

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

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014  
Time: 2:00-3:30 pm East Coast time

**Attendees:**

*Call-ins from:* AK (Pat Kalen, Tom Scarborough, Tim Sprout, Nicole Kinsman, Jeff Freymueller, Tom Heinrichs), AL (Nancy Lawrence), CA (John Canas, Scott Martin), CO (Jonathan Kobylarz, Kevin Kelly), CO-OPS (Laura Rear McLaughlin), FL (Ron Hanson, George Massey), IL (Sheena Beaverson, Mike Blumhoff, Janet Holden, Amy Eller), NGS (Dan Winester, Kevin Jordan, Dan Callahan, Monica Youngman, Tim Hanson, Galen Scott), OR (Ken Bays), PA (Brad Foltz), TN (Kim McDonough), UT (Val Schulz), WI (Jacob Rockweiler, David Moyer), FWS (Mike Hayden), NPS (Thom Curdts)

*Silver Spring:* NGS (Christine Gallagher, Aida Polite, Ross Mackay, Courtney Lindo), CO-OPS (Mike Michalski)

*Advisors/Coordinators:* Brian Ward (AR), Pam Fromhertz (CO), Dave Rigney (MI), Dave Zenk (MN), Denis Riordan (MS), Dave Conner (OH), Mark Armstrong (OR), Cliff Middleton (TX), Dan Martin (VT), John Ellingson (WI),

**Note:**

It is NGS' habit to only capture names of attendees who speak up at the initial roll call or during the meeting. We respect those who may wish to attend anonymously, but note that 46 people attended the meeting remotely. If you want your name captured in the recorded notes, and you do not see it listed here, email [Christine.Gallagher@noaa.gov](mailto:Christine.Gallagher@noaa.gov), or [ngs.htmod@noaa.gov](mailto:ngs.htmod@noaa.gov).

**1. NGS updates**

- a. **National Height Modernization (Gallagher)** – Planning continues for the National Meeting in April. Check the web for updated travel/agenda information. If you have questions/concerns, please let Christine know. Review the webpage for more information:  
<http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/heightmod/PartnerMeeting2014.shtml>.
- b. **Eastern Height Modernization (Gallagher)** – Following up the March 4 webinar, there will be a general interest meeting in June to explore starting an Eastern Regional team.
- c. **GPS on bench mark (Gallagher)** – This was a focus of the March monthly meeting, and there was a large increase in OPUS shared solutions. I think it was a success, and I know that there are even more solutions to be sent into OPUS.

- i. PA – We organized to collect 50 marks or more, sending out teams to collect 4.5 hour occupations
- ii. VT – We also have data collected not yet shown on the map
- iii. CO - We also have data collected not yet shown on the map
- iv. UT – Interest and success in the west, with a desire to do more in the future

## 2. State Updates

- a. **Illinois (Holden)** – IL Height Mod will be going to the ESRI User conference this year and is planning a 2 panel poster session on Height Modernization programs. They are requesting other state and federal agencies to send Height Mod project posters to include in the Height Mod display. There are 16 slots for posters, and Janet needs 7 more volunteers. The session will be Monday July 14th, 2014. Point of contact: Janet Holden, Illinois State Geological Survey (jthornhi@illinois.edu)
- b. **Western Region (Martin/Schulz)** – The next group meeting is coming up, and it will include a PBO/UNAVCO update from Dr. Glen Mattioli, Director of Geodetic Infrastructure. There will also be information shared from the Great Lakes to learn how their regional collaboration has been successful.
- c. **Table Mountain, Colorado (Winester)** – There will be a comparison of absolute gravity meters September 15-19 in Longmont, Colorado.
- d. **Ohio (Conner)** – Will be hosting a workshop with OPUS projects, blue booking, and ADJUST on April 22-25. Contact Dave Conner for more information

## 3. Guest Presentations

### Hunting for Sea Levels in Alaska

Nicole Kinsman, Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

An overview of some of the day-to-day challenges associated with working on elevation-sensitive projects beyond the limits of tools such as VERTCON and VDatum, with an emphasis on the coastal zone. I will describe some of the unique problems associated with vertical measurements of both the land and sea in rural Alaska from the perspective of a non-surveyor. I'll also present a few of our stop-gap approaches for dealing with some of these issues, explain how we rely on the NGS shared OPUS database and provide some insight into future needs.

Nicole Kinsman manages the Coastal Science Program at the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in Fairbanks, Alaska where her team is focused on the production of coastal vulnerability maps at the community level. She leads field investigations of erosion, ice push and storm surge hazards throughout the state. She is also an affiliated faculty member at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and serves on several community advisory boards.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q (Kinsman) – Could AK identify a Geodetic coordinator or advisor?

A (Mackay) – NGS is transitioning to a regional advisor program. AK will be a region, and the paperwork has started to fill that position. We hope it will be filled by the end of the summer, likely working out of Anchorage.

Q (Conner) – Do you know why AK is no longer part of the Coastal Zone Management Program?

A (Kinsman) – I do not because the decision was already made when I started this job. There is no immediate plan to re-engage.

Q (Kalen) – Have you given this talk to other groups? Would you be willing to give a talk in May in AK?

A (Kinsman) – This is a relatively new talk, but I would be happy to schedule other times and adjust to different audiences as needed.

Q (Fromhertz) – How do you know that it is the marks moving rather than the ground in cases where there is a dramatic physical change at the site.

A (Kinsman) – It is a difficult and important question. We do compare information from a number of nearby sites to try and isolate the marks that move vs. where there is land motion.

A (Freymueller) – There is definite evidence at times that the mark moved; in fact, reoccupation is sometimes not possible at all because the mark is gone.

Q (Scott) – Have you heard of the NOAA Sentinel Site Program? There is a great deal of synergy between the intent of that program and the work you've presented from AK.

A (Kinsman) – I was going to present within the Sentinel Site Session at the 2013 Coastal Estuarine Research Federation meeting, but I had to leave early. I am definitely interested in learning more about what others across the country are doing.

### **4. Other Business - none**

**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: May 8, 2014**

**Guest Presentation: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)  
Paul Rooney, FEMA**

### **Recent Events**

**Mar 14-15, Albuquerque, NM** – New Mexico Professional Surveyors 2014 Conference

**Mar 16 – 22, nationwide** – National Surveyor’s Week

**Mar 18-20, 2014, Brainerd, MN** - 2014 Minnesota Survey Technical Workshop

**March 20, Brainerd, MN** - Minnesota Department of Transportation Technical Workshop

**March 24-28, Fairbanks, AK** -Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference

**March 24-28, Louisville, KY** -American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) 2014 Annual Conference

**March 25-26, Higgins Lake, MI**-OPUS Projects Manager Training to the Michigan DNR

**March 31, Minneapolis, MN**-University of Minnesota Geography Department

**April 3, Riverside, CA**-California League of Surveying Organizations Geospatial Symposium

### **Upcoming Events**

**Apr 10-12, Tucson, AZ** – Arizona Professional Land Surveyors 2014 Conference

**Apr 12-16, San Diego, CA** – California Land Surveyors Association / Nevada Association of Land Surveyors 2014 Conference

**April 14-15, San Diego, CA** -FIG North American Young Surveyors Meeting

**Apr 29-30, 2014, Mobile, AL**- 2014 Height Modernization Partner Meeting