

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

Meeting Details

Date: Feb. 27, 2012

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) headquarters, Helena, Montana
MDTCNF Basement West

Webinar: A webinar was available for those who could not personally attend.

Participating Members

- Ralph Jones, MDT
- Curt Smith, NGS
- William Grayson, BLM
- Bryce Larsen, MDT
- Steve Niday, Missoula County
- Kevin McKenzie, Frontier Precision
- Michael Sweet, U of M
- Lee Meeks, Leica
- Dan Ignotov, MDT

Members Not Present

- Tony Bachman, USFS
- Jimmie Brewer, DOWL HKM
- Diana Cooksey, Montana State University
- Eric Martin, MT Tech
- Gerald Pavlick, Morrison Maierle, Inc.
- Dave Hoerning, MDT
- Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA

Meeting Report

1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. Discussed report for November 2011 meeting. There were no comments and report was accepted. Report will be posted on the web page here
http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/heightmod/strategic_plan.shtml

2. General Announcements.

- A. NSDI CAP grant award
- a. The final business plan and outline for the Regional Geopositioning Cooperative for Idaho and Montana is completed by Croswell-Schulte IT Consultants and will be posted at the above web address.
 - b. Additional funding will be sought per the plan.

3. Multistate Control Point Database (MCPD):

- A. Old and new business MCPD.
- a. Montana needs to identify a PLS to review incoming control point data. This is a work in progress. Idaho has identified 1 or 2 ID PLS that may be able to help there.
 - b. Idaho is working to get its control data into the system.
 - c. There are ongoing items (especially from Stu and his group) about what it takes to keep the system up and running and will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

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4. Geopositioning Cooperative (GC):

- A. Old and new business GC
 - a. The business plan for the GC has been finalized. See announcement above. Additional funding sources will need to be identified.
 - b. Keith Weber at ISU is trying to enlist IDOT's buy-in for the cooperative.
 - c. It has been decided to change the name from Geodetic Reference Center to the Regional Geopositioning Cooperative for Idaho and Montana and will most likely be located in Idaho.

5. Montana Height Modernization Program (MTHMP)

- A. Old and new business MTHMP.
 - a. There is approximately \$19.5K left in the MTHMP budget. It is very doubtful there will be more in the future.
 - b. There was some discussion on how much to spend on what project. This is ongoing.
 - c. MDT still has several functioning Trimble 5700 units with antennas that can be used for new CORS. Trimble has indicated however that the 5700 line is no longer supported. Also GPSBase software is no longer available. There is a replacement software package but is quite a bit more expensive. It has not been decided if it is possible to purchase a Trimble NetR9 or similar system with available funds for any new CORS.

6. Montana CORS:

- A. Latest status – Montana CORS:
 - 1. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)
 - a. Report on progress of Richland County CORS. Rumor has it that the monument is being built and project is progressing. MDT has not been able to confirm this with Russ however.
 - 2. Havre – (receiver/antenna updates)
 - a. Report on progress of Havre (MSU Northern) CORS updates. There has been a system failure at MSUN. Apparently MSUN staff is in the process of upgrading the system and computer.
 - 3. Butte – (complete)
 - a. Report on progress of Butte (MT Tech) CORS. Installation complete, data has been submitted to NGS and is under review. There are some noise issues with the data stream. Selby's and Leica are looking into it.
 - 4. Eastern Montana – (complete equipment and monument for Wolf Point, Miles City, Plentywood and/or other locations)
 - a. Report on progress of Eastern MT CORS.
 - b. A visit was made to BLM in Miles City in Dec. 2011 by Dan and Curt. The site was deemed undesirable for a CORS. Contact was made with the USDA facility at Fort Keough near Miles City. They indicated interest in hosting CORS if we can supply

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equipment and get approval from their HQ. May not have the equipment at this time. See comment above.

- c. MDT facilities in Plentywood/Wolf Point are marginal for CORS.
- 5. Hamilton – (possible partnership with Ravalli County)
Steve Niday reported that he has the donated equipment from Spokane Co. WA but is experiencing “limited enthusiasm” from local county government and surveyors (other than the County GIS Coordinator). Will approach with offer once more and then recommends choosing an alternate site.
- 6. Station LOLO – (CORS update)
System is up and running with data being reviewed by NGS

7. MTHMP Projects and Outreach:

- A. Old and new business MTHMP
 - a. Curt and Dan spoke at the 2012 MARLS conference regarding “Enhancements to MT Vertical Control”. It was well attended and there still seems to be interest from the MT surveying community.
 - b. The group spoke on sending a representative to the RTN Symposium in Memphis, TN.

8. Action items:

- A. Upgrades to Havre MSUN CORS. on-going.
- B. Developments for eastern MT CORS. MDT-ongoing.
- C. Find MT PLS for review of coordinate data/submittals to MCPD. Possibly MDT.

9. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2012 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. in the Basement West Conference Room, MDT headquarters, Helena Montana.

For those who cannot make it to Helena a webinar will be scheduled.