

**Federal Geodetic Control Subcommittee  
Vertical Reference System Work Group  
Meeting Notes  
April 7, 2011**

Location: NOAA, Silver Spring, MD; SSMC3, 8514  
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, Joe Evjen, Jeremy McHugh, Michael Dennis, Dan Roman  
USACE: Mark Huber  
USGS: Larry Hothem  
NPS: Karl Brown  
NGA: Nathan Ovans

1. *Review meeting notes from November* – No comments or changes from attendees
2. *Updates on FGCS plans/activities*
  - a. **Not mentioned during the meeting, but for anyone not aware, new datum project managers have been chosen by NGS leadership: Joe Evjen in the National Spatial Reference System Division of NGS will be project lead for the new geometric (formerly horizontal/NAD 83), and Mark Eckl of the Operations and Analysis Division will be project lead for the new geopotential (vertical/NAVD 88) datum.**
  - b. There is still no separate link to 2010 Federal Summit page from the NGS home page. Proceedings recently posted still hold high spot on NGS front page, but will eventually slip down the page as news is updated; Renee hopes to find someone to help build a section of the NGS web site dedicated to Ten-year plan and datums which would include things like links to readjustment info and the Summit activities.
  - c. Plans for the 2012 Federal Summit were discussed. NGS was thinking this would be held at ION in 2012 in Portland, OR but Larry Hothem said ION is only held in one place for 2 years, and 2011 would be Portland's 2<sup>nd</sup> year. He found ION in 2012 will be in Nashville. We know we want to do it on the West coast. NGS may also be considering having it coincide with ACSM, which will be in San Diego back to back with ESRI. March 2012 was suggested by Larry in Sacramento as part of ASPRS.
  - d. Plots of shifts projected from NAD83 and NAVD88 to new Datums – Dave was going to work on this and has not. Dan Roman and Michael Dennis feel they already more or less have this. They will work together with Joe Evjen on an official version to run by Dru. The question of the resolution, etc was discussed.
  - e. With names from Larry and other sources, Jeremy has successfully tracked down representatives from many agencies. We still need representation from USDOT, TVA, and EPA. Renee will contact Christine who is on a detail at EPA to see if she might be able to identify a good candidate. Jeremy has also ensured the membership listed online is up to date.

- f. Renee was supposed to send out reference material for the members to use in their outreach efforts – Renee did send out the material from the Summit including the white paper, and included links to those in meeting notes from January.
- g. FGCS is meeting at ACSM in San Diego. Currently the meeting day is Sunday, July 10. Many members who cannot attend in person were not keen on having to call in on a Sunday, so a Doodle poll is out asking if folks would prefer Monday, July 11. [Since the teleconference the survey was completed and the time changed to Monday.] Also Jeremy is collecting agenda items for the meeting. So far all Jeremy has is data streaming on CORS.
- h. Dan suggested a discussion of IGLD might be a good topic. NGS is discussing sequencing of the GRAV-D aero gravity data collection and the release of IGLD. Given the current schedule for release, the GRAV-D will not yet be complete there. There might be changes to the geopotential values making IGLD inconsistent.

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

- For anyone new or unfamiliar with the spreadsheet, Renee explained the purpose of this document is for various agencies to start identifying and tracking their products and services that may be impacted by NGS' plans for new Datums. The spreadsheet will also be used to identify who might be responsible for addressing those issues and what resources will be needed.
- Karl reported he had looked at theirs, and the only thing under NPS was resource inventories, and he was interested in other land management agencies who might have similar if not identical issues. As an example he mentioned any organization involved in coastal mapping or coastal land management. Karl raised the issue of how redundant activities such as this should be handled, e.g. should those issues be listed on multiple spreadsheets. Renee suggested each agency include items on their own spreadsheet but with notes that cross reference those other agencies and so that agencies can share solutions. Karl suggested a committee based or FGCS based piece of outreach material that provides the land management agencies clear choices related to data that involves sea level rise. Karl suggested it might be better addressed at the FGCS or work group level than duplicated on multiple spreadsheet. Renee pointed out that even with related products, the customers may be different and require different language to explain the issues.
- Renee suggested everyone look at the other agency tabs to get ideas on what their agencies might need to list. NGS relies on the agencies to tell it what products are needed by them, or NGS will develop those tools we think the agencies need.
- Nathan reported that Nicolaos Pavlis at NGA had some issues to raise, so he would share the spreadsheet with him.

### 4. *Brainstorm Venues for reaching agencies and constituents*

General discussion included participation in these conferences in the form of workshop, technical sessions, panels. Also formats of the workshops, committee meetings that would be appropriate to attend to give briefings.

Future Conferences to consider participation:

- USACE, Community of Practice, New Orleans,
- ASPRS:
  - 2011, May 1-5, Milwaukee: Larry Hothem and Dave Doyle (not sure Dave knows about this) are on the panel on North American reference frames which was arranged with the help of Tom Soler and Kasim Abdullah. Larry still needs to coordinate with Dave on what each of them will cover so there won't be so much overlap.
- ION/CGSIC
  - 2011, Sep 19-20, Portland, OR - ION GNSS 2011
  - 2012, Sep 18-21, Nashville, TN - ION GNSS 2012
  - 2013, Sep 17-20, Nashville, TN - ION GNSS 2013
- AGU
  - 2011, Dec 5-9, San Francisco, CA – Fall 2011 AGU
  - 2012, Feb 19-24, Salt Lake City, UT – Ocean Sciences Mtg
- ASFPM
  - 2011, May 15-20, Louisville, KY – ASFPM Annual National Conf
  - 2011, Sep 6-9, San Diego, CA – FMA Annual Conf.
  - 2012, May 20-25, San Antonio, TX – ASFPM Annual Conf.
  - 2013, June 9-14, Hartford, CT – ASFPM Ann Conf
- Coastal Zone
  - 2011, July 17-21, Chicago, IL – CZ2011
- ACSM
  - 2011, July 7-12, San Diego, CA – ACSM/Survey Summit
  - 2012, July, San Diego, CA – ACSM/ Survey Summit
- ESRI
  - 2011, July 11-16, San Diego, CA
  - 2012, July, San Diego, CA
- URISA
  - 2011, Nov 1-4, Indianapolis, IN

Renee also raised the idea to publish some articles in trade magazines explaining issues to the main users and customers the agencies serve.

##### 5. *Action items for next month*

- Renee will try and identify someone in NGS who can be responsible for creating the web site that will be the location to find information on the status of the new datums, other interim steps, like the multi-year CORS solution and subsequent passive network adjustment planned for this year, and related outreach activities such as the Federal Summits.
- Renee and Jeremy will confirm plans for the 2012 Federal Geospatial Summit.
- Dan Roman, Michael Dennis, and Joe Evjen will work together to create shift contour plots that will represent the estimated shifts from NAD 83 and NAVD 88 to the new datums in the Ten-year plan.

- Renee will start compiling a list of pertinent national conferences and meetings.
- Members will continue to work on issues to add to the spreadsheet, including reviewing entries from other agencies, and consider additional information that can make this document more valuable for planning.
- Members will respond to both the Doodle poll for which day to hold the FGCS meeting at ACSM in San Diego in July, and his email requesting agenda items for the meeting.

Future quarterly Work Group meetings:

- The quarterly meeting of the Work Group scheduled for Jul 7 will be cancelled, and replaced by the general FGCS meeting in San Diego
- The next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting will be held Oct 6, 2011

The July 7 date conflicts with the first day of ACSM, and a week later would normally be the monthly Height Modernization Coordination teleconference which conflicts with ESRI. The question is whether to move the July 7 quarterly meeting up a week (before ACSM) or cancel it and consider the FGCS meeting at ACSM a replacement. Renee asked Joe if he and Mark would be interested in giving a presentation either before ACSM as a practice for FGCS, or give the presentation complete with responses to questions raised at FGCS, holding the monthly teleconference a week late. This option was chosen.

Future FGCS meetings/events:

- July 11: FGCS meeting at ACSM/ESRI in San Diego
- 2012, exact date and place TBD: 2012 Federal Geospatial Summit, West coast (currently considering ACSM, July)

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

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