next week.

WI (Leonard Perfetti) – Diane Arendt is in OH. WI Height Mod will be sending Elliot Smith, WI CORS administrator, to a VRS training workshop in Westminster, CO because the state plans to switch from its current older GPS net system. WIS-CORS has over 900 users which is part of why the movement to the new VRS net needs to be transitioned ASAP. He will be looking to learn from others who have made similar transitions.

CO (Pam Fromhertz) – Pam will be presenting at the Westminster, CO Trimble VRS workshop giving introductory/status updates on NGS/RTN topics as well as OPUS-Projects.

4. Monthly presentation

Presentation, to start at approximately 2:30 PM:

U-SMART: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Survey Monument Archival and Retrieval Tool Demonstration

Mark Huber, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

U-SMART is a web based map interface with a database of USACE survey control that facilitates compliance with current regulations to document project control referenced to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). The system, which is available to the public, also displays NSRS control points including CORS and OPUS-DB, as well as NOAA, USGS, and USACE gauges. The url for this application is:

<http://www.agc.army.mil/ndsp/usmart.asp>

Q (Dennis Riordan) – Where are you with respect to local districts using U-SMART and putting their local control into U-SMART?

A (Mark Huber) - 17 districts are already using it. 12 more are putting it into scope of work and making transition over time. It will be a gradual process.

Q (Dennis Riordan) – Is there a limit to how far back in time the data being uploading goes? For example, are only GPS marks being uploaded?

A (Mark Huber) – No, you can put in any data. Does not have to be only geodetic survey control. E.g. high water marks, anything you want geospatial information on

Q (Dave Doyle) – In the NGS integrated database NGS has hundreds (or more) of Corps stations, marks NGS level crews ran through. Has there been an effort to correlate local control USACE is putting in with control that already exists in the NGS IDB?

A (Mark Huber) – We recommend that they check for what might be in the area before they put new marks into their project area. It is important to note though that sometimes older data is no longer good.

Q (Mark Armstrong) – What about Portland District near Columbia River – are they using U-SMART?

A (Mark Huber) – Yes, they are one of our biggest districts; their data is completely loaded up.

Q (Mark Armstrong) - I don't need a log-in to use USMART?

A (Mark Huber) – Correct.

Mark Huber – Please send questions or comments. It is important to me that U-SMART fills what public needs.

Q (Renee Shields) – Are you the primary point of contact?

A (Mark Huber) – Yes.

Q (Dave Newcomer) – I am trying to sign on now, but the connection is untrusted?

A (Mark Huber) – That is because the DOD certificates are not loaded; unfortunately, they are not pre-loaded by Dell/Toshiba, etc. There is info on the webpage about how to

load the certificates. We are trying to get U-SMART on http rather than https so that those issues would go away. I have also written instructions on how to address this issue that I can distribute via email.

5. Other Business

There is a new podcast from National Ocean Service, parent office of NGS at NOAA. It is called Making Waves with Dru Smith talking about the geoid for 15 minutes – link is: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast/oct11/mw101311.mp3>. Next week, there will be a new podcast with Renee Shields talking about Height Mod in very general terms – link is <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast.html#heightmod>. Both links are also on Height Mod homepage.

Dave Zilkoski is back on board with NGS as a contractor working on some special projects, documenting analysis of vertical adjustments in dynamic areas in particular.

Important Links:

Previous months' meeting notes and a list of future meeting presentations can be found at: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/heightmod/MeetingNotes.shtml>

Next meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2011; 2:00-3:30 East Coast Time

Next presentation will be by Julie Prusky (NGS) on new developments to the online submission process.

Recent Past Events

September 15-16, Stowe, VT – Vermont Society of Land Surveyors

September 23-24, Hyannis, MA – Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors & Civil Engineers

September 26-29, Boise, ID – National States Geographic Information Council

September 26-30, Corbin, VA – Astronomic Azimuth Class (CLASS FULL)

Upcoming Events

October 12-13, Silver Spring, MD – GeoTech 2011

October 13-14, Columbus, OH - Great Lakes Region Height Modernization Consortium Meeting

October 18-20, New Orleans, LA – 2011 USACE Geospatial Community of Practice Technical Meeting

October 25-27, Corbin, VA – Geodetic Leveling Class (CLASS FULL)

November 12, Elizabeth, NC – Height Modernization Workshop

November 14, 2011, Goldsboro, NC – Height Modernization Workshop

November 18, 2011, Providence, RI – Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors

December 2, 2011, Shelby, NC – Floodplain Mapping (Elevation Certificates)

December 5-9, 2011, San Francisco, CA – American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting

December 9, 2011, New Bern, NC – Floodplain Mapping (Elevation Certificates)

January 9-11, 2012 Saratoga Springs, NY - New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors (NYSAPLS)

January 12-14, 2012, Chamberlain, SD - SDSPLS Annual Convention

January 25-27, 2012, Wisconsin Dells, WI - Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors (WSLS) Annual Institute

February 17, 2012, Bloomington, MN - MSPS 60th Annual Meeting 2012

March 2012, Breezy Point, MN - 2012 MNDOT Surveys Technical Workshop

July 15-18, 2012, Indianapolis, IN - 11th International Conference on Precision Agriculture (ICPA)

July 22 & 24, San Diego, CA – 2012 Geospatial Summit

July 23-27, San Diego, CA – ESRI User Conference