

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

Meeting Details

Date: Sept 26, 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
- Dan Ignotov, MDT
- William Grayson, BLM
- Bryce Larsen, MDT
- Micheal Sweet, U of M
- Kevin McKenzie, Frontier Precision
- Rj Zimmer, DJ&A
- DeImna Heiken, Triangle Ag-Services
- Steve Niday, Missoula County

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

Meeting Report

1. Review and approve notes from previous meeting.

- A. Discussed report for July 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 – Zim updated that the business plan for the GRC is progressing and a draft is available for comment. Zim indicated that he will forward to committee members for comment. Comments should be sent to Zim by Oct 4 as a web meeting and discussion is scheduled for Oct 5.
- B. Curt Smith advised the group the NGS state advisor program will be phased out and replaced with a regional advisor program that will be funded through NGS. Details on how this will affect the northern Rocky Mt. region are not yet firm. The plan is for this to be implemented by 2016.
- C. Zim announced that he will be leaving the area in December of 2011 to attend graduate school in New Brunswick, Canada. This means he will be leaving our group. Thanks for your effort and best of luck Zim!

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3. Multistate Control Point Database (MCPD):

- A. Old and new business MCPD.
 - a. Zim gave a presentation to the local MARLS chapter here in Helena regarding the MCPD. It was well received.
 - b. The latest revision to the MCPD has an easier to use interface. Some of the enhancements include; new geography and added marks to include Idaho, database search function easier to use but is not quite up to date, surveyors login has been updated, and the excel template for upload has some minor changes.
 - c. Parcel data has been removed for the time being as MT DOA moves its facilities.

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.

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. There was some discussion as to what projects to fund with the rest of the grant money. 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.

6. Montana CORS:

- A. Latest status – Montana CORS:
 - 1. Richland County – (split cost of pillar monumentation)
 - a. Report on progress of Richland County CORS.
Russ has updated that he has located a contractor however that contractor is backed up at the moment. Curt informed the group that a local surveyor with prior CORS installation experience has offered assistance. Dan to follow up.
 - 2. Havre – (receiver/antenna updates)
 - a. Report on progress of Havre (MSU Northern) CORS updates.
Jeremy Siemens at MSUN has the equipment but needs help getting new connectors for the 5700 and Zephyr antenna. He also would like help with software and site log updates. Kevin/Dan to follow up.
 - 3. Butte – (full cost of pillar monumentation)
 - a. Report on progress of Butte (MT Tech) CORS.
Eric Martin is working to install site. Eric Martin has advised Curt that they have their roof antenna mount installed and are making progress with the rest of the install.
 - 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.

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- b. BLM in Miles City has tentative approval in locating a CORS at their property. Discussions ongoing with a site visit by Dan planned ASAP.
- c. MDT facility in Plentywood is marginal due to distance from possible antenna location and facility. MDT to follow up
- 5. Choteau – (New CORS)
 - a. Report on progress of Choteau CORS.
Previously discussed possibility with private party fell through. Will need to look for a host facility. MDT to follow up.
- 6. Hamilton – (possible partnership with Ravalli County)
Report on progress on Missoula/Ravalli Co. CORS.
Steve Niday reported that he thinks donated equipment from Spokane Co. WA is forthcoming. When it arrives he will be contacting Ravalli County in order to discuss siting issues. Steve also reports the new county CORS in Lolo is waiting on easement agreements with the private land owner where the CORS will be located.

7. MTHMP Projects and Outreach:

- A. Old and new business MTHMP
 - a. No news to report this meeting.

8. Action items / responsible party / due dates.

- A. Upgrades to Havre CORS. **Kevin/Dan– on-going**
- B. Developments with MT Tech CORS. **Eric/Curt – ongoing**
- C. Developments for eastern MT CORS. **MDT-ongoing**

9. Next Meeting/Upcoming Events.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 28, 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.