

**Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee
Vertical Reference System Work Group
Meeting NOTES
February 4, 2010**

Location: NOAA, Silver Spring, MD; SSMC3, 8514
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. East Coast time
Call In Number: 877-426-5014, PASSCODE: 8484480

Attendance

Silver Spring: NGS (Renee Shields, Ajit Singh), CO-OPS (Tom Landon)
Call-ins: USACE (Mark Huber), USGS (Larry Hothem), FEMA (Paul Rooney, Mike McGinn, Bruce Buckerfield), NGA (Jim Frederick)

No agenda.

1. Renee – summit plan in underway. Information should be available soon on NGS website for registration.
2. Since NGS now has the ball rolling on the summit, this group needn't meet every month. Comment was made that VRSWG should have at least one more meeting before summit – April; Renee can give FIG presentation in that meeting
3. Larry Hothem – FGCS has a work group for the vertical (geopotential) reference system. Should one be created for the geometric reference system? This should be brought up at the next FGCS meeting.
4. Renee Shields: Distributed paper written for F.I.G. and would like to use it and expand it into articles for various publications. Who in the group would be willing to write some articles, and what publications and communities do we want to reach?
 - a. Ajit would like to volunteer to write some articles
 - b. Publications, newsletters, web site we can reach:
 - i. American, Professional Surveyor
 - ii. SaLIS
 - iii. ACSM bulletin – good for quarterly status reports; suggestion by Dave Z to do report each quarter on difference facet of new Datums; e.g. CORS, GRAV-D, Height Mod
 - iv. Mark Huber has a newsletter he sends out – NGS could prepare standard paragraphs each month or quarter for newsletter, sort of a press release
 - c. Conferences:
 - i. ACSM: for 2010, program includes update on 10-year plan by Dave Doyle, NGS update to National Assoc. of County Surveyors (by whom)
 - ii. Local (DC) ESRI meeting – too late this year (Feb 16-19) but in 2011
 - iii. National Association of Flood Plain Managers – target 2011 conference – May?
 - iv. National Flood conference (more insurance oriented, put on by FEMA, Flood Hazard certificates and flood protection
 - v.

- d. Other meetings/Groups:
 - i. Interagency Cadastral Coordination Council (ICCC)
 - ii. EGMI meeting – monthly or bi-monthly teleconference
 - iii. GIS/ASPRS communities
 - iv. Agriculture
- 5. NGS needs to be working with the vendors to ensure transformations are available for their software
- 6. Bruce: will there be a directive to use the new datums? – Renee: a FRN comes out, but for the NAVD 88 there was an “escape clause” in the FRN. Reality is people will convert when they can no longer get the accuracy they need from the old datums. The more digital products are used, and the more tools and models we can provide to make the transition easier, the more likely people will be willing to embrace the new datum.
- 7. Larry: codes need to be created as metadata to identify Datums
- 8. Jim F: NGA/DOD went through datum hell with EGM84 and WGS84; standardized the grid size, format; NGS needs to define and stick to a standard format. E.g. DTED is DTED – follows one format. Renee: should NGA be working with FGDC to standardize? Julie Matra of FGDC is the standards lead. They have a monthly meeting where standards are vetted.

Next meeting: April 1, 2010, 10-11:30 a.m. East coast time

This will be before F.I.G. so Renee’s presentation will be planned, not already given.