

*American Association for Geodetic Surveying*

Board of Directors

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 14, 2019

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1. Open meeting, President

A. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Tom Meyer at 16:05 hrs. EDT.

B. President Tom Meyer called the roll:

i. Present:

President: Tom Meyer

Immediate Past President: Chuck Ghilani

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

AAGS/NSPS Liaison: Jacob Heck

John Hamilton, Director appointee

Earl Burkholder

Brian Fisher

ii. Absent:

President-Elect: Dan Gillins

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

Director (1st year): Tony Cavell

Secretary: Dan Roman

Treasurer: Dan Martin

Reporter (Association editor): Ronnie Taylor

Parliamentarian: Steve Briggs

iii. 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. Vice President Herb Stoughton made a motion for acceptance of the AAGS BOD agenda, posted November 14. Immediate Past President Chuck Ghilani seconded the motion, which carried without objection.

3. Minutes
  - A. No new alterations to the October 10 Meeting Minutes were submitted. Alterations previously submitted were confirmed as processed.
  - B. The October 10 Meeting Minutes were approved as distributed.
4. Treasurer's Report (Martin/Meyer)
  - A. The October 2019 Profit & Loss Financial Statement (spreadsheet) was distributed to board members. Other financial details are available on request.
  - B. Savings was noted:
    - i. Now that AAGS is a FiG member, AAGS does not pay FiG dues through NSPS.
    - ii. AAGS no longer supports COFPAES.
  - C. Stoughton made a motion for acceptance of the report, and Ghilani seconded the motion, which passed without objection.
5. Old Business and Communications
  - A. News from Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) (Cavell/Meyer)
    - i. COGO is ready to hold an election for the next season of leadership. AAGS should consider participation in this leadership next year.
    - ii. COGO is considering initiating membership dues, a topic that will be discussed during this coming year.
    - iii. Meyer is to contact Cavell about attending the meeting and keep AAGS represented.
    - iv. *See also Section 8 below.*
  - B. GVX (Gillins)
    - i. Gillins is to provide an update on GVX at a future meeting.
    - ii. 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)
6. Committees
  - A. Elections (Ghilani)
    - i. The ballot is distributed to AAGS Full Members and Fellows by post.
  - B. Legal (Heck)
    - i. NSPS accepted the newly drafted MOU and Articles of Affiliation.
    - ii. NSPS updated fees for clerical and accounting services.
    - iii. Meyer provide a modified version of the MOU and Articles, including change recommended by Ghilani, to wit, AAGS is to be represented by a voting member

on the Education Committee. The modified version was distributed to AAGS Board members.

- iv. Stoughton made a motion to accept the new MOU and Articles, as they appear in an Appendix to the meeting Agenda dated November 14, 2019. Ghilani seconded the motion, which passed without objection
- v. Meyer will send the accepted version to NSPS Exec Director Curt Sumner, Cc: Jacob Heck.

C. Website (Meyer)

- i. Nothing to report.

D. Membership Committee (Zilkoski/Meyer)

- i. AAGS discussion of Corporate Membership is temporarily suspended.

E. Ad hoc UESI (Martin/Meyer)

- i. Tentative schedule for the upcoming conference in Lawrenceburg has been distributed.
- ii. AAGS has a meeting scheduled for 4pm, Tuesday, June 2nd. This meeting may also serve as the AAGS Annual Meeting.
- iii. Several AAGS members have submitted papers to present at the Spring 2020 UESI conference:
  - Jacob Heck submitted a paper.
  - Dan Gillins submitted a workshop: Manual of Practice
  - Michael Dennis submitted a workshop: State Plane Coordinates 2022; Low Distortion Projections; Death of the US Survey Foot
  - Tom Meyer submitted a paper and a workshop: Low Distortion Projections; Advanced Technologies; Coordinate Systems

F. Geodetic Certification Committee (Stoughton, Meyer)

- i. Association of Petroleum Surveying and Geomatics (APSG: <https://www.apsg.info/>) people and NGA people have expressed interest to collaborate in the development of Geodetic Certification training materials. This includes individuals in the NGA Gravity Survey Group and possibly others.
  - Herb Stoughton and Craig Rollins have provided feedback on the first draft.
  - Monadic topics are to be developed using Sphinx for web delivery, to include a learning roadmap for direction toward specific skills/learning objectives.
  - Sphinx is a tool for documentation development, licensed under the BSD license. Some projects built using Sphinx are listed at <https://www.sphinx-doc.org/en/master/examples.html>

- ii. Rollins is also interested to produce a series of articles for SaLIS on geodetic datums and their transformations. He is coordinating with Cliff Mugnier and Roel Nicolai.
  - iii. Meyer has contact with publishers who can turn these online training materials into a book, where subject matter experts provide content to be tied together by an editor. Cambridge University Press is a strong candidate.
  - iv. Heck indicated that NGS has training materials available. Heck is to check whether NGS would be willing to let AAGS use those materials.
  - v. NGA also has education programs interested to align with this program.
7. Surveying and Land Information Science (Ghilani)
- A. SaLIS Ex-Comm (Meyer)
    - i. Documentation requested at the previous meeting indicates that AAGS has agreed to a 3% increase in Ingenta fees.
  - B. SaLIS (Ghilani)
    - i. Only 1 article accepted for next May's issue with two in the pipeline.
    - ii. The November issue includes three articles.
8. New Business and Announcements
- A. Meyer received email from Glen Schaefer, dated November 14, 2019, requesting discussion of "the Foot".
    - i. Schaefer worked for NOAA 23 years, then for the Wisconsin DOT for 16 years in the Surveying and Mapping Section. Earl Burkholder remarked that Schaefer is "very capable, and in tune with the surveyors practices and concerns."
    - ii. NIST, NGS, NOS, and NOAA aim to deprecate the use of the "U.S. survey foot" on December 31, 2022. After that date, the "U.S. survey foot" will be superseded by the "foot" (formerly known as the "international foot").  
All engaged in or affected by surveying and mapping operations are invited to comment on the change. Comments and other information must be received by no later than December 2, 2019.  
[<https://www.nist.gov/pml/us-surveyfoot/submit-comment>]
    - iii. NAD27 had been constructed using the definition of the foot in the Mendenhall Order of 1893: 1 foot = 1200/3937 m. This definition was retained for data derived from NAD27, and renamed the "US Survey Foot" to distinguish it from the International Foot. [en.wikipedia.org]
      - The NGS Data Sheet currently lists "feet" to mean U.S. Survey Feet.
      - The NGS Data Sheet also now lists state plane coordinate values in sFT or iFT depending upon the state in which the survey station is located.

- 24 states have legislated the U.S. Survey Foot, 8 states have legislated the International Foot, and 18 states have no legislation on which conversion factor must be used.
- B. Meyer opened discussion suggesting that three options are available to AAGS:
- i. Note that we had a discussion.
  - ii. Bring up the topic at the COGO meeting, to get a COGO opinion. COGO requires a unanimous vote to declare a position.
  - iii. Write an official letter stating the AAGS preferred position. This position is to be developed through communication with AAGS membership, to confirm majority approval.
    - NGS should publish data only in meters (SI system).
    - If conversion is made from metric to feet, the party making the conversion should append metadata indicating foot identity.
    - Renaming the International Foot as “the Foot” creates an opportunity for confusion.
- C. Ghilani made a motion, seconded by Stoughton, and passed with no objection, to draft a letter of recommendation to NGS.
- D. Meyer noted the need to distribute the recommendation to AAGS membership for majority approval, before sending it to NGS.
- E. The letter of recommendation should be drafted by Glen Schaefer and Earl Burkholder. Herb Stoughton will review the draft, and asks that it be available by a week before the next meeting.
- F. Meyer is to ask Tony Cavell to orally inform COGO that AAGS is considering a written expression regarding the procedure prior to December 2, 2019.
9. The next meeting of the AAGS BOD is scheduled for Thursday, December 12 @ 4:00 PM Eastern.

*Suggested Future Board meetings for 2019-2020 are shown below. If a sufficient number of Board members express conflict with a specific date, the meeting may be rescheduled or cancelled.*

January 09 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
February 13 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
March 12 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
April 09 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
May 14 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
June 11 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
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
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10. Upon invitation, Ghilani 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 16:57 hrs. EDT.
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Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Rollins

Acting Recorder

File: Documents\AAGS\AAGS Board Minutes November 14, 2019 final.docx

Date: November 26, 2019

Compiler: Elisabeth Rollins