

American Association for Geodetic Surveying

Board of Directors

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2020

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

Secretary: Dan Roman

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

SaLIS Editor: Chuck Ghilani¹

2. Absent:

Treasurer: Dan Martin

Reporter (Association editor): Ronnie Taylor

Parliamentarian: Steve Briggs

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. Ghilani suggested that conferencing software such as Zoom be used for future meetings.

a. Zoom being disallowed in federal space, other applications were discussed, particularly in terms of cost.

b. Given that NGS holds a license for GoToMeeting, Gillins can host and invite other participants; and he will set it up for the next monthly call.

B. The AAGS BOD agenda, posted May 12, was accepted without objection.

III. Minutes

A. Heck submitted a correction to the April 09 Meeting Minutes

1. An extra box announcing the NSPS spring meeting provided faulty information.

2. This was not discussed in the AAGS meeting.

¹ *Italics indicates AAGS board ex officio members*

3. Rollins will remove the box.

B. Cavell indicated that meeting minutes do not require a formal acceptance, given that all corrections are addressed.

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

A. Vote on COGO dues (~\$375 – \$400 per year)

Last month, Cavell informed the AAGS Board that COGO proposes to charge dues.

At that time, 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.

1. Cavell said that COGO has not persuaded him that COGO needs to incur costs requiring such dues payment, and that even so, they may be legitimate. Dues may be useful to support personnel, record storage, mailing, etc.
 - a. Zilkoski asked the benefit of being part of COGO. Cavell recalled that Meyer could answer that very well, along the lines that COGO as an organization has a lot of political influence, since COGO requires a unanimous vote to state an opinion to legislators. COGO has submitted a letter in opposition to Ligado's application with the FCC for use of spectrum adjacent to the GPS spectrum.
 2. How many member organizations in COGO? The Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) is a coalition of 13 entities: AAGS, ASCE, ASPRS, AAG, CAGIS, GISCI, IAAO, MAPPs, NSPS, NSGIC, UCGIS, USGIF, and URISA. In addition, advisory organizations are government related and cannot deal directly with advocacy.
 - a. Cavell suggested that COGO should provide more information on how the money would be spent. He felt that other member organizations might have the same idea. Bean voiced that it's important for AAGS should be a member of COGO, but should also seek a short list of how the dues will be used.
 3. Cavell inquired how \$400 fits the AAGS budget. Gillins indicated that while Martin is needed to answer this question, it could be said that COGO dues isn't in the budget for this year, but may be added if necessary.
 4. Cavell moved to ask for the details about how the dues will be used, distribute these details to board members by email, then discuss the question again, making a decision by email vote before the next COGO meeting. Zilkoski seconded the motion, and it passed without dissent.
- B. Motion to approve new CD investment.
1. Martin was originally looking into options to invest AAGS money from a CD that has matured. Gillins had made a motion seconded by Zilkoski in support of that idea.
 2. Martin sent an email today suggesting doing nothing with the money for right now, given that interest rates are so low. He recommends keeping it in a cash account, so that AAGS can make an investment once the market stabilizes.
 3. Cavell moved, seconded by Zilkoski, to table the previous motion, keeping the money as cash until the board decides it's time to invest. This motion carried with no objection.
- C. Discussion of a special issue on SaLIS (Gillins/Ghilani)
1. Gillins and Ghilani planned a special edition of SaLIS on NSRS Modernization, inviting Dru Smith to be guest editor on that issue.

- a. Dru Smith accepted the invitation, but a decision has not been made to do this issue yet, and he did not provide a timeline.
 - b. Gillens will talk with Smith about that timeline, and how to prioritize efforts going forward. There may be a reluctance to make a commitment before the pandemic situation settles. NGS is trying to figure out how long NSRS 2022 may be delayed, and waiting to announce that decision to get messaging right.
2. Another topic may be appropriate for a special issue at this time. The purpose is to get more people to submit articles to SaLIS for review.
- a. A special issue may be on UAVs, Laser Scanning, clouds...
 - b. An appropriate editor is needed for each topic -- someone with expertise and also with the bandwidth, who is already publishing and can recruit article writers. Several schools that teach surveying are vying to be the best place to study special topics, Nicholls State has a strong UAV program in Thibodaux, LA, under Dr. Balaji Ramachandran, participating with the Army Corps of Engineers.
 - c. Ghilani indicated that Ramachandran was supposed to write a one page summary of the conference after it was over, but he never did, so perhaps he does not have the bandwidth.
 - d. Meyer mentioned that he has a couple of contacts, and could poke around and find someone. However, Burtch also has contacts at ASPRS. He knows they're doing training on UAVs, and will work this before Meyer so that multiple offers are not made

D. Draft letter to government 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.

E. 100 Advances in Geodesy (AGU) (Heck)

- 1. Vicky Childers and AGU team already had 100, when Heck submitted 24, but the team will look at them and decide whether to swap some or go over 100.

V. Treasurer's Report (Martin)

- A. Martin distributed the latest P&L spreadsheet by email 5/14.

VI. Surveying and Land Information Science

A. SaLIS Ex-Comm (Meyer)

- 1. Messages from Ingenta seem okay. The May issue is published.

B. SaLIS Editor (Ghilani/Gillins)

- 1. Ghilani is very concerned about the SaLIS journal, looking at the number of submissions each year:

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
7	8	25	30	9	3

- a. SaLIS used to have a large number of submissions from the middle east, but not anymore.
- b. The worth of SaLIS from an academic point of view appears to be very low.
- c. Martin has said that SaLIS is keeping AAGS alive.
- d. Membership isn't looking at the journal. Who's looking at it?

- e. AAGS provides a scholarship. Can a portion of the grading be granted for successfully publishing in SaLIS?
2. Gillens believes that SaLIS has a lot of value, and appreciates knowing that there is more than one journal on this discipline in the US. He questions why SaLIS is not getting many articles. As Associate Editor of ASCE's JSE, he notices that most articles are submitted by international researchers.
 - a. In view of the fact that AAGS is not supported by SCOPUS, boosting AAGS' international profile may be useful to get more articles submitted.
 - b. Surveying needs to be seen as an academic discipline. Most Surveying PhDs are foreign nationals.
 - c. Many libraries pick up all the ASCE journals – AAGS lost libraries when the journal wasn't being published.
 - d. Articles from SaLIS aren't cited enough. SaLIS needs quality articles that people cite.
 - e. Trade publications carry a broad spectrum of articles, some technical, some more scholarly.
 - f. The name Surveying and Land Information Sciences was discussed in terms of the possible need to broaden the appeal to non-traditional authors for journals.
 - g. Meyer puts the titles of SaLIS articles on the AAGS website, and articles are available back to 2006.
 - h. Gillens summarized the problem in terms of the need for a change in the submission rate.

VII. Committees

- A. Communications (Meyer)
 1. Nothing to report.
- B. Geodetic Certification Committee (Meyer)
 1. Several things are in the pipeline, one virtually finished.
Next week will have less distraction from end-of-semester activity.
- C. Membership Committee (Zilkoski)
 1. Zilkoski facilitated a special one-hour meeting Thursday, April 23, at 4pm Eastern, for brainstorming ways to help increase membership.
 - a. Zilkoski will follow up next week with a list of action items, as a reminder.
 - b. Gillins asked Trish Milburn to send out the reminder letter to non-renewing AAGS members.
 2. Gillens will look into setting up GoToMeeting for the next Membership meeting. This meeting will be repeated two weeks after the AAGS Board meeting: May 28, at 4pm Eastern, at (877) 988-6989, Passcode 1680881#.

VIII. Liaisons

- A. NSPS (Heck)
 1. The NSPS Board met April 17 about scholarship and fellowship awards for 2020.
 - a. The meeting was held over GoToMeeting, and the online format worked somewhat well.
 - b. Heck submitted a written report distributed 5/12 by email.
 2. The graduate fellowships from AAGS went to Jensen DeGrande, graduating from Texas A&M Corpus Christi, having accepted to a graduate program at the University of Washington. The Joseph Dracup undergraduate scholarship was awarded to Alberto Loera of California State University, Fresno. Both had very impressive resumes.

- a. No one applied to the grad fellowship, but looking through Ms. DeGrande’s materials, Heck felt that she was well qualified, and Briggs agreed. Awarding the fellowship provides AAGS a graduate student who may write papers for SaLIS.
- b. Given that AAGS provides one graduate fellowship and one undergraduate scholarship each year, Zilkoski inquired whether students pay only \$1 for AAGS Membership. Gillins confirmed that they do. The idea of revisiting this rate was mentioned.
- c. Zilkoski encourages students at OSU to provide papers to SaLIS as well as become AAGS members. He will continue to try to activate student involvement.

B. COGO (Cavell)

- 1. The fact that COGO has proposed membership dues was discussed in section IV.A. above.
- 2. COGO has submitted a letter to the US legislature explaining objections to the FCC awarding requested frequencies to Ligado.

C. ASPRS (Zilkoski)

- 1. Zilkoski would like Burtch to take over as ASPRS Liaison.
- 2. Burtch is involved with ASPRS, and agreed to do it.

D. UESI (Dennis/Gillins)

- 1. ASCE-UESI Surveying & Geomatics Conference has been postponed to April 25-27, 2021, in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.
 - a. The national student civil engineering - surveying competition to be held June of 2021, at the NGS Testing & Training Center near Corbin, VA.
- 2. UESI is putting a proposal together, to become a member of FIG. AAGS will provide a letter of support.

IX. New Business and Announcements

- A. Don’t miss the Membership meeting Thursday, May 28, at 4pm Eastern, at (877) 988-6989, Passcode 1680881# (Zilkoski).

X. The next meeting of the AAGS BOD is scheduled for Thursday, June 11 @ 4:00 PM Eastern.

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.

July 09 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
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

XI. Upon invitation, Secretary Dan Roman 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 17:03 Eastern.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Rollins

Acting Recorder

File: Documents\AAGS\AAGS Board Minutes May 14, 2020 final.docx

Date: May 21, 2020

Compiler: Elisabeth Rollins