

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

August 25, 2009 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) headquarters, Helena, Montana in the ISD Conference Room (basement) with phone-in conferencing.

Participating Members

- ☎ Diana Cooksey, Montana State University
- Dave Hoerning, MDT
- ☎ Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA
- Bryce Larsen, MDT
- ☎ Steve Niday, Missoula County
- ☎ Greg Thurston, City of Kalispell
- ☎ Michael Sweet, University of Montana
- Rj Zimmer, DJ&A

Members Not Present

- Celinda Adair, DNRC
- Tony Bachman, USFS
- Dave Davis, MDT
- Todd Ferris, Inland GPS
- Bill Grayson, BLM
- Gerald Pavlick, Morrison Maierle, Inc.
- Curt Smith, NGS
- Bill Weber, Northwestern Energy

General Agenda

1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. No comments on July 28, 2009 draft report - accepted as final.

2. Montana Control Point Database (MCPD):

- A. Zim provided a status report on MCPD. The project is progressing. The viewer is ready to be installed. ISD is still awaiting word from the contractor on several items. As for now it appears the project is on target and scheduled to be completed by the end of September.
- B. There was no new news to report on the status on surveyor's current processing software packages to produce output data in a format that could be imported into the Control Point spreadsheet and determine what it would take to make this work efficiently for batch processing. Stu will place an updated spreadsheet on the website.
- C. New business MCPD.
 - Once the MCPD is up and running future discussions will need to focus on upgrades and costs.

3. Geodetic Reference Center (GRC):

- A. An updated list of contacts for the Geodetic Reference Center 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	Loran Frazier, Chief Engineer
		James Walther, Preconstruction Engineer
NRIS	Stu Kirkpatrick	Evan Hammer, NRIS Manager, MT State Library

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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

Zim will update the contact list he has put together.

- B. Reviewed updated host brochure, host requirements document, and technical experts list. No comments were provided – the documents were accepted as presented.
- C. Zim and Stu provided an update on their meeting to solicit support for the GRC with the Department of Administration’s Geographic Information Officer (GIO), Robin Trenbeath. Some key points of discussion were:
 - A meeting was held August 21, 2009 to discuss the GRC with Robin Trenbeath (Dept of Admin.), Stu Kirkpatrick (Height Mod Rep), RJ Zimmer (Height Mod Rep) and Curt Smith (Height Mod Rep) attending.
 - It was reported that Robin was willing to support our efforts in finding a host for the GRC.
 - Robin recommended the committee work on funding and host requirements issues before moving forward.
 - Robin thought he could help by making contacts. Thought that Mike Bousliman of the MDT would be a good start. Zim will make an initial contact with Mike Bousliman.
- D. New business GRC –
 - It was mentioned that the California Spatial Reference Center has developed a business plan for an RTN with funding sources. For those who would like to review the plan here is a link to it:
http://csrc.ucsd.edu/input/csrc/proposals/CRTN_BusinessPlan_09July.pdf.
 - The possibility of partnering with UNAVCO in order to take further advantage of CORS sites they have established was discussed. Diana will try to contact these folks and find out if there is possible interest.

3. Montana Height Modernization Program (MTHMP):

- A. Bryce provided a review of the budget.
- B. Bryce provided a report on the status of the grant funds. Highlights are as follows:
 - A reprogram /re-budget request was submitted and approved. The original plan was amended to put more emphasis on actual height modernization projects vs. developing a long range plan for funding that no longer appears to be available.
 - The MDT applied for and received a 5 year grant with one year of funding awarded to date. The government grant folks indicated the deadline for spending awarded funds is at the end of the five years thus no extension is required at this time.
- C. New Business MTHMP
 - Discussion was held on how often the committee needed to review the budget. The budget will be reviewed semi annually or at other key points.

4. Montana CORS:

- A. Dave Hoerning provided an update on the installation of Helena MDT CORS.
- B. Updates to the following CORS priority list:
 1. Lewistown – (complete equipment and monumentation)

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- A possible site has been selected at the MDT building. A four hour data set has been submitted to Curt Smith. Work will continue on developing this site. Local surveyors need to be contacted for assistance in developing this site.
 - 2. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)
 - Contacts have been made with Russ Huotari , Richland County. We will continue work with Russ on developing this site. Russ has already contacted area surveyors for additional support.
 - 3. Montana Resources, Butte – (full cost of pillar monumentation)
 - No activity on this project at this time.
 - 4. Havre – (update existing receiver to 5800 (Inland GPS) purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna)
 - No activity on this project at this time.
 - 5. Flathead Valley CC – (update existing receiver to 5800 (Inland GPS) purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna)
 - No activity on this project at this time.
 - 6. Eastern Montana – Wolf Point, Miles City, or Plentywood – (complete equipment and monument)
 - No activity on this project at this time.
 - 7. Choteau – (check with U.S.F.S. for FY09 funding or FY10 funding)
 - No activity on this project at this time.
 - 8. Hamilton – (check with Ravalli County and U.S.F.S for possible funding)
 - It was previously reported that the county is interested but does not presently have the funds to designate towards the project. The USFS was going to help with the Hamilton site but if funds are unavailable from the county they would possibly prefer a site located near Sula. The USFS has since indicated that no funds are available from them.
- C. New business CORS –
- Michael Sweet gave an update on the UM CORS site. If additional funds are available they could use them to help develop this site.

5. Outreach:

- A. Update 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 reprogram/re-budget was recently completed. Dave Hoerning will be asked to put a plan together with funding available in the reprogram/re-budget.
 - Zim pointed out that education is a key element in obtaining funding.
- B. Status of an improved MTHMP 1-pager with emphasis towards non-technical audience.
 - Neither Celinda or Curt were available to report on this item – will be carried over to the next meeting.
- C. Greg reported there was positive response to the 2-day Precise Digital Leveling workshop held in Kalispell. 18 people attended.
- D. New business outreach –
 - Bryce reported that MARLS is considering hosting a workshop relating to height modernization at their annual conference. Discussion about reserving space for a combined height modernization – Montana Control Point Database booth at the conference followed. Dave Hoerning will check into this.

6. MTHMP Projects:

- A. Greg provided a progress report Flathead Valley GPS Project
 - 3 monuments have been set, 4 more are underway. These marks will be observed using GPS. No levels will be run at this time.

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B. New business MTHMP.

- Steve reported that he is testing a bridge for a RTN where cell phone usage is limited.
- Michael added to his previous report on the UM CORS site. He reported the site is working and includes a broadcast signal. He is working on registering it with Trimble and with the NGS.

7. Action Items/ responsible party / due dates.

- A. Place an updated spreadsheet on the web site. /Stu/Oct 5
- B. Update contact/host list. /Zim/Oct 5
- C. Discuss GRC with Mike Bousliman, MDT. /Zim/Oct 5
- D. Contact UNAVCO for possible partnering. /Diana/Oct 5
- E. Work with surveyors to determine how current processing software packages can produce output data in a format that could be imported into the Geodetic Control Point spreadsheet and determine what it would take to make this work efficiently for batch processing. /Zim, Steve Niday, Dave Davis/Anytime.
- F. Continue work on Helena, Lewistown and Richland County CORS. /Dave Hoerning/Ongoing
- G. Improve MTHMP 1-pager with emphasis towards non-technical audience. /Curt, Celinda/Oct 5
- H. Develop an outreach plan for revised funding. /Hoerning (consult Zim)/Oct or Nov meeting.
- I. Check into a booth at the MARLS Conference. /Hoerning/Oct 5

8. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2009 beginning at 10:00 A.M. and ending 12:00 P.M. at the ISD conference room MDT headquarters, Helena Montana.

Phone-in conferencing will be available for out of town participants. If you are requesting a local call-in number please let Bryce know as early as possible as local numbers are a separate request for phone conferencing and do not cost as much as the toll-free numbers.