

Meeting Report - Montana Geodetic Control Working Group and Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee

February 8, 2010 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) headquarters, Helena, Montana in the ISD Conference Room (basement). Phone-in conferencing was available.

Participating Members

- Ralph Jones, MDT
- ☎ Todd Ferris
- Dave Hoerning, MDT
- ☎ Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA
- Bryce Larsen, MDT
- ☎ Steve Niday, Missoula County
- ☎ Curt Smith, NGS
- ☎ Greg Thurston, City of Kalispell
- ☎ Michael Sweet, University of Montana
- Rj Zimmer, DJ&A
- DeImna Heiken, Triangle Ag-Services

Members Not Present

- Celinda Adair, DNRC
- Tony Bachman, USFS
- Diana Cooksey, Montana State University
- William Grayson, BLM
- Gerald Pavlick, Morrison Maierle, Inc.
- Bill Weber, Northwest Energy

Meeting Reports

1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. No additional comments on December 9, 2009 draft meeting report - accepted as final.

2. General Announcements.

- A. DeImna Heiken from Triangle Ag-Services in Fort Benton, MT was introduced as a new member.

3. Montana Control Point Database (MCPD):

- A. Old business MCPD.
 - a. Status report and next steps.

Stu reported that preparations were being made to move the MCPD from the test database into a production database.

Stu will provide Zim the URLs for the production database so they can be included in the brochure being developed for the MARLS conference.

- b. Work with BLM to resolve GCDB “glitch” in MCPD.

Stu reported that the “glitch” was with the length of time it took to download data. They are looking into the issue and hope to find a workaround.

- c. Provide test data input into the MCPD and provide feedback to Zim.

Steve reported that he had done some testing and found everything was working but some manual manipulation of the data is still required.

Ralph reported having trouble accessing the system with the link he had. Zim will resend the link and Ralph will complete his testing.

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- d. Review MCPD web site and provide feedback to Zim.

Zim did not receive any new feedback. He has compiled a list of issues and distributed them to the Montana Geodetic Control Working Group. (see B. c. below)

B. New business MCPD.

- a. Report on the framework leads/stewards 02/04/2010 work session

Zim gave a brief overview on the Montana Spatial Data Infrastructure framework. It contains 13 layers, same 6 layers the national framework (NSDI) is based on plus 7 Montana layers (see <http://giscoordination.mt.gov/>). Zim went on to mention that there is funding available through grants for development of these layers and indicated there may be ways to work common areas among themes. Zim suggested that the Geodetic group go before the Montana Land Information Advisory Council to ask for \$10,000-\$15,000 to fund a position to manage the MCPD, to provide training and outreach, and for infrastructure support (server/ITSD support, etc.). This position could possibly oversee some functions related to the GRC thus providing a seed for the GRC. Stu and Zim will work on a funding request.

- b. Discuss administration piece

(see item "a" above)

- c. Discuss MCPD enhancements list and priorities

Zim developed a couple handouts that were distributed to the Montana Geodetic Control Working Group. One of the handouts describes how the MCPD will be managed. Zim will pass along to everyone. Please review and provide comments.

The second handout contains a prioritized wish list of MCPD enhancements. Once again Zim will pass this along to everyone for review and comment. Once comments are received folks need to start thinking about possible funding sources. The subject of funding the enhancements will be discussed later in the spring after the list is finalized.

- d. Discuss funding sources for admin and for enhancements

(see item "c" above)

4. Geodetic Reference Center (GRC):

- A. Update on meeting with Mike Bousliman to discuss GRC.

Sometime ago Robin Trenbeath contacted Mike Bousliman to discuss the GRC. Mike wanted to meet with Bryce before discussing further with Robin. The meeting between Bryce and Mike has not taken place as of yet. Bryce will check with Mike to try to get this moving forward.

- B. Old business GRC.

No other old business was discussed.

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C. New business GRC.

No new business was discussed.

D. No new updates were made to the Geodetic Reference Center contact list. The most current list is as follows:

<u>Agency/University</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Potential Contacts Provided</u>
MSU Bozeman	Diana Cooksey	Rick Lawrence, MSU Spatial Sciences Center Doug Smith, MSU Civil Engineering Brett Gunnink, MSU Civil Engineering–Dept. Head
MSU Northern	Diana Cooksey	Thomas Welch, College of Technical Sciences
UM Missoula	Michael Sweet	Mike Sweet
UM-Montana Tech	Michael Sweet	Paul Thale
Flathead CC	Steve Niday	Dave Dorsett, Survey Instructor
MDT	Bryce Larsen	James Walther, Preconstruction Engineer
NRIS	Stu Kirkpatrick	Evan Hammer, NRIS Manager, MT State Library
Base Map Service Center	Stu Kirkpatrick	Robin Trenbeath, GIO, MT Dept. Admin.
DNRC	Celinda Adair	(to be provided – ????)
MACO	RJ Zimmer	Harold Blattie 444-4360

5. Montana Height Modernization Program (MTHMP) – Grant Status:

A. Old business MTHMP grant.

- a. Continued discussion on possible funding sources – federal, others.

Discussion continued on the possibility of approaching the state congressional delegation to pursue earmark funding. Bryce reiterated that grant funds cannot be utilized for lobbying purposes. In addition grant documents contain provisions for reporting certain lobbying efforts on the part of recipients. Bryce will check with MDT legal staff to see if lobbying efforts on the part of the executive committee have any impact on the MDT.

Steve checked with one of the legislative offices to see what the process for requesting funding is. It appears some online forms need to be completed. Bryce will forward Steve information used in completing the Montana Height Modernization grant so he can review and determine if any of that information is of value for requesting earmark funding. Steve will also contact the MDT Director to obtain copies of Height Modernization support letters and put together the information required in the funding request.

B. New business MTHMP grant.

- a. Discuss updating the HT MOD plan

The Montana Height Modernization Plan is several years old and in need of revision. Bryce will send the existing plan out for comments on updating.

6. Montana CORS:

A. UNAVCO

- a. Notes/direction to Diana Cooksey regarding talking points with UNAVCO

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Diana was not in attendance. Curt will follow up to see if she received the information she was looking for.

- b. UNAVCO partnering follow-up.
Diana was not in attendance. We can get a follow up report from her at the next meeting.

- c. Contact NGS to pursue PBO sites in Montana as National CORS

Curt will check into the status.

- d. New business UNAVCO.

No new business discussed.

B. Latest status – Montana CORS:

1. Helena

- a. Finalize any outstanding issues.

The Helena CORS is up and running and has been for some time now but has not been officially accepted by the NGS yet. Dave will check with the NGS to see why this site is not officially on line as of yet.

- b. Additional new or old business.

Dave will check with the city of Helena to see what the status of the broadcast radio is.

2. Lewistown – (complete equipment and monumentation)

- a. Install Lewistown and Richland County CORS.

Monument parts have been ordered. Construction is expected to take place in the spring of 2010.

- b. Contact Neil Kadrmas, CMR Wildlife Refuge to support Lewistown CORS.

Dave has not contacted Neil yet but will do so. Todd indicated Scott Koterba would be interested in helping. Dave will contact Scott.

- c. Additional new or old business.

No new business discussed.

3. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)

- a. Install Lewistown and Richland County CORS.

Monument parts have been ordered. Construction is expected to take place in the spring of 2010.

- b. Additional new or old business.

No new business discussed.

4. Montana Resources, Butte – (full cost of pillar monumentation)

- a. Additional new or old business.

No new or old business discussed.

5. Havre – update existing receiver to 5700 (possible donation by Inland GPS) and purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna

- a. Additional new or old business.

No new or old business discussed.

6. Flathead Valley CC – update existing receiver to 5700 (possible donation by Inland GPS) and purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna

- a. Additional new or old business.

No new or old business discussed.

7. Eastern Montana – Wolf Point, Miles City, or Plentywood – (complete equipment and monument)

- a. Additional new or old business.

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Bryce announced that Quinn Wright of DOWL-HKM in Mile City sent an e-mail expressing interest in the mark recovery program and a CORS with RTK broadcast signal for Miles City. Dave will contact Quinn.

8. Choteau – (check with U.S.F.S. for FY09 funding or FY10 funding)
 - a. Additional new or old business.
No new or old business discussed.
 9. Hamilton – (check with Ravalli County and U.S.F.S for possible funding)
 - a. Additional new or old business.
No new or old business discussed.
 10. Lubrecht – (UM)
 - a. Update - Lubrecht CORS.
Mike reported that the radio is up and running for this site and that it has been officially accepted by the NGS.
 - b. Additional new or old business.
Mike has a 100' antenna cable left over from the construction of this site if anyone has a need for one.
- C. Old business Montana CORS.
No additional old business was discussed.
- D. New business Montana CORS.
DeImna Heiken from Triangle Ag-Services in Fort Benton, MT introduced herself and indicated she was looking into GPS systems for the [precision agriculture](#) community. She went on to explain that the need for precise positioning was becoming more prevalent with today's farming practices. In fact, some farming applications require positioning accuracies up to 1 inch. Several farm communities around the state, including the "golden triangle" (Great Falls, Cut Bank, Malta), are investigating the feasibility of setting up GPS networks for their needs and have done some fairly extensive research into these systems. A couple questions are, how does height modernization activities benefit the farming communities and how can we work together to accomplish common goals. We will need to discuss further in future meetings.

7. Outreach:

- A. Update status on developing an outreach plan and timeline to help build the case for the GRC and a continued MTHMP. Account for the funds identified in the grant proposal.
 - a. Develop an outreach plan for revised funding.
No new developments in this area yet. Hoerning has been assigned this task in consultation with Zim.
- B. Outreach MARLS conference.
 - a. Review materials and other plans for the MARLS conference booth
Booth is reserved. Handouts, posters, etc. discussed below.
 - b. MARLS booth – check on power and Internet
The booth has been confirmed. Wi-fi is available. MDT will supply a laptop.
 - c. MARLS booth posters.
Posters are done and ready to go.
 - d. MARLS booth 1-pagers/handouts developed / Dave, Zim, Steve, Curt, others? / Feb.
Zim will finalize handouts after Stu provides final URLs for MCPD. Will have copies printed. Printing costs will be paid through Height Modernization grant.

Time did not allow us to address the following items. They will be added to the next meeting agenda.

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- C. Status of an improved MTHMP 1-pager with emphasis towards non-technical audience. / Curt, Celinda, others ? / Feb.
- D. Web page outreach.
 - a. Review other state's Web sites to gain ideas to improve MTHMP Web site / everyone / Feb.
 - b. Update MDT Height Mod Web page – contacts, minutes, etc. / Ralph / Feb.
- E. Old business MTHMP outreach.
- F. New business MTHMP outreach.

8. MTHMP Projects:

- A. Update on Flathead Valley Height Modernization GPS Project. /Greg.
 - B. New business MTHMP
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9. Action items / responsible party / due dates.

- A. Stu will send URLs for MCPD o Zim for inclusion into MARLS handouts. Stu/asap
- B. Provide test data input into the MCPD and provide feedback to Zim / Hoerning, Ralph / April
- C. Request funding for MCPD manager. Zim/Stu/asap
- D. Review and comment on MCDB handouts. Zim will forward. Everyone/April
- E. Check on status of meeting with Bousliman. Bryce/April
- F. Check with MDT legal staff how committee lobbying efforts impact the MDT. Bryce/April
- G. Gather information required to request earmark funding. Steve/Todd/asap
- H. Send out height modernization plan for comment on updating. Bryce/asap
- I. Follow-up with Diana on UNAVCO talking points. Curt/April
- J. Follow-up with NGS on inclusion of Montana PBO stations into the NGS CORS. Curt/April
- K. Follow-up with NGS on status of Helena CORS into the NGS CORS.
- L. Install Lewistown and Richland County CORS. /Dave / Spring 2010
- M. Follow-up contacts with Quinn Wright, Scott Kotterba and Neil Kadrmas on Miles City and Lewistown CORS. Dave/April
- N. Develop an outreach plan for revised funding. /Hoerning (consult Zim)/ April
- O. Finalize and print posters for MARLS booth. Zim/Hoerning/April
- P. Update MDT Height Mod Web page – contacts, minutes, etc. / Ralph / April
- Q. Review other state's Web sites to gain ideas to improve MTHMP Web site / everyone / April
- R. Improve MTHMP 1-page handout with emphasis towards non-technical audience. / Curt, Celinda, others ? / Feb.

10. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2010 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the ISD conference room MDT headquarters, Helena Montana.

We will try a webinar for the next meeting.