

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

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## Meeting Details

**Date:** Nov 28, 2011  
**Time:** 10:00 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
- Rj Zimmer, DJ&A
- DeImna Heiken, Triangle Ag-Services
- Steve Niday, Missoula County
- Kevin Biastoch, MDT
- Jeff Nerison, Selby's

## Members Not Present

- Celinda Adair, DNRC
- Tony Bachman, USFS
- Jimmie Brewer, DOWL HKM
- Diana Cooksey, Montana State University
- Eric Martin, MT Tech
- Gerald Pavlick, Morrison Maierle, Inc.
- Greg Thurston
- Dave Hoerning, MDT
- Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA
- Kevin McKenzie, Frontier Precision
- Michael Sweet, U of M
- Dan Igotov, MDT

## Meeting Report

### 1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. Discussed report for September 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](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/heightmod/strategic_plan.shtml)

### 2. General Announcements.

- A. NSDI CAP grant award
- a. Most of the work is done on the business plan regarding the Regional Geodetic Reference Center
  - b. Additional funding may be needed for GIS server/firewall
  - c. There is approx. \$6K in funds left in grant.

### 3. Multistate Control Point Database (MCPD):

- A. Old and new business MCPD.
- a. With Zim stepping down, there will be a need for a new chair for the MT Geodetic Control Working Group and new administrative support for the review of new additions to the control point database.
  - b. A name change to the Multistate Control Point Database was re-iterated.

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

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## 4. Geodetic Reference Center (GRC):

- A. Old and new business GRC
  - a. CSI (consultant) is moving forward with business plan, etc. See update in General Announcements above.
  - b. It was brought up that the name “Geospatial” should replace “Geodetic” for the GRC.

## 5. Montana Height Modernization Program (MTHMP)

- A. Old and new business MTHMP.
  - a. There is approximately \$25K left in the MTHMP budget with around \$11K available for equipment.
  - b. Densifying the CORS network in Montana is the priority at this time (see below). 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. Software is becoming an issue however.

## 6. Montana CORS:

- A. Latest status – Montana CORS:
  - 1. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)
    - a. Report on progress of Richland County CORS. Pillar is being built and project is progressing.
  - 2. Havre – (receiver/antenna updates)
    - a. Report on progress of Havre (MSU Northern) CORS updates.  
There has been a system failure at MSUN, NGS quit serving their data. The system upgrade situation as discussed in the previous meeting has still not been addressed.
  - 3. Butte – (complete)
    - a. Report on progress of Butte (MT Tech) CORS.  
Installation complete, data has been submitted to NGS and is under review.
  - 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. BLM in Miles City has tentative approval in locating a CORS at their property. Discussions ongoing with a site visit by Dan and Curt planned in December 2011.
    - c. MDT facility in Plentywood/Wolf Point is marginal due to distance from possible antenna location and facility. MDT to follow up
  - 5. Hamilton – (possible partnership with Ravalli County)  
Report on progress on Missoula/Ravalli Co. CORS.  
Steve Niday reported that he has the donated equipment from Spokane Co. WA but is experiencing “limited enthusiasm” from local county government and surveyors. Will approach with offer once more and then recommends choosing an alternate site, perhaps in Superior or Seeley Lake areas. He also brought up the possibility of Montana high schools as future sites.

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6. Lolo – (receiver/antenna updates)  
Antenna mount is complete, trenching for cable in progress, vault constructed.  
Completion date is anticipated by end of the year.

## **7. MTHMP Projects and Outreach:**

- A. Old and new business MTHMP
  - a. Zim – received a question from Kay McDonald with MARLS regarding if there would be someone from the group speaking at the upcoming MARLS conference in February about the MSPD. Dan/Curt to follow up.
  - b. Steve Niday – spoke on sending a representative to the RTN Symposium, possibly Kieth Webber.
  - c. Steve Niday – received interest from Spokane County to share in a future RTN.
  - d. Curt Smith – spoke at MT Tech and MSU with students focusing on coordinate adjustments and how being educated in the various adjustments will make them a more robust candidate for job opportunities.
  - e. DeImna Heiken – spoke about the implementation of Center Point RTX in agriculture.
  - f. Bill Grayson spoke of additional PLSS corner coordinates being added to the GCDB/MCPDB

## **8. Action items:**

- A. Upgrades to Havre CORS. Kevin/Dan– on-going
- B. Developments for eastern MT CORS. MDT-ongoing
- C. Presentation/Presenter for MCPDB/Hgt. Mod. at 2012 MARLS. Dan/Curt

## **9. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 27, 2011 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.