

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

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2014  
Time: 2:00-3:30 pm East Coast time

**Attendees:**

*Call-ins from:* AK (Pat Kalen), AL (Nancy Lawrence), CA (Kevin Kelly, Scott Martin, John Tosto), KY (Wolfgang Ziegler), ID (Rayce Ruiz), LA (Josh Kent), MI (Shawn Roy), NC (Gary Thompson, Dave Zilkoski), NGS (Dan Winester, Dan Callahan), PA (John Hamilton), SC (Dick Woods), WI (David Moyer), CO-OPS (Jeff Oyler),

*Silver Spring:* NGS (Christine Gallagher, Aida Polite, Michael Dennis, Zelda Lecoat, Ross Mackay, Joe Evjen, Brian Shaw, Tatiana Bowie, Ed Carlson, Theresa Damiani, Courtney Lindo); CO-OPS (Mike Michalski, Cary Wong)

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

**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. 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. **Height Modernization (Gallagher/Fromhertz)** – Starting planning for Eastern Region Webinar, to be held on Tuesday, March 4.
- b. **Height Modernization (Gallagher)** - Western Regional Webinar was held in November, and building on that interest, a follow-up interest meeting was held this week. Next meeting is in February.
- c. **Height Modernization (Gallagher)** – Planning has begun for the National Meeting in April. If interested in being a part of the planning team, please let Christine know.
- d. **OPUS Projects (Armstrong/Evjen)** - OPUS Projects is now in production mode, no longer beta.

**2. State Updates**

- a. **Vermont (Martin)** – NY State Professionals Land Surveyors conference will be held in Rochester, NY on January 22-24. Dan will be giving a talk on OPUS Projects.

- b. **Colorado (Fromhertz)** – Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado is having a conference, on February 28-March 1. NGS will host an OPUS Projects training, and Pam will give a four hour workshop.
- c. **Southwest (Stone)** – Bill is giving a height modernization presentation on February 21 at the Utah Council of Land Surveyors meeting.

### 3. Guest Presentations

#### **“International Great Lakes Datum Update”**

Dave Conner, National Geodetic Survey

This presentation will provide an overview of the International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD) including reasons for its existence and use, development history, and plans for the future. It will include the role of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data which recently held its 95th biannual meeting in Silver Spring.

*Speaker Bio:* David A. Conner is a geodesist at NOAA’s National Geodetic Survey (NGS) where he serves as NGS’ Geodetic Advisor to the State of Ohio, assisting State and local government agencies and private firms in their efforts to develop, use, and maintain the National Spatial Reference System.

#### **“Dynamic Heights”**

Michael Dennis, National Geodetic Survey

This presentation will give an introduction to Dynamic Heights explaining their significance, identifying such topics as what they are, when they are useful, how they are related to IGLD, and lastly why they are challenging to determine with GNSS.

*Speaker Bio:* Michael L. Dennis, RLS, PE, is a geodesist at NOAA’s National Geodetic Survey (NGS) where his duties include analysis of geometric (“horizontal”) and vertical datums; evaluation of data processing and survey network adjustment procedures; development and promotion of standards and guidelines; integration of NGS products and services with GIS; and public outreach.

#### **Questions/answers:**

**Q (Evjen):** Why do the hydraulic correctors vary from east to west?

**A (Zilkoski):** We are unsure, even after completing many studies. The leveling from the U.S. and Canada matched, so it could be water level related or systematic leveling error.

**A (Dennis):** Note that NAVD 88 is a continental scale project, and water level transfers were treated as leveling to incorporate water levels

**Q (Kalen):** Does the ‘g’ value need to change for AK, given its different latitudinal range?

**A (Dennis):** No because it is just an arbitrary ‘g’ value to change energy units to length units.

**Q (Thompson):** When will GEOCON be in production?

**A (Evjen):** Unknown, but we will follow-up.

#### **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: February 13, 2014**

**Guest Presentation: Paul Rooney, FEMA**

**National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

#### **Recent Events**

**Nov 4-6, Davie, FL** - Florida Surveying and Mapping Society

**Nov 13-15, Salt Lake City, UT** – Esri Southwest User Conference

**Nov 19, Webinar Only** - Height Modernization Western States Regional Webinar

**Nov 20-21, Silver Spring, MD** – International Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data

**Nov 20, Gila Bend, AZ** - Sonoran Desert GIS Working Group annual meeting

**Nov 20, Colorado Springs, CO** - Air Force Academy GIS Day

#### **Upcoming Events**

**Dec 5-6, Concord, NH** - New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association (NHLSA) annual meeting

**Dec 9-13, San Francisco, CA** – American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting

**Dec 11-13, Gainesville, FL** - Florida Surveying and Mapping Society

**Dec 13, Montpelier, VT** - Vermont Society of Land Surveyors (VSLS) Meeting

**Jan 22-24, Wisconsin Dells, WI** - Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors' Institute

**Jan 24-28, Rochester, NY** – New York State Professional Land Surveyors Annual Conference

**Feb 13-15, Springfield, IL** - Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Annual Conference

**Feb 19 – 21, St. George, UT - Utah Council of Land Surveyors 2014 Convention**

**Feb 27 – Mar 1, Arvada, CO – Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado annual summit**

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

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