



Great Lakes Regional Forum

NOAA/NGS Height Modernization Program

• Wednesday, September 24, 2008 • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison, WI •

Agenda: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

- 8:00 **Registration/Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30 **Welcome/Opening Remarks** - *Paul Hartzheim, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Gilbert Mitchell, National Geodetic Survey (NGS)*
This opening session will provide an introduction to the discussions planned for the next two days, including NGS interests in partnering with states to improve elevation data, WisDOT's plans for support of state Height Modernization efforts in the Great Lakes Region, and expected results from this forum.
- 8:45 **National Height Modernization Program (IGLD) – An Overview** - *Renee Shields, NGS*
For the past several years, at the specific direction of Congress, NGS has been developing ways to cost effectively improve elevation across the country. This session will include a discussion of the history and evolution of the HMP, and describe the regional program now being put in place, built on partnerships between NGS and states.
- 9:25 **GRAV-D Program** - *Mark Eckl, NGS*
Information on gravity is a key component in the determination of accurate elevations. Improvement in the quality and quantity of gravity data through the GRAV-D program is critical for improving the accuracy of elevation data. This session will describe specific goals and expectation for GRAV-D, expected costs, and how it benefits and compliments other components of the HMP.
- 9:55 **Update of the International Great Lakes Datum (ILGD) from 1985 to 2015** – *Jeff Oyler and Zach Jefferies, CO-OPS, National Ocean Service*
- 10:15 **Break**
- 10:30 **Height Modernization Applications** - *Gary Thompson, North Carolina Geodetic Survey*
North Carolina was one of the first states to partner with NGS to improve their elevation data. Over the past 10 years North Carolina has realized substantial benefits as of result of this partnership. Several applications of these HMP efforts and the resulting benefits will be described in this session.
- 11:00 **Regional HMP Plan** - *Renee Shields, NGS*
NGS's parent organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has been using a regional approach for many of the programs under its jurisdiction. Benefits and challenges of the regional approach will be discussed, along with the details on current NGS plans for partnering with states on a regional basis.
- 11:30 **Report from other HMP Regions – Gulf of Mexico Region** - *Dr. Gary Jeffress, RPLS, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi*
NGS/NOAA regions have a number of things in common, as well as unique characteristics. This discussion will describe Gulf of Mexico regional efforts that have been designed to build on the common problems and characteristics, and still provide support of the unique situations that each state will typically face.
- 12:00 **Lunch** (provided)
- 1:00 **Individual State Presentations:** Opportunity for a representative of each state to give a 15-20 minute presentation on activities/needs in their states
- Wisconsin
 - Ohio
 - Michigan
 - Indiana
 - Illinois

- Minnesota
- Iowa

State presentations will include such things as the history and status of geodetic programs in their state, plans for the next five years, interest and support (staffing, cost sharing, etc.) at the present time for HMP, and any preliminary thoughts on the NGS/NOAA regional approach for the HMP.

2:30 **Break**

2:45 **Continuation of State Presentations**

3:30 **Open Discussion and Comments** by states on current status and prospects -An opportunity for all forum participants to share their thoughts on the HMP in general, the regional approach outlined by NGS, and opportunities they see for participation (or continuing participation) in the HMP.

4:45 **Wrap-up** (day one)



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• Thursday, September 25, 2008 • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison, WI •

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8:00 **Introduction/Plan for the Day** – *Paul Hartzheim, WisDOT*

Day two is **primarily a working session for state representatives** with an interest in developing or expanding a Height Modernization Program partnership with NOAA/NGS.

8:15 **Grant Program** – *Sonita Tiwari, NGS, Paul Hartzheim, WisDOT*

Federal funding support for state partners in the HMP has been provided for the past several years through a grant program administered by NOAA through NGS. This session will provide an overview of this grant program, including use of the www.Grants.gov site that provides the gateway for general information about grants, applying for grants, and providing technical and financial reports that are required.

9:00 **Additional Comments** and questions/feedback on topics presented on Day 1

9:45 **Break**

10:15 **Continue Discussion:**

- NGS National HMP Plan
- NGS/NOAA Regional approach to the HMP
- Ideas for governance of N-HMP

10:45 **Where do we go from here?** - State representatives:

- Brainstorm strategy for Great Lakes Region
- Potential opportunities for multi-state HMP efforts
- Specifics as to what and how on joint efforts

11:30 **Wrap-up:**

- Summarize action items
- Plans for future meetings

Noon **Adjourn** or Lunch (on your own) if afternoon breakout meetings are planned

1:00 – 4:00 Space will be available at the hotel for additional breakout meetings that may be needed, such as:

- State DOT representatives to discussion items of mutual concern
- State Geodetic Advisors to hold a regional meeting for general NGS programs of general interest.