

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

April 12, 2010 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. at Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) headquarters, Helena, Montana in the ISD Conference Room (basement) and via a webinar.

Participating Members

- Ralph Jones, MDT
- Dave Hoerning, MDT
- Bryce Larsen, MDT
- ☐ Steve Niday, Missoula County
- ☐ Curt Smith, NGS
- ☐ Greg Thurston, City of Kalispell
- Rj Zimmer, DJ&A

Members Not Present

- Celinda Adair, DNRC
- Jimmie Brewer, DOWL HKM
- Tony Bachman, USFS
- Diana Cooksey, Montana State University
- Todd Ferris
- William Grayson, BLM
- DeImna Heiken, Triangle Ag-Services
- Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA
- Gerald Pavlick, Morrison Maierle, Inc.
- Michael Sweet, University of Montana
- Bill Weber, Northwest Energy

Meeting Reports

1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. Discussed draft notes distributed April 9, 2010 for February 8, 2010 meeting. No comments were made at this time, however, later in the meeting several items were noted that needed to be corrected. Identified items were corrected and the final notes are now available on the MDT Height Modernization web site.

2. General Announcements.

- A. Jimmie Brewer – DOWL HKM has asked to be added to our membership.

3. Montana Control Point Database (MCPD):

A. Old business MCPD.

a. Status report.

1. Zim reported that an export problem was fixed by the consultant last week.
2. Zim also reported that the MCPD was still running on a test server and will be moved over to a production server sometime in the near future.
3. Zim indicated a presentation on the MCPD will be given at next week's Intermountain GIS Conference in Bozeman, MT.

b. Feedback on inputting test data.

No additional feedback on inputting data was provided. Additional feedback is expected when the MCPD is moved over to the production server. It was suggested to wait until after the MCPD is in production mode for awhile before revisiting and prioritizing the attached preliminary list of fixes and enhancements.



MCPD_enhancement
requests list.pdf

c. Review MCPD web site and provide feedback to Zim.

No additional feedback was received by Zim.

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

- d. Status of funding request for MCPD manager.

Stu and Zim teamed up to put together a MILA grant request for a MCPD manager (see attached). We are optimistically awaiting word on this request.



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- e. Feedback on MCPD handouts.

No feedback was received by Zim.

- f. Other old business.

Steve mentioned that the points he submitted to the MCPD were now showing up in the proper location. No other old business was discussed.

- B. New business MCPD.

- a. No new business was discussed.

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.

- B. Old business GRC.

Hosts for the GRC were briefly discussed. Base Map Services has expressed a possible interest in hosting the GRC. The MDT has not responded back to Steve Niday's inquiry as of this date so we have no indication of the MDT's interest. We will discuss this topic at a future meeting.

A list of possible GRC hosts discussed in the past 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

- C. New business GRC.

No new business was brought up.

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

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

- A. Old business MTHMP grant.
 - a. Report on process to get earmark funding and contact with MDT Director.

Steve Niday has attempted to contact the MDT Director to discuss the GRC, letters of support and working with Montana’s congressional delegation to obtain earmark funding for Montana’s height modernization program. Steve will continue with his attempts to discuss with the MDT Director and report back at the next meeting.
 - b. Status of Height Modernization plan update.

Plan was circulated for comment February 9, 2010. Steve and Zim made some updates. Bryce will re-circulate the updated document for comments.
 - c. Continued discussion on possible funding sources – federal, others.
 - 1. Steve placed a request for earmark funding with both Tester and Baucus.
 - 2. Zim suggested that when we update the plan we need to review carefully for others who may be interested in height modernization. Folks from precision agriculture and folks from floodplain management are two areas with potential common interests.
- B. New business MTHMP grant.
 - a. Steve could use some additional letters of support for the earmark. Steve sent Celinda some boiler plate language to be used. Steve will forward to Bryce so it can be distributed to the group. When distributed please try to get letters of support from your agency and from others that may benefit from the program. Steve will attempt to get past letters of support from Christy Richem, MDT Director’s Office.

3. Montana CORS:

- A. UNAVCO
 - a. Follow-up with Diana Cooksey regarding talking points with UNAVCO and update on request to add PBO sites in Montana to National CORS.

Curt reported that NGS has contacted UNAVCO about incorporating PBO sites in Montana and surrounding states into the national network. It sounds like UNAVCO and NGS are working to make this happen. It will take some time to work through this process so you will not see anything immediately.
 - b. New business.

No new business was discussed.
- B. Latest status – Montana CORS:
 - 1. Helena – (complete equipment and monumentation)
 - a. Report on Helena MTDT CORS.

The Helena CORS is up and running and has been for some time now but has not been officially accepted by the NGS yet. It is now on the list of newest CORS but does not appear on the NGS map. Curt indicated it the station is being used but it will take a little more time for the NGS to add it to their map.

The city of Helena has purchased a broadcast radio, has obtained a radio license, has built a mast and will use the data from the MTDT CORS to broadcast an RTK correction signal. They do not plan on charging for the service.
 - b. Additional new or old business.

No new business was discussed.

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

2. Lewistown – (complete equipment and monumentation)
 - a. Report on progress of Lewistown CORS.

Monument parts have been ordered, site has been selected, bids for a GPS receiver and concrete have been sent out, and preliminary arrangements for auguring the hole have been made. Construction is expected to take place in the spring of 2010.
 - b. Additional new or old business.

No new business discussed.
 3. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)
 - a. Report on progress of Richland County CORS.

Monument parts have been ordered and delivered to Russ Huotari, Richland County. 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)
 5. Havre – update existing receiver to 5700 (possible donation by Inland GPS) and purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna
 6. Flathead Valley CC – update existing receiver to 5700 (possible donation by Inland GPS) and purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna
 7. Eastern Montana – Wolf Point, Miles City, or Plentywood – (complete equipment and monument)
 8. Choteau – (check with U.S.F.S. for FY09 funding or FY10 funding)
 9. Hamilton – (check with Ravalli County and U.S.F.S for possible funding)
 10. Lubrecht – (UM)
 - a. Update - Lubrecht CORS.

Project complete.
- C. Old business Montana CORS.
No additional old business was discussed.
- D. New business Montana CORS.
There is a possibility we may be able to deliver Montana CORS projects 1 through 3 under budget. If this happens the committee needs to reevaluate our next priorities. We should know more at the next meeting.

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. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

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

- B. Outreach MARLS conference – final report.
The Montana Height Modernization booth at the MARLS Conference was a success. Thanks to all those who helped put this together.
- C. Status of an improved MTHMP 1-pager with emphasis towards non-technical audience.
Handouts have been developed and will be revised as needed.
- D. Web page outreach.
 - a. Review other state’s web sites to gain ideas to improve MTHMP web site.
No comments were made. Need to add this item to next meetings list after everyone has had a chance to review other sites.
 - b. Update MDT Height Mod web page.
Contacts and meeting reports are up to date.

Need to add the most current height modernization plan when revisions are complete. Also need to add the one page handout that was developed.
- E. Old business MTHMP outreach.
No other old business was discussed.
- F. New business MTHMP outreach.
Zim suggested that we add a CORS status map and a list of projects to our height modernization web site. Hoerning will look into the map and Zim will come up with a template for projects.

8. MTHMP Projects:

- A. Update on Flathead Valley Height Modernization GPS Project.
Greg provided an update on the Flathead Valley Height Modernization GPS Project. He indicated that signs were placed next to the monuments and descriptions were reviewed during the past several months. Curt indicated that the preliminary results looked good, great horizontal accuracy plus ± 2 cm vertical accuracy. He also indicated they were about a week away from submitting to the NGS.

Discussion ensued about featuring this project as a model height modernization project for other communities that were considering doing something similar.
- B. Old business MTHMP
No other old business was discussed.
- C. New business MTHMP
No additional new business was discussed.

9. Action items / responsible party / due dates.

- A. Continue to check on status of meeting with Bousliman. **Bryce/June**
- B. Continue to try to contact MDT Director to discuss GRC, letters of support and earmark funding. **Steve/Todd/June**
- C. Send out height modernization plan for additional comments on updating. **Bryce/asap**
- D. Review and comment on height modernization plan update taking note of others that may be interested or benefit from height modernization. **Everyone/June**
- E. Circulate Steve’s boilerplate language for letters of support. **Bryce/asap**

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

- F. Obtain additional letters of support. **Everyone/June**
- G. Review project priorities before next meeting and be prepared to discuss. **Everyone/June**
- H. Continue work on Lewistown and Richland County CORS. **Dave / Spring 2010**
- I. Develop an outreach plan for revised funding. **Hoerning (consult Zim)/ June**
- J. Review other state's height modernization web sites to gain ideas to improve MTHMP web site. **Everyone/June**
- K. Add MTHMP 1-page handout to web site. **Ralph/June**
- L. Add CORS status map to MTHMP web site. **Hoerning/June**
- M. Develop a list of height modernization projects to be included on MTHMP web site.
Zim/June

10. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2010 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. in the ISD Conference Room, MDT headquarters, Helena Montana.

For those who cannot make it to Helena a webinar has also been scheduled.