

American Association for Geodetic Surveying

Board of Directors

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 10, 2019

1. Open meeting, President

A. The Board of Directors meeting was called to order by President Tom Meyer at 16:02 hrs. EDT.

B. Acting Scribe Rollins called the roll:

i. Present:

Tom Meyer, President

Dan Gillins, President-Elect

Chuck Ghilani, Immediate Past President

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

Steve Briggs, Parliamentarian

Jacob Heck, AAGS/NSPS Liaison as director

Ronnie Taylor, Reporter (Association Editor)

ii. Absent:

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

Tony Cavell, Director (1st year)

Dan Roman, Secretary

Dan Martin, Treasurer

Dave Zilkoski, Membership Chair

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. Steve Briggs made a motion for acceptance of the AAGS BOD agenda, posted October 8. Director Bean seconded the motion, which carried without objection.

3. Minutes

- A. No alterations to the August 22 Meeting Minutes were submitted.
- B. The August 22 Meeting Minutes were approved as distributed.

4. Treasurer's Report (Martin)

- A. Martin is leading an OPUS course in CT today.
 - i. Financials appear to be in order, per Meyer.
 - ii. Ghilani noted the amount of profit for SaLIS, mentioning that the November issue is in process. The question was raised whether AAGS will clear a profit when Sheridan has turned in their bill for this issue.

5. Old Business and Communications

- A. Affiliation with the state of Washington (Ghilani)
 - i. Last month, Land Surveyors of Washington requested information about affiliation with AAGS. Ghilani responded with the affiliation agreement, which they accepted, bringing the number of AAGS affiliates to 26.
 - ii. Other AAGS affiliates have requested more communications. Meyer will be sending all affiliates all communications as appropriate.
- B. New from Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) (Cavell)
 - i. A report is forthcoming.
- A. GVX (Gillins)
 - i. Gillins released a website
<<https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/data/formats/GVX/index.shtml>>
with links to documentation, example file, schema, and feedback solicitation.
 - ii. Descriptive text about GVX is also available on the AAGS website at
<<https://www.aagsmo.org/ngs-announces-proposal-for-an-exchangeable-gnss-vector-format/>>
Meyer will forward this text to all AAGS members.
 - iii. First kickoff with GNSS hardware manufacturers is due to be held within a few weeks.
 - iv. Briggs inquired about relevant contacts – Gillins will share these, including Kyle Snow @OSU.
 - v. An article on this topic would be suitable for SaLIS. An easy, informative article could be based on material from the GVX website above.
 - vi. GVX can be used for real-time (RTK) or post-processed GNSS vector data. It can accommodate upload to OPUS, because it holds all GNSS vector data needed for inclusion in a survey network for least squares adjustment. It also holds metadata.

- vii. 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

6. Committees

A. Elections (Ghilani)

- i. The ballot had been distributed October 8.
- ii. Briggs moved to approve the ballot presented, seconded by Heck.
- iii. The ballot was approved without discussion or objection.
- iv. With thanks to the Election Committee, Meyer will send the ballot to Trish Milburn.

B. Legal (Heck)

- i. Heck reached out to NSPS regarding the new MOU and Articles of Affiliation.
- ii. NSPS Exec Director Curt Sumner indicated that the Exec Committee will look at these and get back to AAGS soon.

C. Website (Meyer)

- i. Hawkeye's Joshua continues to be swiftly and accurately responsive, generally within one hour.

D. Membership Committee (Zilkoski)

- i. As discussed by email AAGS will temporarily suspend discussion of Corporate Membership.
- ii. AAGS will pursue the effort to stand up the AAGS certification program, greatly expanding the benefits case for corporate membership.

E. Ad hoc UESI (Martin)

- i. No news.
- ii. Questions include anticipated change of AAGS headquarters from NSPS to UESI, and the potential to host sessions at the UESI conference.
- iii. Several AAGS members have submitted papers to present at the Spring 2020 UESI conference.

F. Geodetic Certification Committee (Stoughton, Meyer)

- i. Meyer had distributed the first draft of a geodetic certification curriculum, October 8, and in the meeting shared his vision. Additions and changes are sought.
- ii. Relevant and successful Geodetic Certification will focus on specific tools and knowledge needed by practicing surveyors, to perform common tasks that involve geometrical and physical geodesy. These tasks are listed from OPM.gov, Geodetic Technician Series, 1374.

- iii. A list is included, of skills and abilities needed to perform these tasks, as well as precursor/background knowledge required.
 - Meyer developed a sequence of topics in the form of a knowledge tree. More fundamental topics work together to support more advanced topics.
 - Monadic topics are to be developed for web delivery, to include a learning roadmap for direction toward specific skills/learning objectives.
 - Authors who take ownership will know exactly which pieces are their own.
 - This structure lends itself well to asynchronous learning, and to multimedia, such as videos or suggested reading.
 - Each module would include a practice exam. The final exam for certification would include questions pulled from all the modules. If a candidate passes the certification exam, then they are certified in that category, regardless of whether their knowledge came from job experience, training, or self-study.
- iv. Briggs pointed out that in addition to certification, some learners may find this structure highly useful if they seek instruction for a specific skill.
Following the meeting, Meyers will send a copy of the draft to Briggs.
- v. Gillins inquired about the scale of coursework this program should be designed to cover.
 - Briggs discussed CST, a multi-level standard credential portable from one state to another.
 - Bean indicated that the CST Level 2 or 3 was about on the level of an associates degree with perhaps 40 credit hours [250 actual hours of instruction] of direct survey content.
 - Meyers asked how much time a practicing professional would likely be willing to put into certification training. Gillins said that the Certified Federal Surveyors Program (CFedS), covering federal survey processes, is a 20-week program with 10 study hours per week, seven modules and three two-hour exams.
 - All agreed that a 200 hour scope sounded reasonable.
- vi. Meyer would like to develop the knowledge tree to a point where the modules can be assigned to authors to produce content. He urges review/modification of the lists of topics on the first page of the draft, to align them with current training need.
- vii. Herbert W. Stoughton has authored: *The Handbook of Surveying Mathematics and Computations: Volume I: Plane Surveying Computations* (980 pages). Meyer mentioned this work, which may be a rich source of background material, content for modules, or suggested reading.
- viii. Meyer pointed out that reviewers are needed for the course materials that will be developed. Pre-release curriculum testing can be done by potential customers and DOT chiefs.

- ix. Gillins confirmed his enthusiasm for carrying this project forward in the coming year, given the time and resource commitment of those participating in its development.
 - x. Briggs moved that all AAGS members on the call shall provide Meyer written feedback by the next meeting. Bean and Ghilani simultaneously seconded the motion, which passed without discussion or objection.
7. Surveying and Land Information Science (Ghilani)
- A. SaLIS Ex-Comm (Meyer)
 - i. Email from Ingenta indicates that we have agreed to a 3% increase in fees.
 - ii. Meyer has requested reference to documentation in which this agreement was made. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - B. SaLIS (Ghilani)
 - i. The November issue is being processed.
 - ii. Ghilani has one article from the SaGES conference for the next issue.
 - iii. Meyer has talked with a few people who plan to submit articles so he is optimistic. (Ghilani is still waiting for Gillins to send something.)
 - iv. Meyer notes that SaLIS and the AAGS Newsletter are the two items AAGS gives to members. He says, "If you have a paper that you can send to SaLIS, please do."
8. New Business and Announcements
- A. Briggs received Notice Advisory to NavStar Users (NANU) #2019159, from USCG, which he will distribute by email [distributed 10/10]. This advisory covers Sat 74.
 - B. Meyer inquired of NGS people about a new adjustment, wherein IGS08 is now obsolete. Meyer received a question from the Chief of Surveys at Connecticut DOT, asking, and asking whether there is a preferred way to describe the new collection of data, in communication with RTK network user-operators.
 - i. NGS has readjusted all the CORS positions. The 2011 coordinates Meyer has on his CORS stations show up as superseded by new coordinates, but the epoch did not change on the datum.
 - ii. Gillins indicated that NGS would stay with NAD83-2011 until the new Reference Frame is rolled out. Over the past month, NGS rolled out a new multi-year CORS solution, reprocessing data using IGS14, then transforming it using NAD83-2011, and keeping it at Epoch 2010. This is described at <<https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/CORS/coords.shtml>>
 - iii. Gillins will ask the Spatial Reference Systems Division Chief what communication is recommended. Until then, the website above is recommended.
9. The next meeting of the AAGS BOD is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 @ 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.

December 12 @ 4:00 PM Eastern
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

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 17:13 hrs. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Rollins

Acting Recorder

File: Documents\AAGS\AAGS Board Minutes October 10, 2019 final.docx

Date: October 17, 2019

Compiler: Elisabeth Rollins