

# HEIGHT MODERNIZATION COORDINATION MEETING

## Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

**Purpose:** To exchange information and provide an update on Height Modernization activities, events, and issues

### Budget Update

JULIANA BLACKWELL

- Congress approved \$9.6 M for Height Modernization (HM) for FY05. In FY04, Congress allocated approximately \$9.0 M for HM.
- Ten percent of the HM appropriations for FY04 were used to support and build the HM program through:
  - **Contractual services** for software development (such as leveling and web-enabled programs, Windows interface for NGS' ADJUST software, Pocket GPS Manager), research and development projects (NGS 58 guidelines, geoid modeling), and project coordination and analysis;
  - **Travel** - NGS and invitational travel to participate in HM user forums, meetings, and conferences; and,
  - **Equipment** - leveling equipment (for training purposes), GPS/GIS equipment for educational programs, fixed height poles, hardware and software support.

### Grants!

RENEE SHIELDS

- Suggestion was made to add a "Grants" link or general information on grants and updates to the NGS or HM webpage
- Grant recipients should file paperwork this year, but NOAA will be switching to grants online soon
- Two training classes will be held in Seattle, WA, on February 7-8 (for Federal program officers & personnel) and on February 9-10 (for Award recipients). Travel costs are to be paid by award recipient's organization.
- Informational letters were sent out in August 2004 for those who received HM grants last year. Letters will go out ASAP to the 2 new states receiving HM funding this year.
- For more information check out <http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/~grants/> and grants online at <http://www.grants.gov/>

### Leveling with you...

FRANK MOWRY

- Two versions of leveling processing software are currently being used - one from Malcolm Archer-Shee (MD State Highway Administration) and one written by Chuck Whalen.
- Frank discussed the capabilities of each of these software packages and the need to streamline and maintain leveling processing software.
- Documentation is underway for Malcolm Archer-Shee software.
- Malcolm is willing to add other functions to the software if there is a need.

### What's going on?

GILBERT MITCHELL

#### NGS Convocation

- Gilbert Mitchell provided a summary of the NGS Convocation held in Silver Spring (November 2004).
- Leveling software was demonstrated by Malcolm Archer-Shee and LineTool was demonstrated by Vic Richmond. More work is required before LineTool is publicly available.
- Convocation survey results indicate that most people thought the Convocation went very well. Some suggestions for improvement:

- Outreach presentation (Friday afternoon) would have been more beneficial earlier in the week
- Include hands-on workshops – too hard to sit still and listen for hours
- More discussion needed on NGS “Vision”
- More involvement of Norfolk personnel
- Schedule time for State Advisor “reports” as in previous Convocations
- NGS management looking into holding yearly Convocations

**Scheduling for 2005 (state, regional, National)**

- NGS plans to hold regional Height Modernization meetings or possibly one National Height Mod meeting in Silver Spring this year. Dates to be determined.

**Recent meetings**

- Recent meetings in Texas in early January to discuss Height Modernization for Texas. Dr. Roy Dokka provided background on the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC).
- Texas A&M to create a Spatial Reference Center

**Programs/Software/Web**

**ALL**

**Status of programs and tools underway**

- ADJUST interface program – Mike Potterfield
- PDA application to log GPS observation information – California Spatial Reference Center

**Information needed - State Pages, Gravity, Leveling**

- Please provide relevant information on Height Modernization events, projects, links, etc., to Juliana Blackwell.

**Projects – Who’s doing what?**

**ALL**

- LSRC to host Geospatial Data Exchange Expo on May 10-11 for users of GIS data (Dr. Dokka)
- January 27 – Florida DOT & Alabama DOT met to discuss Height Modernization (Ronnie Taylor)
- Week of May 16<sup>th</sup> – plan to hold a Height Modernization Forum in Tampa, FL (Ronnie Taylor)
- Plea to change the way NGS does adjustments – California and other areas need to address velocities (Marti Ikehara)

**Action items:**

- 1. Add Grants link and/or Info to Height Mod webpage**
- 2. Add Gravity/Geoid link and/or info to Height Mod webpage**
- 3. Add Height Modernization Survey Station tag to datasheets**
- 4. Check on North Carolina tidal leveling status**