

**Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee
Vertical Reference System Work Group
Meeting Notes
January 6, 2011**

Location: NOAA, Silver Spring, MD; SSMC3, 9836
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. East Coast time
Call In Number: 877-491-2697, PASSCODE: 261039

Attended

NOAA/NGS Renee Shields, Ajit Singh, Dave Doyle, Christine Gallagher
NOAA/CO-OPS: Tom Landon
USACE: Mark Huber
USGS: Larry Hothem
FEMA: Mike McGinn

1. *Review meeting notes from November – Renee touched on a few things*
2. *Updates on FGCS plans/activities*
 - a. Still no new datum managers chosen yet
 - b. Federal Summit information on web site was not prominently displayed and intent was to find a link where people could find it. Don't know if that has happened. **Renee will check.**
 - c. Next summit planned for Spring/early summer 2012, but not yet scheduled or announced. **Renee will speak with Dru about this.** Good topic for FGCS meeting.
 - d. FGCS is briefing FGDC Tuesday, January 11.
 - i. Larry had comments on the presentation, which had been distributed. Both on one slide (#10) where the date for the new datums is still listed as 2018. This should be changed to 2022.
 - ii. Also that slide shows some computations of estimated shifts to the new datums but has no metadata to explain where the computation came from or just what it represents. Dave Doyle is the original author of that slide but had no idea of what those particular values represented. It was suggested a contour map, much like the ones used for the NAD27/NAD83 and NGVD29/NAVD88 datum changes, would be a much better representation for the federal audience, as well as for other users. **Dave will discuss this with Dru** to identify someone to develop maps representing anticipated shifts for both the geopotential and geometric datums.
 - e. FGCS will hold a meeting in Silver Spring, Wednesday, January 12. [note on logistics: Larry suggested we include alternate parking garage information for those attending in person, since he spent significant time hunting parking to attend in person.]
 - f. FGCS is planning a meeting in San Diego during the ACSM/Survey Summit in July.
 - g. Discussion of the Directory for FGCS, what Agencies were still not represented. **Larry will send some contact names to Jeremy** in case he has not yet been in contact with them. Larry also suggested that in addition to names, as people agree to

participate, the Secretariate should ask them to note what particular interests and concerns they have, so that when working groups are formed, there will be a base from which to choose participants. Renee will pass this on to Jeremy.

- h. This discussion led to one on who is responsible for FGCS web site. This has been swapped between NGS and FGDC for some time. Jeremy and Renee have talked about this in the past. **[Renee has since discovered that the directory on the web site is being updated.]**

3. Report on status of activities within each agency related to vertical datum issues

- Renee explained the spreadsheet she created and circulated for the November meeting. The hope is that the spreadsheet will provide specific direction to the agencies and the working group on what needs to be done to implement the new datums. The spreadsheet will help each agency define responsibilities, and develop budget and operations plans. Before the meeting Mark Huber filled in some fields for the issues facing USACE when the new vertical datum is implemented, and circulated his spreadsheet. Mark also has an online survey to get input from folks, but requested a summary or one-pager or white paper on the new datum be provided so he can reference that information. **Renee will find some references and send those out to the group. Renee encourages the other agencies to begin looking at this spreadsheet.**
- Larry mentioned an issue with Spectrum that could be a problem – a ban FCC is planning to choose is very close to GPS and could cause problems. [Larry met with Ronnie Taylor after the meeting. Ronnie had also become aware of the situation.]
- Larry raised the issue of how to reach and educate the federal agencies on the impact of changing the datums, and of how NGS plans to define and implement them. There was a discussion of venues and ways to reach agency, including how to be proactive, how to identify venues, the pros and cons of holding workshops during or coincident with other conferences. If agencies hold training sessions such as the USACE Community of Practice summit, those are ideal for providing the kinds of workshops needed. The next USACE CoP workshop will be held in New Orleans.
- A couple of pilot projects were mentioned. NGS hopes to work with agencies who may have to change procedures or practices, develop guidelines, specifications, and/or standards to adopt the new datums. In North Carolina, FEMA and the NC Floodplain Mapping Program are working with Scott Lokken, NGS Advisor, to evaluate what changes in their processes might be required. In Texas, NGS is preparing for a leveling survey to validate the geoid slope.
- Larry Hothem mentioned the USGS National Enhanced Elevation Assessment initiative. Not yet a program, a needs assessment is being done to evaluate what does need to be in place in the way of elevation to support a variety of national applications. Larry pointed out it is critical that this effort be linked with height modernization. An assessment is being done now with the goal to have a report prepared by the end of 2011. Greg Snyder and Larry Sugarbaker are working on this.

4. Brainstorm Venues for reaching agencies and constituents

- See suggestions discussed above – This should also be discussed in the FGCS meeting.

5. *Action items for next month*

- Renee will check the NGS web site to ensure links to information on the Federal Summit 2010 is more visible.
- Renee will discuss the plans for Federal Summit 2012 with Chief Geodesist Dru Smith.
- Dave Doyle will discuss developing a contour map of anticipated shifts for the new datums with Dru Smith.
- Members will continue to work on issues to add to the spreadsheet, and consider additional information that can make this document more valuable for planning.
- Renee will provide links to information that can assist members with informing their constituents of NGS' plans for the new datums. – See below...

Future quarterly Work Group meetings: Apr 7, Jul 7, and Oct 6, 2011

Future FGCS meetings/events:

- January 11: FGCS briefing to FGDC
- January 12: FGCS meeting; Silver Spring, MD/Teleconference
- July 10: Date not yet considered final - FGCS meeting; San Diego, CA-coinciding with ACSM/ESRI UC

Federal Summit 2010: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/2010Summit/>

White Paper explaining need for new Datums:

http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/2010Summit/Improving_the_NSRS.pdf

NGS Ten-Year Plan: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/NGS10yearplan.pdf>

NGS Strategic Plan:

http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/web/about_ngo/info/documents/2011_NGS_Strategic_Plan_Approved-Publicv2.pdf

About NGS Web site: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/WhatWeDo.shtml>