

MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR GEODETIC SURVEYING

Date 12 August 2026

Time 4:05 pm EDT

Called to order by Dave Zilkoski

In Attendance	Dave Zilkoski	President
	Karen Meckel	Secretary
	Dan Martin	Treasurer
	Kevin Ahlgren	Immediate Past President
	John Hamilton	1 st Year Director
	Jay Doody	2 nd Year Director
	Rachel Alexander	3 rd Year Director/Vice President
	Tom Meyer	Reporter

Absent	Muge Albayrak	President Elect
	Jacob Heck	NSPS Liaison

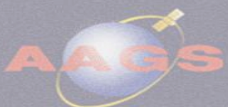
Guests	Bob Burtch
	Earl Burkholder
	Dave Doyle
	Wendy Lathrop
	Luis Vega

Approval of Agenda

Board unanimously approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from July 2026 Board meeting read and approved by unanimous consent.



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New Business

Dave Z decided to start with new business. The Women Surveyors Summit will be an effort to get more women to join AAGS. AAGS membership is male dominated. There have been more female members, but that number fluctuates. Dave addressed Wendy Lathrop about trying to attract the summit attendees to become involved with AAGS, noting that the group sponsored the summit last year as well.

Dan Martin mentioned that NGS has a new woman employee who mentioned the summit. He speculated that he might speak with her about joining AAGS. Those present thought that would be a good move.

Discussion moved on to what AAGS expects of Wendy when she attends the convention. Karen stated that the organizer, Anna Rios, would make a ten-minute time slot for her to say hi and introduce the association with an eye to getting some new members. She suggested talking about the YouTube videos and training on the AAGS website. Also, the geodetic certification effort and letting the participants know that we aren't just about geodesy but surveying as well and anyone using GNSS should check us out.

Rachel added that we have the peer reviewed journal, and we should mention the partnership with NSPS. SaLIS now has a much broader readership.

Dave Z added that we're about other surveying topics and are trying to get more individuals with the various backgrounds that surveyors and engineers have who use geodesy even without realizing it. No mention to the attendees about geoids and ellipsoids. He stressed that we need members from many fields so that we can have some idea about how to support their needs since geodesy is a foundational element in so many applications being used across the spectrum.

Dave D added that he was approached at one of his talks by a group of biologists working in coastal areas.

Karen asked Wendy why she is a member of AAGS and suggested that speaking to that might be of interest as well. Wendy explained that while she is a surveyor but not a geodetic surveyor, she still needs to have enough knowledge to be able to ask the right questions and know the right partnerships to make for some issues that come up.

Jay Doody added that AAGS offers a direct link between surveyors and the NGS, with the opportunity to talk with the people who are developing the coordinate systems that we use. AAGS offers PhD experts who can speak in down to earth terms about things that regularly affect land surveyors.

Discussion ensued about a new NGS video that explains in basic terms how geodesy is the foundation for so much of our activities. Jay stated that the



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geopotential and the concept of W_0 is going to be something to be discussed in 2027. NAPGD2022.

Karen mentioned to Wendy that women among women aren't afraid to ask stupid questions and maybe she can get some ideas about what AAGS should use as subjects in future presentations just by talking to the women at the convention one on one.

Wendy stated that she has been to the women's summit before and she knows at least one of the presenters as well as the organizer, so that can calm her nerves about giving an intro and mixing. Kevin suggested a one-page list of topics for her.

Dave Z directed Karen to come up with a one-page for Wendy to use.

Both Daves and Dan spoke with Wendy about helping with FEMA concerns with the new vertical datum since Wendy is the resident FEMA expert. They asked that Wendy participate more often in our meetings if she can do that.

Karen asked Wendy to send her notes so that a one-pager can be developed for Wendy to use when doing her ten-minute intro.

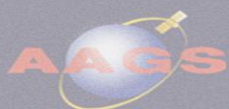
Committee Reports

Publications—Tom shared an email from Ingenta with everyone, then explained that he was tasked with developing a solution for people already signed in to the AAGS site to access articles in SaLIS from that site. Tom contacted the publisher, Ingenta, to find out what it would take to make that access happen. What was asked was enabling assigned linking for people logged in from the AAGS website to be able to have access to the Ingenta content of AAGS.

Our contact said this was not a problem to implement. Tom shared the pricing for the change. The implementation will be \$156 up front to Ingenta. The contact, Josh, is on a retainer and so no additional fee for him or if there is, he will tell Tom. There is also an annual upkeep fee of \$212.

Tom suggested that the NSPS readers would like this access option as well. His idea is to set up a page for NSPS members to log in to access the journal articles and get them to share the annual cost and possibly the implementation fee. If NSPS elects to set up their own access independent of AAGS's site, then they would have to pay the full amounts separately rather than share the cost with us.

Dave D had a question about datum information that was published in SaLIS when it was part of ACSM that he wants to share with NGS, asking if that will be a problem considering that the data is SaLIS and was sold to readers, now under



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consideration to be donated to NGS for public access. Tom stated that it is not an issue.

Tom's idea about the link to SaLIS articles via the AAGS website became a motion with Rachel Alexander seconding. Tom will approach NSPS about a cost share for the new access to see if they want it. If they do, he will approach Josh to see how to set it up. The board unanimously approved the motion to explore and implement the new access method on condition that Dan determines that we can afford it.

Moving forward, Tom stated that SaLIS is on an upswing of submissions and that they look like high-quality submissions. He indicated that some of the articles are being cited which will contribute to being able to get re-indexed.

Karen asked what it would take to get back into the index listings. Tom responded citations that the journal needs to have relevance and readership. If NGS starts publishing in SaLIS again, that will put us in the index, problem solved.

Education—Dave Z said that we finalized our reviews and sent them to Trish. She was able to load the questions, but the diagrams would not work in the system. Plans were made to touch base with her to see what can be done about the diagram questions.

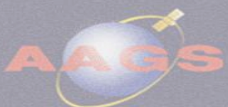
Karen said that she sent some draft brochures about the certification to Dave via email. She asked if she should send some sort of brochure over to Wendy to use. Wendy was on board with that. Dave said he had not seen the drafts.

Wendy asked when the certification was likely to take off. Dave responded before the end of the calendar year, maybe October.

Wendy also brought up questions about the number of questions on the exam and how it would be administered, how long to take and is there any supporting information for studying for it? Jay joined the conversation about having to have security and how the CST exam is administered. Karen suggested that we check out how NSPS offers the hydrologic technician exam since it is smaller and more focused like the geodetic survey exam will be. Dave will speak with Trish about it.

Karen has started compiling some of the video links on YouTube that might be used for studying for the exam. Jay offered to help with developing the administration and security/proctoring for the exam.

YouTube—Nothing new. Muge is not present. It appears that Kevin's presentation was the most recent that was posted.



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Jay mentioned that we have pages on LinkedIn as well as YouTube and the website. He stated that he would see if he can post the videos or links to them on LinkedIn to get the word to more people about them.

Membership—See Education

COGO—Jay prepared a report (included in this email) and hit the highlights—there is a meeting called GeoGov which he believes is for all the states and municipalities that do GIS. It's in the middle of September. They had offered COGO members \$500 to attend.

COGO had a good meeting with FGDC with a slide show, some of which Jay screen shared with the board. They are working on geoplatform modernization to make all federal agencies able to be on one platform. There are 30 appointed to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee. FGDC talks with COGO, but COGO is not part of any of their programs that were presented.

Jay brought up the Geospatial Act of 2018 that gives FGDC the gravitas to be leaders in geospatial matters.

The NSDI survey results were not good. There were 250 responses

NSPS Liaison—No report

FIG—Quiet on the FIG front according to Kevin

Old Business-Renewal of the trademark, Dave renewed the trademark, paid the \$1950 fee and was reimbursed for it. We have a receipt, but no other contact from them.

General membership meeting. Potentially in October.

Board Reports

President—No report

Secretary—No report

Treasurer—No report

Reporter—No report



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President-Elect—No report

Immediate Past President—Kevin received a thank you note from Tony Cavell's widow that he shared with Dave & Karen, very appreciative of flowers and tree donations.

3rd Year Director/Vice President—No report

2nd Year Director—No report

1st Year Director—No report

Dave Z asked if there was anything more to discuss. Earl Burkholder stated that the National Geospatial Advisory Committee holds meetings from time to time and let him listen in virtually. He listened in today and said they were on again for the next day. Earl suggested that AAGS plug in for the discussions.

Announcements—Rachel read for the good of the Order statement

Next Meeting—September 9, 2026. 4pm EDT

Meeting Adjourned

Dave adjourned the meeting at 5:21pm EDT

For the good of the Order: 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

