

*American Association for Geodetic Surveying*

Board of Directors

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 22, 2019

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1. Open meeting, President

A. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Tom Meyer at 16:04 hrs. EDT.

B. Acting Scribe Rollins called the roll:

i. Present:

Tom Meyer, President

Dan Gillins, President-Elect as director

Chuck Ghilani, Immediate Past President

Herb Stoughton, Vice-President, Director (3rd year)

Steve Briggs, Parliamentarian

Ronnie Taylor, Reporter (Association Editor)

Jacob Heck, AAGS/NSPS Liaison as director

Dave Zilkoski, Membership Chair

ii. Absent:

John Bean, Delegate to NSPS Foundation and Chair, Director (2nd year)

Tony Cavell, Director (1st year)

Dan Martin, Treasurer

Dan Roman, Secretary

iii. With Dan Gillins and Jacob Heck appointed to serve as acting Director, at least two directors were present as well as a quorum; therefore, the meeting was authorized.

2. Agenda

A. Upon call for additions, new business was not introduced.

B. Director Stoughton made a motion for acceptance of the AAGS BOD agenda, posted earlier August 22. Acting Director Gillins seconded the motion, which carried with no objection.

3. Minutes

- A. No alterations to the June 13 Meeting Minutes were submitted.
- B. The June 13 Meeting Minutes were approved as distributed.

4. Treasurer's Report (Martin)

- A. No report.

5. Old Business and Communications

- A. SaGES conference: (Ghilani, Meyer) Report on recent meeting in Thibodaux, Louisiana.
  - i. Meyer raised the question whether AAGS should look into the possibility of a strategic partnership/merge with SaGES.
    - SaGES strength is a good conference held alternating (odd numbered) years. AAGS has infrastructure that SaGES lacks.
    - Rosters for these two organizations surprisingly do not overlap much. While education is the focus of SaGES, many geodetic organizations have an education component or approach, such as SaLIS, the AAGS Webinar series, and Geodetic Certification.
  - ii. Joining forces with other groups would help achieve the critical mass needed to get things done.
    - In past conferences, it has been a great advantage to the geodetic side to educate. Even so, joint conferences need to cover a broad range of topics. The SaGES conference included technical presentations as well as educator methodologies.
    - Conferences are the place for AAGS to be in touch with the surveyor/mapper/practitioner. While the majority of SaGES conference attendees were educators and students reporting on projects, significant attendance came from the Army Corps of Engineers and USGS. This because host Nicholls State University maintains strategic partnerships with these agencies. Dru Smith presented the upcoming reference frame, drawing an audience of about 20 licensed surveyors through the state society.
    - AAGS participation in such a conference would provide and draw expansion, perhaps additional sessions, focused on geodetic surveying. A joint conference could cover not training, and also issues facing the practitioner community.
  - iii. Ghilani provided remarks on the history of SaGES, including that the initiative to create the ACSM was launched at SaGES first meeting at Rainy Lake, MN in 1937.<sup>1</sup> SaGES is the oldest of the Geodetic organizations, and has always had its conference hosted at a university.

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<sup>1</sup> See also <https://www.xyht.com/professional-surveyor-archives/education-in-surveying-the-crucial-role-of-sages/>

- AAGS could work together with SaGES in odd numbered years the way AAGS works together with UESI in even numbered years, providing a session.
  - At the SaGES conference in Thibodaux, Joe Paiva (SaGES) had suggested to Meyer that SaGES would have an affiliation with AAGS: SaGES would give 100% of their membership into the affiliated category. SaGES would like to see a reduction in the membership rate, provided that that membership gave access to the SaLIS subscription. Paiva's initial suggestion for the reduced rate was \$60.  
AAGS does not want to provide the best benefit for less than half the price a full AAGS member pays. But it would be very helpful to AAGS to have the additional 50 or so members that SaGES could provide.  
While \$60 seems too low, it is unknown how many academics could afford the full rate of \$180. SaGES membership costs \$20 per two years.
- iv. Ghilani made a motion, seconded by Stoughton, to form a committee to explore organizational cooperation with SaGES.
  - v. Meyer will seek participants for the new committee.
- B. Affiliation with the state of Washington (Ghilani)
- i. The state of Washington sent email requesting information about affiliation with AAGS.
  - ii. Ghilani responded with the affiliation agreement.
- C. New from Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) (Cavell)
- i. There has been some email regarding COGO, but the report will be forthcoming.
6. Committees
- A. Elections (Ghilani)
- i. The ballot is still short one Director.
  - ii. One individual at the SaGES conference expressed interest in running, but he is not yet a member of AAGS.
  - iii. Ghilani has communicated with AAGS members, but no one has stepped forward.
  - iv. Drop-dead date is yet to come.
  - v. This year the most appropriate candidate would be from government, to maintain balance of government-academics-practitioners.
  - vi. The chair of the elections committee is always the Immediate Past President.
- B. Legal (Meyer)
- i. To avoid unnecessary financial obligations to NSPS in the next billing cycle, the AAGS-NSPS Articles of Affiliation and MOU have been updated regarding FIG and COFPAES, and reviewed.

- ii. Stoughton moved to accept the MOU and Articles of Affiliation. Taylor seconded for discussion. Following discussion, the motion passed without objection.
    - In the Articles of Affiliation, redundant verbiage was noted for removal from page 2.
    - In the MOU, under Compensation, item C. Rates for Services, both a 33.3% office overhead cost and a \$45 per hour office overhead cost are mentioned. This was affirmed to be correct.
    - To revisit the hourly rates paid for clerical services, the MOU can be further adjusted later.
  - iii. Meyer will notify NSPS that AAGS is cancelling the previous MOU and Articles of Affiliation, and submit the proposed new MOU and Articles of Affiliation. NSPS may choose to leave them cancelled, in which case there will be no MOU and Articles of Affiliation. Some negotiation may ensue.
- C. Website (Meyer)
- i. No news. The service provider has been very responsive and prompt.
- D. Membership Committee (Zilkoski)
- i. *Corporate Membership*
    - Zilkoski will send out the latest version, seeking comments about how much to charge.
    - AAGS may lose money if a company has many individuals who drop full membership in favor of corporate membership. This could be investigated.
    - The advantage to becoming a corporate member is that it is expected to be a higher rate, so it can be a tax-deductible contribution.
  - ii. The *Job Advertisement* was already approved.
  - iii. The *Template Articles of Affiliation* was already approved.
- E. Ad hoc UESI (Martin)
- i. No news.
- F. Geodetic Certification Committee (Stoughton, Meyer)
- i. Strategy for Geodetic Certification is to gather up requirements – basic qualifications – that DOTs, government agencies and private firms want to see when they hire geodetic surveyors.
  - ii. Such items should be present in the curriculum. Given that these intersect with ABET, Meyer recommends building drafts based on the ABET documents. These tend to be one-page descriptions.

- iii. Heck recommends stronger mathematics background. The requirements described in ABET documents are currently non-specific.
    - For ABET, have one set of math requirements – linear algebra, statistics, etc.
    - For Geodetic Certification, take it to a different level
  - iv. Meyer has been looking at curriculum from PSU, Maine, and other institutions. These are comprehensive, covering such aspects as small business, surveying, and engineering. The breadth of needs and wants provides an opportunity for AAGS to contribute meaningfully to ABET.
  - v. Gillins recommended looking at job postings in OPM’s Geodesy Series, 1372, such as openings at NGS, to review requirements. Gillins will send some of these descriptions to Meyer.
7. Surveying and Land Information Science (Ghilani)
- A. SaLIS Ex-Comm (Meyer)
    - i. Nothing to report at this time.
  - B. SaLIS (Ghilani)
    - i. The current issue of SaLIS is ready to send to Sheridan for production.
    - ii. Papers are still needed for the next issue. The usual harvest of issues by this time has been inadequate. Meyer warned about results of not publishing an issue of SaLIS.
    - iii. Ghilani has pinged NGS for technical notes, but writers appear to prefer submitting papers to larger audiences.
      - Gillins suggests that NGS people are simply too busy. Gillins has material he would like to pull together for SaLIS, and recommends pinging NGS again.
      - In past years, when Ghilani worked at NGS, he was part of a team that simply pushed out brief but informative articles on a quarterly basis. Zilkoski recalls a similar experience.
    - iv. Stoughton recalled that a recent NSRS conference produced a number of creative new ideas. He also suggested that Gillins and Michael Dennis could take topics related to GNSS or low-detail summaries about new developments. E.g., *What will happen with Levelling after 2022?*
    - v. Gillins suggested a special issue on some topic such as *Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Surveying*. A few people might write, who don’t typically submit.
      - A call for articles could be posted by email to AAGS members, NSPS members, State Societies, Universities, etc.
      - Meyer remarked that it should also be sent to the Program Coordinators of the 22-24 ABET-accredited four-year programs throughout the US.

## 8. New Business and Announcements

## A. GVX (Gillins)

- i. NGS has publicized a proposed new file format for GNSS vectors. GVX aims to provide a standard file format for exchanging GNSS vectors derived from varying GNSS survey methods and manufacturer hardware.<sup>2</sup>
    - Gillins is working to modify OPUS Projects software so that surveyors collecting GNSS data can upload GNSS vectors.
    - The standard has been presented to large software/firmware vendors, in hopes that they would adopt it to facilitate data exchange. This will be preferable to conversion between proprietary formats. Attendees were supportive.
  - ii. An article on this topic would be suitable for SaLIS. An easy, informative article could be based on material from the GVX website.K
  - iii. Briggs indicated that Gillins may present to RTCM members at one of their meetings, because they work on firmware and software.
  - iv. Meyer suggested contacting
    - Oscar Columbo at NASA GSFC (oscar.l.colombo@nasa.gov 301.345.6156)
    - Richard Langley at UNB (lang@unb.ca 506.453.5142)
    - CanSpace
  - v. Members of AAGS and other surveyors and software developers are requested to provide feedback to make it the best format possible. Feedback can be sent to [NGS.Feedback@noaa.gov](mailto:NGS.Feedback@noaa.gov)
9. The next meeting of the AAGS BOD is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 @ 4:00 PM Eastern.

*Suggested Future Board meetings for 2019 are shown below. If a sufficient number of Board members express conflict with a specific date, the meeting may be rescheduled.*

November 14 @ 4:00 PM Eastern December 12 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
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10. Upon invitation, Heck read: *“For the Good of the Order, the AAGS Board gives the President and Treasurer the authority to carry out the day to day activities of the AAGS until the next Board Meeting.”*
11. AAGS President Meyer adjourned the meeting at 17:03 hrs. EDT.
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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/data/formats/GVX/index.shtml>

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Rollins

Acting Recorder

File: Documents\AAGS\AAGS Board Minutes August 22, 2019 final.docx

Date: September 28, 2019

Compiler: Elisabeth Rollins