

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

Meeting Details

Date: March 14, 2011
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) headquarters, Helena, Montana
ISD Conference Room (basement).
Webinar: A webinar was available for those who could not personally attend.

Participating Members

- DeImna Heiken, Triangle Ag-Services
- Steve Niday, Missoula County
- Stu Kirkpatrick, DOA
- Ralph Jones, MDT
- Curt Smith, NGS
- Rj Zimmer, DJ&A
- Dan Ignotov, MDT
- Dave Hoerning, MDT
- William Grayson, BLM

Members Not Present

- Celinda Adair, DNRC
- Tony Bachman, USFS
- Jimmie Brewer, DOWL HKM
- Diana Cooksey, Montana State University
- Todd Ferris
- Eric Martin, MT Tech
- Gerald Pavlick, Morrison Maierle, Inc.
- Bill Weber, Northwest Energy
- Greg Thurston
- Kevin McKenzie, Frontier Precision
- Bryce Larsen, MDT
- Micheal Sweet, U of M

New Invitees Not Present

- Russ Huotari, Richland County
- Bryce Scala, Selby's

Meeting Report

1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. Discussed report for January 2011 meeting. There were no comments and report was accepted.

2. General Announcements.

- A. NSDI CAP grant award – Zim updated the group on the award (details below).

3. Montana Control Point Database (MCPD):

- A. Old and new business MCPD.
 - a. Status report.

Zim explained that moving forward the MCPD will become the “Multi-state Control Point Data Base as Idaho’s control point data is integrated. Some \$17K of the NSDI CAP grant is to go to planning for this new system. In the meantime the Montana Control Point Database is up and stable. Email spreadsheet to Zim with new control point information.

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

b. Zim announced that his MCPD seminar was well attended at last month's MARLS conference. It was suggested that it gets posted to the MT Height Mod page in an appropriate format.

4. Geodetic Reference Center (GRC):

A. Old business GRC.

a. There seems to be little interest or commitment in hosting the GRC in Montana.

B. New business GRC.

b. As has been discussed, Keith Weber at Idaho State University has expressed interest in taking the lead on hosting the GRC. ISU submitted the NSDI CAP grant application. A meeting is planned for April, 2011 to discuss planning issues related to the GRC. Attendees are to be members from ISU, GCFD Group in Idaho and the MTGC working group. It was suggested that Montana needs to identify several people in the working group to provide representation

5. Montana Height Modernization Program (MTHMP)

A. Old business MTHMP

a. Report on process to get earmark funding and contact with MDT Director. It was established that earmark funding is essentially dead at this time and will not be pursued for now.

B. New business MTHMP.

a. Status of Height Modernization plan update.

Ralph/Dan will verify that the latest plan (2010) is put on the web site. Members are reminded that this is a dynamic document and changes can be made at any time.

b. Letters of support.

It was decided that ongoing efforts to obtain letters of support from the MT Grain Growers Association, Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors and others be postponed until after an action plan/business plan is put together between Idaho and Montana (see above GRC).

c. Other.

Dick Clark of the State of Montana has been appointed as one of 15 individuals to serve as a member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee which provides recommendations on federal geospatial policy. It was decided to contact Mr. Clark and schedule a meeting in which the Height Mod Committee might share our vision and plans.

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

6. Montana CORS:

A. Latest status – Montana CORS:

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

This site is up and running and NGS has put it on their acceptance list. This should be done within 30 days as they work through their list. NGS commented that there needs to be 2 edits made to the RINEX file header. **Dan to follow up.**
2. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)
 - a. Report on progress of Richland County CORS.

Nothing new was reported for this site. In a previous meeting it was reported that monument parts had been ordered and delivered to Russ Huotari, Richland County. **Dan/Ralph/Bryce to follow up.**
3. Havre – (receiver/antenna updates)
 - a. Report on progress of Havre (MSU Northern) CORS updates.

Kevin McKenzie reported that he delivered a Trimble 5700 base and Zephyr Geodetic antenna to MSU Northern in January. Weather prohibited installation. Project is moving forward. **Kevin/Dan to follow up.**
4. Flathead Valley CC – (receiver/antenna updates) – see discussion above.
 - a. Report on progress of Flathead Valley CC CORS.

Kevin McKenzie reported that he will deliver a Trimble 5700 base and Zephyr Geodetic antenna in April. Project is moving forward. **Kevin/Dan to follow up.**
5. Butte – (full cost of pillar monumentation)
 - a. Report on progress of Butte (MT Tech) CORS.

Eric Martin is in the process of checking with officials at the MT Tech to determine the level of partnership that will be required. No new news.
6. Eastern Montana – (complete equipment and monument for Wolf Point, Miles City, Plentywood and/or other locations)
 - a. Report on progress of Eastern MT CORS.

Still looking for a site in the Miles City area. This is ongoing **HKM/MDT**. Fort Peck Indian Res. is in process of densifying their HARN. Curt Smith is attempting to convince them and their contractor to site a CORS. This is ongoing. **Curt**
7. Choteau – (New CORS)
 - a. Report on progress of Choteau CORS.

Matt Morris PLS of Choteau has expressed an interest in working with a private party in establishing a CORS in the area. Private party is already operating a base station. Discussions ongoing. **Dan/Curt**
8. Hamilton – (possible partnership with Ravalli County)
 - a. Report on progress on Hamilton CORS.

Steve Niday reports that he and the County are discussing building a CORS with equipment donated by Spokane County is received as suspected. Ongoing.

B. Old business Montana CORS.

Helena and Lubrecht CORS are operating normally.

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

C. New business Montana CORS.

Steve Niday of Missoula Co. is moving forward with the installation of a new CORS in Lolo to augment MSOL in Missoula. MTHMP to possibly supply some assistance and hardware.

Idaho remains interested in developing a real-time GPS network for Idaho, beginning with its I-15 corridor; and developing partnerships for areas of common interest such as sharing of data/station information, server infrastructure and equipment/software. Future meetings will be held to continue discussions.

7. MTHMP Projects and Outreach:

A. Old business MTHMP

- a. No other old business was discussed. Additional funding plan to be discussed after meeting with Idaho in April (see above).

B. New business MTHMP.

- a. Updates are being made to Height Mod Project list spreadsheet. **Zim, Dan, Curt on going**

8. Action items / responsible party / due dates.

- A. Have updated plan placed on MDT height mod web site. **Ralph/Dan – ASAP**
- B. Help develop materials for MT Grain Growers Association presentation. **Curt, Ralph, DeImna – On going**
- C. Developments with FVCC and Havre CORS. **Kevin/Dan– on-going**
- D. Developments with MT Tech CORS. **Eric – on-going**
- E. Developments with Miles City CORS. **Jimmie/MDT – on-going**
- F. Update CORS map and update CORS priority map. **Dan/Dave – On going**
- G. Software costs for RTN software. **Kevin**
- H. Add CORS status map to MTHMP web site. **Dan/Dave/Zim**
- I. Developments with Choteau, Hamilton, Fort Peck. **Curt/Dan/Steve**
- J. GRC meeting with Idaho. **Stu/Zim/Curt**

10. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 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 has also been scheduled.