

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

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2012
Time: 2:00-3:30 pm East Coast time

Attendees:

Call-ins from: CA (John Canas); IL (Amy Eller), KY (Wolfgang Ziegler), NGS (Vicki Veilleux, Dan Callahan), NC (Gary Thompson), NM (Earl Burkholder), SC (Matt Wellslager); TX (Gary Jeffress, Greg Hauger);WA (Dave Steele); WI (Dave Moyer); USACE (Mark Huber)

Silver Spring: NGS (Renee Shields, Christine Gallagher, Gilbert Mitchell, Ross Mackay, Michael Dennis, Neil Weston, Juliana Blackwell, Mark Eckl, Burt Smith); CO-OPS (Michael Michalski); NC (Dave Zilkoski)

Advisors/Coordinators: Pam Fromhertz (CO), John Ellingson (IL), Randy Wegner and Dave Newcomer (FL), Scott Lokken (NC), Dave Rigney (MI), Jim Richardson (NE), Mark Armstrong (OR), Dan Prouty (TX), Dan Martin (VT), John Ellingson (WI)

1. NGS/CO-OPS Project Activities

- **Brown bags from Nic Donnelly (Shields)** – Nic Donnelly from Land Information New Zealand shared two brown bag presentations while visiting NGS this week: (1) "eGeodesy: Seamless Geodetic Data Transfer" and (2) "Recovering the Geodetic System in Christchurch, New Zealand, after the 2010 and 2011 Earthquakes."
- **NA 2011 and Geoid12 (Shields)** – These projects are now on deadlines to ensure the Geoid12 will be available by June 30. This schedule means that NA2011 will be complete about 4-6 weeks ahead of the release of Geoid12. However, NA2011 will not be released prior to the release of Geoid12.
- **Height Mod Special projects (Shields)** – NGS is currently loading projects into a test database and working on secondary adjustments in the Gulf. These special projects (e.g. Gulf Coast and WI) will be complete for Geoid12.
- **Revamping Vdatum (Michalski)** – CO-OPS is completing 18 new installations: 9 in GA and 9 in NC. These stations will be operational for 3-5 months, have new tidal/geodetic connections, and help revamp the regional Vdatum model in the next year.
- **General Q/A:**
 - Renee Shields: Is there a CORS backlog?

- Neil Weston: If there are any stations sitting in a queue, it is to make sure we have complete information on that station to ensure it meets the requirements. If there are questions, please contact NGS.

2. NGS Outreach/Education

- **2012 Geospatial Summit (Shields)** – Planning continues, and while the main event is before the Esri UC, there will be a Special Interest Group meeting during the UC. Additionally, there will be an FGCS meeting in San Diego that same week.
- **Height Mod Group Submission to Esri Map Gallery (Shields)** – Sheena is still coordinating a group display at the Esri Map Gallery. Sheena has reserved two “islands” of panels, so we have 16 panels to fill as a group and more participation is definitely desired. You do not need to be attending the meeting to have your map displayed. It’s an opportunity to showcase what is going on in your state.

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

- **Texas (Prouty)** – TX just submitted Jefferson County project to NGS.
- **GIS for Transportation Symposium in Colorado (Fromhertz)** – The event is next week, and Pam will be giving a presentation on datums and tools to connect to geospatial data.
- **Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) Working Group (Shields)** – The event was very well attended, likely 200 or more attendees. On the second day Dave Doyle participated in a panel on datums with Jim Garster (USACE) and Paul Rooney (FEMA) that was well received.

4. Monthly presentation

Presentation, to start at approximately 2:30 PM:

Updates to the NGS Datasheet Format

Burt Smith, National Geodetic Survey

NGS has developed several modifications to the NGS datasheet – the primary method for accessing the passive control network of the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS). These changes will provide more information about published positions and better serve the needs of our stakeholders.

Burt Smith is a geodesist and the supervisor of the NGS’s Record Management Branch and chairs the Datasheet Committee. He has worked for NGS for 35 years.

- You can read more about the changes on the NGS web site at http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/web/news/Datasheet_Format_Change.shtml

- The changes are also discussed in Professional Surveyor Magazine in January 2012 at <http://www.profsurv.com/magazine/article.aspx?i=71046>
- There is also a new “Vertical Datum” webpage at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/datums/vertical/VerticalDatums.shtml>. You can navigate to it from the NGS Home Page, Select “Science and Education,” “Datums,” and “Vertical.”

Q (Shields): What geoid model will be published?

A (Smith): The most recent geoid will be published, but if an orthometric height was determined by an earlier model, then that geoid model will be published, too. More changes to the superseded section have been suggested or discussed, but they are not part of this format change.

Q (Shields): When will this be released?

A (Smith): We are hoping to release the second week in May. There is a beta version available for people to test inside of NGS. The beta link can be sent to the advisors. A pdf of sample datasheets are available on the NGS web site (see the link above). The public announcement for the full release will go out a week before it is live.

Q (Winester): Has there been discussion about a datasheet that you can select the fields from the datasheet you are most interested in? This would be essentially a menu-driven selection / retrieval tool.

A (Smith): That is an effort that is planned in the near future after this datasheet change and going through the additional list of about thirty additional changes / improvements. The new format of the datasheet would look more like the OPUS datasheet and have options to select some fields.

5. Other Business

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, May 10, 2011; 2:00-3:30 East Coast Time

On May 10, Greg Snyder, USGS, and David Maune, Dewberry, will share a presentation on the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA). NEEA was completed in December 2011, and USGS is coordinating a program implementation and funding strategy with other National Digital Elevation Program agencies. This presentation will focus on the key findings, program recommendations and next steps for NEEA.

Recent Past Events

March 2, 2012, Santa Rosa, CA - “Down to Earth: Datums and Reference Systems”

March 5-9, 2012, Honolulu, HI – Hawaii Pacific GIS Conference 2012

March 20-22, 2012, Breezy Point, MN - 2012 MNDOT Surveys Technical Workshop

April 3-4, 2012, Silver Spring, MD - Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) Working Group bi-monthly meeting

April 5, 2012, Riverside, CA – LCSO Geospatial Symposium

Upcoming Events

April 11-13, Sacramento, CA – CalGIS Conference: Capitalizing On Spatial Technology

April 16-18, Loveland, CO – GIS-T Symposium

April 18-19, 2012, Champaign, IL - Illinois GIS Association Spring Conference

May 6-10, 2012, Rome, Italy – International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working Week

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

July 21-24, 2012, San Diego, CA – Survey Summit

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

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

July 29-Aug1, 2012, Philadelphia, PA – Transportation Research Board Geospatial Data Acquisition Technologies in Design and Construction (AFB80) Committee Summer Conference

October 16-17, 2012, Naperville, IL - Illinois GIS Association Fall Conference