

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

October 5, 2009 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) headquarters, phone-in conferencing only.

Participating Members

- ☎ Diana Cooksey, Montana State University
- ☎ Dave Hoerning, MDT
- ☎ Bryce Larsen, MDT
- ☎ Steve Niday, Missoula County
- ☎ Greg Thurston, City of Kalispell

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
- Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA
- Michael Sweet, University of Montana
- Rj Zimmer, DJ&A

General Agenda

1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. No comments on August 24, 2009 draft report - accepted as final.

2. General Announcements.

- A. Dave Davis retired from the MDT September 30, 2009. Dave will no longer be a member of Montana Height Modernization Executive Committee.

3. Montana Control Point Database (MCPD):

- A. There were no members present to provide a status report on the MCPD.
- B. There were no members present to provide a status report on the update spreadsheet.
- C. No new MCPD business was discussed.

4. Geodetic Reference Center (GRC):

- A. 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	Loran Frazier, Chief Engineer 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.

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DNRC
MACO

Celinda Adair
RJ Zimmer

(to be provided – ????)
Harold Blattie 444-4360

- B. There were no members present to provide a status report on the meeting with Mike Bousliman.
- C. UNAVCO –
 - Diana Cooksey made initial contacts with folks from UNAVCO concerning a possible partnership. As of this date no one has responded back to her. She will follow up to see if there is any interest.
- D. New business GRC –
 - Steve Niday indicated there are geodetic antennas for sale on eBay. The committee may want to consider this source when purchasing antennas for Flathead and MSU Northern. This option will be discussed further if funds remain to complete the Flathead and MSU Northern priorities.

5. Montana CORS:

A. Monthly status - CORS priority list:

Minimal activity has taken place on the three priority sites, Helena, Lewistown and Richland Co., this past month. A brief status report for these sites and other priority sites follows:

1. Helena
 2. Lewistown – (complete equipment and monumentation)
 - August 09 -- 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.
 3. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)
 - August 09 -- 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.
 4. Montana Resources, Butte – (full cost of pillar monumentation)
 - August 09 -- No activity on this project at this time.
 5. Havre – (update existing receiver to 5800 (Inland GPS) purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna)
 - August 09 -- No activity on this project at this time.
 6. Flathead Valley CC – (update existing receiver to 5800 (Inland GPS) purchase Zephyr Geodetic antenna)
 - August 09 -- No activity on this project at this time.
 7. Eastern Montana – Wolf Point, Miles City, or Plentywood – (complete equipment and monument)
 - August 09 -- No activity on this project at this time.
 8. Choteau – (check with U.S.F.S. for FY09 funding or FY10 funding)
 - August 09 -- No activity on this project at this time.
 9. Hamilton – (check with Ravalli County and U.S.F.S for possible funding)
 - August 09 -- 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.
- B. New business CORS.
- Diana Cooksey reported Trimble still includes lists several non operational community base stations in their data. This causes problems for users who are unaware of the situation. It would helpful to users if these sites were removed from Trimble’s lists. The former MDT community base station has recently been removed but the CMR site in Lewistown remains. Diana will make appropriate contacts to try to have the CMR site removed from Trimble’s list.

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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.
 - No activity has occurred this past month on developing an outreach plan accounting for the funds identified in the reprogram/re-budget. Dave Hoerning has been assigned this task when time allows.
- B. Outreach MARLS
 - Dave Hoerning contacted MARLS about booth space at the annual surveyor's convention. Space will be provided next to the NGS booth at a minimal cost.
 - Discussion on what to present at the booth took place. Dave H., Curt Smith, Steve Niday and Rj Zimmer have been tasked with designing a booth for the MARLS convention. Most of the materials should already exist.
- C. Status of an improved MTHMP 1-pager with emphasis towards non-technical audience.
 - Neither Celinda nor Curt was available to report on this item – will be carried over to the next meeting.
- D. New business outreach –
 - No new business discussed.

6. MTHMP Projects:

- A. Greg provided a progress report Flathead Valley GPS Project
 - All monuments set with GPS observations set for the week beginning October 12, 2009. No levels will be run at this time.
- B. Lubrecht CORS
 - No report provided.
- C. Cell phone coverage tests.
 - No test were conducted due to timing issues with the equipment.
- D. New business MTHMP
 - No new business discussed.

7. Action Items/ responsible party / due dates.

- A. UNAVCO partnering follow-up. /Diana/Dec
- B. Trimble community base station list updates. /Diana/Dec
- C. Develop an outreach plan for revised funding. /Hoerning (consult Zim)/Dec or Jan
- D. Outreach – MARLS booth/ Hoerning, Zimmer, Niday, Smith/Dec
- E. Continue work on Helena, Lewistown and Richland County CORS. /Dave Hoerning/
Ongoing
- F. Improve MTHMP 1-page handout with emphasis towards non-technical audience. /Curt,
Celinda/Dec

8. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 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.