

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

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2011

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

Attendees:

Call-ins from: CA (Jay Satalich), ID (Rayce Ruiz), IL (Sheena Beaverson), MI (Shawn Roy), MT (Dan Ignatov), NGS (Vicki Veilleux, Dan Callahan, Perky Falconer, Kevin Jordan, Ralph Harrell, Bill Henning, Tim Wilkins, Dru Smith), NM (Earl Burkholder), TX (Greg Hauger), WA (Dave Steele); WI (David Moyer)

Silver Spring: NGS (Renee Shields, Gilbert Mitchell, Ross Mackay, Dru Smith); CO-OPS (Scott Duncan); NC (Dave Zilkoski)

Advisors/Coordinators: Pam Fromhertz (CO), Dave Newcomer (FL), Monroe Rivers (KS), Dave Rigney (MI), Denis Riordan (MS), Curt Smith (MT), Scott Lokken (NC), Bill Stone (NM), Mark Armstrong (OR)

1. NGS/CO-OPS Project Activities

- **NA2011, GEOID12 (Shields)** – Renee gave a quick update on the status of the National Adjustment of 2011 and GEOID12. NA2011 is complete and being loaded into the beta and test databases so the results are available to Dan Roman who will retrieve ellipsoid heights on bench marks. Several Gulf coast leveling projects have also been completed, and the ortho heights from those projects will be hand selected for Dan. While Dan is finalizing the GEOID12 model, Renee will be testing datasheets in the Gulf, where subsidence and the age of the leveling at various marks will help dictate what will be published.
- **ArcGIS tools** – Dave Zilkoski mentioned that ArcGIS tools were used extensively for analysis of the Gulf Coast leveling projects, as well as for the analysis of the NA2011 results. Brian Shaw at NGS has been helping build a tool kit for use with adjustment data, and Kevin Kelly at ESRI and Jay Satalich at CALTRANS are working with NGS to further develop ArcGIS tools, including tools to facilitate extraction of data from the NGS database. These will be available to the public as they are completed.
- **LOCUS** – Renee reported that LOCUS is available on the NGS web site. LOCUS is similar to OPUS in that it is an online service allowing users to submit data, in this case digital leveling data, to NGS servers where the data is used to compute an NAVD 88 height which is returned to the user via email. There is a link in the left bar menu of the NGS web site under Popular links, and the utility will be added to the NGS Tool Kit. An announcement will be posted on the web page and will be sent out in the NGS News subscription service. A demo of this utility will be given at a future height mod monthly meeting.

2. NGS Outreach/Education

- **NGS RTN Symposium (Shields/Henning)** – Because of restrictions being imposed upon NOAA, NGS has decided to postpone the Real Time Symposium planned for Memphis in June. A notice to this affect should appear on the NGS web site soon, and those people registered will receive an email, if they haven't already. Notice will also be sent out via the NGS News subscription. NGS is hoping to hold the even concurrent with the CaGIS and Ion conferences in Nashville in September.
- **2012 Geospatial Summit (Shields)** – There may be some similar impact on the NGS presence at the Survey Summit and ESRI UC. Information will be sent out as soon as it is available.
- **Height Mod Group Submission to Esri Map Gallery (Shields/Beaverson)** – Thanks to Sheena there will be 2 Height Modernization group map submissions at ESRI of 8 panels each. [As of this meeting there were still 2 panels possibly to fill. These have since been identified, including a submission from USGS on their stream gages and national stream flow program.]

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

- **Idaho (Ruiz)** – Idaho has successfully gotten funds added at Idaho State University to support a Regional Coordinator position there, and asked who would be his contact. Ross was in the room and expressed his great interest, and asked what the timetable is. Rayce is meeting with people next week and hopes to be ready to fill the position within the month.

4. Monthly presentation

Presentation, to start at approximately 2:30 PM:

The Next NGS Ten-year Plan
Dru Smith, National Geodetic Survey

Dru's talk was off the cuff, without presentation material, so the webinar was not used. Dru reminded listeners of the background of the current Ten-year Plan, that it was 5 years old, and that it was time to revisit that plan to see where NGS is on track, not on track, or needs to change direction to respond to changing and new user needs. This was done at the NGS leadership meeting.

Dru mentioned a few things that the previous plan did not have in it or that have changed how NGS is looking at the plan:

- GRAV-D is well on its way, because of funding support and in spite of having less than we needed
- NGS has now had some training in the art of strategic planning and project management, how to create a true Plan with Objectives and Strategies

- The previous plan was a hodge podge of big ideas without clearly explaining how to get there
- NGS day to day mission operations include activities not itemized in the plan, and not directly related to the long term “update” goals

The new plan will be slimmer with the large high-level goals, including replacing NAVD 88 and NAD 83. It will be high level with the direction of the Agency described. NGS will be assigning individuals to lead those high level goals, and the objectives and strategies with milestones will be developed in house. Dru plans to have a plan out in the next few months for public comment. There will not be radical changes from the previous plan to this one, but just more focus in this version.

Renee mentioned within NGS Dru asked for people to send in Objectives and asked what kind of response Dru had. Dru reported he received 128 objectives from NGS personnel. Many were able to be combined; many were more specific, basically strategies that will fall under an objective. Dru expects there will be 20-25 objectives when they are compiled. Someone will be assigned to each Objective and will be expected to report to NGS Leadership quarterly on the status.

Dave Zilkoski asked if all this will be on the web. Dru said it is not likely the detail will be out there, that level of detail isn't necessary to share with the public. The main goals, objectives will be out there as an executive summary, but not the milestones, the details of what is done to implement the strategies. Within NGS hopefully employees will see where they fit in implementing those strategies within those details.

Renee reported she and Christine will be working with Dru to integrate the draft Height Modernization Plan into the NGS Ten-year plan.

Dr. Dru Smith has been the Chief Geodesist of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey since 2005. He first entered NGS in 1995 after receiving his Ph.D. in geodetic science from The Ohio State University. From 1995 until 2000 he performed gravity and geoid research, resulting in the GEOID96, CARIB97, MEXICO97 and GEOID99 geoid models. In 2001 he spent a year working for the Executive Secretariat of the Interagency GPS Executive Board, helping shape government GPS policy. In 2001 he returned to NGS and focused his research on using the CORS network to model the ionosphere.

5. Other Business

NGS is having a national Height Modernization Partner meeting via Teleconference the following week, June 21. The goals of the meeting are to provide a forum in which Height mod states can share news and lessons learned, and where NGS leadership is available for a dialog with the states. NGS projects and programs can be reported with an emphasis on height mod related activities. This is a follow up from a meeting held in Silver Spring last August which was attended by nearly all previously funded height modernization partner states. The August meeting was very successful and the states expressed high interest in continuing these meetings at least on an annual basis. It is hoped there will be a meeting in Spring 2013 where partners can meet in person, and David Mooneyhan at the University of Southern Mississippi has offered to host that one.

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, July 12, 2012; 2:00-3:30 East Coast Time

Scott Lokken, NGS, and Gary Thompson, North Carolina Geodetic Survey, will give a presentation on how GPS is used in North Carolina for surveys to determine heights to FEMA standards for Elevation Certificates.

Recent Past Events

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

May 24, 2012, California – California Spatial Reference Center Semi-Annual Coordinating Council Meeting

Upcoming Events

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-Aug 1, 2012, Philadelphia, PA – Transportation Research Board Geospatial Data Acquisition Technologies in Design and Construction (AFB80) Committee Summer Conference

Sept 17-18, 2012, Nashville, TN – Institute of Navigation GNSS 2012

Sept 17-18, 2012, Nashville, TN – Civil GPS Service Interface Committee 52nd meeting

Sept 17-18, 2012, Nashville, TN – Proposed – RTN Symposium

Sept 30-Oct 4, 2012, Portland, OR – URISA 50th Annual Conference, GIS-Pro 2012

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