

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

Date: Thursday, December 16, 2010

**Time: 3:00-4:30 pm East Coast time**

Call In Number: 877-426-5014, PASSCODE: 8484480

**Registration Web Link: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/242764034>**

**Attendees:**

Call-ins from: AK (Matt Forney), CA (John Canas), IL (Sheena Beaverson, Amy Eller), MI (Andy Semenchuck), NGS (Vicki Veilleux, ), NM (Earl Burkholder), PA (Brad Foltz), WI (Dr. Dave Moyer, Darin Henkel)

Silver Spring: NGS (Renee Shields, Christine Gallagher)

Advisors/Coordinators: Dave Newcomer (FL), John Ellingson (WI)

**Budget status**

NGS is still on a Continuing Resolution, so there is no new budget.

**Infrastructure, Models and Tools, Standards, Specs, and Guidelines Software Developments**

- There was an OPUS-Projects “train-the-trainers” event at Corbin Training facility in early December for about 15 NGS staff. The event was successful, but it did illustrate that there is still a long way to go for OPUS-Projects to be ready for complete public release.

**Outreach and Education**

Height Modernization webpage (Renee)

- We previewed the Height Mod webpage that is now live and uses the new NGS templates. Most of the content is the same, but Renee highlighted some of the main differences.
- On the old page, there were “buttons” on the left side bar and across the top to help navigate the site. Now, the top menu bar remains the NGS bar, and all the Height Mod links are in the left side bar. Many of the links remain the same, but content on a few pages has been rearranged and/or combined. Note, when you “mouse-over” “Science of Height Modernization” in the left bar menu, you will see links for GRAVD, Leveling, and Geoid.
- “What is Height Modernization” is a new page, an updated version of the old “Definition” page. It includes many links to other relevant parts of the NGS web site. If you have comments or think additional info should be included please let us know.
- The Regional framework that was adopted a few years ago in agreement with the NOAA collaborative regions is now reflected on the Height Mod web site. Selecting the “Regions/States” on the left bar menu or the map on the right bar will take you to the Region Home Page. While the regions generally align with the NOAA collaborative regions, there are some states that are included in more than one region based on Height

Mod partnerships and collaborations. From the Region Home page, you can navigate to the Region pages or the State pages.

- We previewed the Great Lakes Region home page because it has some additional content including partner contact information, events, and presentations. Each region will have the opportunity to include similar information to their webpage in the coming months.
- We also previewed the Texas state page because it also had some additional partner contributed information. Every state page will have an Overview, Accomplishment, and Partnership section written by NGS in cooperation with state partners. The rest of the state page can be populated by state partners as a location to post information about projects, publications, events, etc. Many states already have text written, and in the next year we will work with states to have all those pages completed. We will also have a webpage “maintenance policy” to ensure the webmaster is not overwhelmed with update requests.
- To find meeting notes, select “Upcoming and Past Events” and there is a hyperlink to the meeting notes page in the text describing coordinating meetings.
- Please let us know if there are any problems with the website, or if you have any suggestions to help us keep improving it. Eventually we will update the content on the Guidelines/Publications and Outreach/Education pages, but we will be focusing efforts on the Region and State pages first.

#### Monthly presentations for 2011

- To add value to the monthly meetings, we will be having monthly speaker presentations (30 min – 1 hour) with discussion sessions. We welcome ideas and topics what you are interested in learning more about, discussing, or debating. Topics recently discussed in these meetings include the publishing of superseded elevations in dynamic areas.
- Please let us know if you are interested in making a presentation yourself, too.
- By January, we hope to have a schedule thru June of next year so participants can make sure to call-in for presentations of particular interest. The schedule thru March of next year is below:

January 13 - “VDatum: Integrating America’s Elevation Data”

Doug Brown, National Geodetic Survey

February 10 - “Orthometric Heights through Real-Time Networks”

Bill Henning, National Geodetic Survey & Lew Lapine, South Carolina Geodetic Survey

March 10 - “NOAA’s Aeronautical Survey Program”

Mark Howard, National Geodetic Survey

Later in 2011:

-Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and Height Modernization

-Height Modernization at NOAA’s National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs)

-Height Modernization and the Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) Network

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

- PA (Foltz) is organizing the spring Great Lakes Height Modernization meeting (Harrisburg or Hershey), so Dave Moyer reminded the group that Silver Spring folks will

need to participate/be available. Sheena requested the conference not conflict with the April 19-20 GIS Symposium. Wisconsin prefers April rather than May, and it will all be further discussed at the next Great Lakes teleconference (January 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM central time). PA also has added continuing education requirements for surveyors, so large attendance could be generated if credits are offered.

- **IL** (Beaverson) is fixing its leveling contracts for the coming year, and it should be reviewing contractors in January and February. Illinois will send 3 attendees to the February Lidar conference.
- **WI** (Moyer) state government is proposing a user fee for CORS registrants, so we will see how that impacts us.
- **AK** (Forney) discussed NGS participation in the February Surveying and Mapping conference. He will be participating in the GIS Jam Session in partnership with the National Park Service (Joel Cusick). Renee added that there is still space available in the Shoreline Mapping session, and VDatum or LiDAR projects may be a good fit.

### **Other Business**

- The most recent POB issue lists all the state PLS/LIS conferences for 2011.
- Also, check out the story on earmarks on National Public Radio's All Things Considered from December 16th. Gary Gilley, Director of the Texas Spatial Reference Center, tells why height modernization is important. Use the link below to find the audio and text version: <http://www.npr.org/2010/12/16/132115556/Spending-Bill-Loaded-With-GOP-Earmarks>

Next meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2010; 2:00-3:30 East Coast Time

## **Recent past events – Height Mod and other**

**December 8 (webinar)** – State Plane Coordinates webinar

## **Upcoming events**

**January 12-14, Indianapolis, IN** – Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors Annual Convention (ISPLS) Height Modernization and GNSS Derived Heights workshop

**January 19-21, Verona, NY** – New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors Annual Conference (NYAPLS) Best Methods for RT GNSS Positioning: A Field Guide

**January 22, Detroit, MI** – Burt & Mullet Chapter of ACSM, Best Methods of RT GNSS Positioning: a Field Guide

**January 26, Hershey, PA** – Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors 2011 Conference, NGS Real Time GNSS User Guidelines

**February 2-5, Honolulu, HI** - Hawaii Land Surveyors Association Annual Conference

**February 2-5, Raleigh, NC** - North Carolina Society of Surveyors Annual Conference

**February 2-5, Atlantic City, NJ** – (NJSPLS) Height Modernization workshop

**February 17, Springfield, IL** – Illinois Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ISPLS) annual meeting, Modernization of the NSRS

**February 21-25, Anchorage, AK** – Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference

**February 24, Morgantown, WV** – WV Society of Professional Surveyors Annual meeting, Best Methods of RT GNSS Positioning: a Field Guide

**March 3-5, Aurora, CO** – Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado Rocky Mountain Surveyor Summit

**March 11, Ames, IA** – Society of Land Surveyors in Iowa

**March 21-24, Houston, TX** – SPAR (Spar Point Research LLC, see web site at <http://sparllc.com/about.php>)

**March 28-30, Hershey, PA** - GIS-T (GIS for Transportation Symposium)

**April 7-8, Linthicum Heights, MD** – Maryland Society of Professional Surveyors Conference

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

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

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

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