

*American Association for Geodetic Surveying*

Board of Directors

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2020

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I. Open meeting, President

A. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Dan Gillins at 16:03 Eastern.

B. Secretary Dan Roman called the roll:

1. Present:

President: Dan Gillins

President-Elect: Dave Zilkoski

Immediate Past President: Tom Meyer

Vice-President (Director 3rd year): John Bean

Director (2nd year): Tony Cavell

Director (1st year): Bob Burtch

Parliamentarian: Steve Briggs

AAGS/NSPS Liaison, Delegate to NSPS Foundation and Chair: Jacob Heck

*SaLIS Editor: Chuck Ghilani<sup>1</sup>*

Michael Dennis

Brian Riniker

2. Absent:

Treasurer: Dan Martin

Secretary: Dan Roman

Reporter (Association editor): Ronnie Taylor

3. At least two directors were present as well as a quorum; therefore, the meeting was authorized.

II. Agenda

A. Upon call for further additions, the following new business was introduced:

1. Gillins has set up a monthly calendar invitation to the AAGS Board meeting on GoToMeeting.

2. Zilkoski emphasizes that his personal email should be used for AAGS: davezilkoski@gmail.com

B. The AAGS BOD agenda, posted June 11, was accepted without objection.

III. Minutes

A. No corrections were submitted to the May 14 Meeting Minutes

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<sup>1</sup> *Italics indicates AAGS board ex officio members*

IV. Review of Last Month's Action Items and Important Business

A. Vote on COGO dues

1. Last month, Briggs moved that AAGS discussion and vote to approve or refuse COGO membership dues be postponed until this meeting. Cavell seconded, and the motion passed without objection.
2. Cavell reported that the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) dues money is to be used as follows:
  - a. A COGO member organization TBD will perform necessary tasks, e.g., website hosting and administration, meeting setup, and accounts receivable functions, for a budgeted amount. Staff reimbursement is also to be covered. This organization would not be required to pay annual dues for that period.
  - b. COGO considers budgeting for the cost of web conferencing equipment. COGO may continue to borrow equipment, as in the past, setting aside a portion to purchase such equipment in three to four years. COGO also needs to appoint a Treasurer to manage dues and financial matters.
3. Following discussion, Cavell moved that as President and Treasurer, Gillins and Martin examine the AAGS budget, and determine for AAGS whether to designate \$375 per year for COGO dues. Briggs seconded the motion, which passed without objection. Discussion points included:
  - a. Meyer and others voiced concern about the state of AAGS finances. See V. Treasurer's Report below.
  - b. Meyer indicated that Martin's perspective as Treasurer should be sought, particularly given that the dues amount, \$375 per year, is enough to impact two scholarships.
  - c. Cavell observed that COGO's unique requirement of a unanimous vote, to state an opinion to legislators, makes it powerful in lobbying.
  - d. Gillins agreed to ascertain whether Martin views the expense as a prudent one.

B. Special issue of SaLIS (Gillins/Ghilani)

1. Gillins and Ghilani planned a special edition of SaLIS on NSRS Modernization, to raise its impact as a publication.
  - a. Ghilani invited Dru Smith to be guest editor on that issue.
  - b. Dru Smith accepted the invitation, but he has been unresponsive in terms of providing a timeline, possibly because of NGS decisions about delaying NSRS 2020.
2. Active in ASPRS, Burtch touched base with some ASPRS leaders about being guest editor for a special issue, but they were not interested.
  - a. Burtch indicated that he would contact another UAS-UAV expert about it.
  - b. Burtch also saw a past student of his, OSU PhD (Geodetic Science) Ben Vander Jagt. Heck has also communicated with Vander Jagt, who he thinks sounds interested.
  - c. Burtch will also talk with Megan to see if she has any new contacts to try.
  - d. Cavell felt that Nicholls State's UAV program director, Dr. Balaji Ramachandran, might be interested.
  - e. Gillins advised putting any interested person in touch with Ghilani.

- C. Draft letter to gov't agencies on selecting a liaison for Government Programs Committee (Taylor)
  - 1. Taylor was working on a generic letter to be customized for each agency. Gillens will follow up with Taylor for an update.
- V. Treasurer's Report (Martin)
  - A. Martin distributed the latest P&L spreadsheet by email 6/11.
    - 1. Net income in the P&L statement is in the red by over \$7000, due to a loss of almost \$9500 in the market value of the AAGS scholarship investment.
    - 2. Without that loss, the bottom line after scholarship reimbursement would be about positive \$3000.
  - B. Board members discussed whether the situation should be a concern at this time of year.
    - 1. Membership renewals have been slow in coming.
    - 2. Meyer noted that membership renewals tend to come all at once. He is therefore "concerned but not panicked."
  - C. Gillins indicated that he would move the meeting to another day/time so that Martin is available to join the discussion.
- VI. Surveying and Land Information Science
  - A. SaLIS Ex-Comm (Meyer)
    - 1. Nothing to report.
  - B. SaLIS Editor (Ghilani/Gillins)
    - 1. The submissions situation has remained the same.
      - a. No new submissions
      - b. Two submissions accepted but not yet returned with corrections
      - c. One submission on the author's to-do list, needing a table he doesn't know how to build
    - 2. Ghilani observed that SaLIS needs an editor who is active in research, to attract articles.
      - a. Ghilani has reached out to faculty in US educational institutions, and has a list of associate editors/candidates
      - b. Penn State has recently begun to allow publication in "low impact" journals such as SaLIS
      - c. The time frame for submission to review is about six weeks, and to publication depends on corrections and the publishing schedule
      - d. Ghilani recommends a young review board
    - 3. Gillins will set up an additional meeting to brainstorm what to do about SaLIS.
      - a. Changing the name of the journal to make it more general might bring a larger audience, but Cavell suggested that embracing the smaller, more specialized audience might be appropriate
      - b. Briggs has also reached out to OSU, but hears discouraging opinions of people who want to publish in "big journals"

- c. Meyer declared that all AAGS needs to do to save SaLIS, is for members to decide that they want to save it:
  - AAGS members must submit articles
  - This may require a personal invitation, or an honest letter inviting articles and indicating the alternative
  - Changing the name won't help -- journals abound, some for profit
- d. AAGS does not want to go into next year, promising libraries etc., without papers

## VII. Committees

### A. Communications (Meyer)

1. Nothing to report.

### B. Geodetic Certification Committee (Meyer)

1. People who take geodetic certification training need at least a minimal understanding of linear algebra and statistics. Therefore training should include this subject matter.
2. Cavell wants to join the committee, as he sees the importance of this program. If successful, it can be monetized.
3. Meyer will get back to Cavell about this.

### C. Membership Committee (Zilkoski)

1. Membership meeting Thursday, May 28, at 4pm Eastern:
  - a. Gillins to include SaLIS renaming and general overhaul details in the next board meeting:
    - Burtch to reach ASPRS UAS division leaders, regarding UAV special issue guest editors.
    - Burtch to reach OSU Research Professor, Civil, Envir & Geod Eng, Charles Toth, who could provide current expertise in mobile mapping, mobile LiDaR, etc.
  - b. Milburn to send the membership list on a monthly basis, as well as send out a second renewal reminder, to the updated list of recent lapsed members.
  - c. Zilkoski to discuss increasing involvement of NC surveyors, PDH credit, and webinar production at upcoming NC surveyors meeting.
    - ASPRS is making money on webinars through ProLearn<sup>2</sup>
    - Cavell observed that ProLearn is a profit-making organization, while ASPRS is formed for non-profit, educational and scientific purposes.<sup>3</sup>
    - Webinars would be a benefit for members, drawing new membership.
2. Speaking of benefits, AAGS previously posted a bulletin that was probably read more than SaLIS.
  - a. An editor would be needed to produce a bulletin, but articles would not need rigorous review -- they would attract reader comment/interaction.
  - b. The bulletin would provide practical application, QA columns.
  - c. Meyer recollected that the AAGS bulletin was the product of CaGIS Director Ilse Genovese<sup>4</sup>, a paid employee of NSPS.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://prolearn.io/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.asprs.org/a/society/ASPRS\\_Bylaws\\_05-08-15.pdf](https://www.asprs.org/a/society/ASPRS_Bylaws_05-08-15.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/in/igenovese/>

- d. Burtch noted that ASPRS journal Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing includes paid advertisements, as well as bulletin-style features such as QA columns. He suggested incorporating these into SaLIS.
  - e. Zilkoski commented that as a monthly publication, the bulletin or a newsletter could include news that would be old/history by the time it appeared in SaLIS.
3. The next Membership Building Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25 @ 4:00 PM Eastern. Some of this discussion will be developed at that meeting. Please join!

VIII. Liaisons

A. NSPS (Heck)

- 1. NSPS Young Surveyor Network (<https://youngsurveyors.org/>) had an online/virtual meeting in late May, with Dave Doyle as guest speaker.

B. COGO (Cavell)

- 1. See IV.A. Vote on COGO dues above.

C. ASPRS (Burtch)

- 1. ASPRS 2020 Annual Conference will provide a Virtual Technical Program, as a series of online technical sessions during the week of June 22 through 26, 2020.<sup>5</sup>

D. UESI (Dennis/Gillins)

- 1. ASCE-UESI Surveying & Geomatics Conference has been postponed to April 25-27, 2021, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.
- 2. The national student civil engineering - surveying competition to be held June of 2021, at the NGS Testing & Training Center near Corbin, VA.
- 3. UESI will be sending a proposal to FIG, to become a member. AAGS approved writing a letter of support.
- 4. NSPS-NGS-AAGS quarterly meeting is scheduled for 1pm, June 12.

IX. New Business and Announcements

- A. Don't miss the Membership meeting Thursday, June 25, at 4pm Eastern, at (877) 988-6989, Passcode 1680881# (Zilkoski).

- X. The next meeting of the AAGS BOD is scheduled for Thursday, July 09 @ 4:00 PM Eastern, but is highly likely to change based on Treasurer Dan Martin's schedule. Stay tuned!

*Suggested Future Board meetings for 2020 are shown below. If a sufficient number of Board members express conflict with a specific date, the meeting may be rescheduled or cancelled.*

August 13 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
September 10 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
October 08 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
November 12 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
December 10 @ 4:00 PM Eastern

<sup>5</sup> <https://conferences.asprs.org/geoweek-2020/>

- XI. Upon invitation, President-Elect Dave Zilkoski 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.”*
  - XII. AAGS President Gillins adjourned the meeting at 17:05 Eastern.
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Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Rollins

Acting Recorder

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Date: June 27, 2020

Compiler: Elisabeth Rollins