

AAGS Board Meeting March 12, 2015

1. At the start, 1605, no Directors were present on the phone call. Chuck Ghilani joined around 1620 and Ronnie then appointed Curt Smith to act as a temporary Director to meet the rule for an official Board Meeting. Discussions from 1605 to 1620 were unofficial, thereafter, they were official.

Roll Call:

- Ronnie Taylor (present)
- Tom Meyer (present)
- Michael Dennis (present)
- Chuck Ghilani (present – Director))
- Tom Moore (not present)
- Matt Wellslager (not present)
- Daniel Roman (present)
- Dan Martin (present – left a little early for another meeting)
- Steve Briggs (Curt Smith represented Steve as Recorder/Editor and then was appointed as an acting Director at 16:20)
- Dave Doyle (not present)

Guests:

- Michael Hauck (present)

Agenda was reviewed – request to move Item 6 up from Dr. Hauck’s presentation.

1. Minutes

Previous meeting minutes? Will be addressed via email as there was no quorum at the start for an official vote.

2. Special presentation by Dr. Michael Hauck, Executive Director ASPRS

A. INTRODUCTION

Dave Z. had introduced Dr. Hauck to Michael Dennis. Ideas discussed in his paper (included in March invitation) were not presented in any particular order. ASPRS has a critical need related to geodetic surveying and geodesy. Dr. Hauck inquired as to whether there was any baggage to be gotten rid of. Ronnie mentioned difficulties were between AAGS-NSPS – didn’t involve ASPRS.

Dr. Hauck then provided background on ASPRS: 1) been around 80 years, 2) experiencing a slow decline, and 3) this has accelerated more recently. The ASPRS governing board took a closer look at this and realignment is underway with an evaluation of member needs. Jeff Young mentioned to Dr. Hauck that he should contact AAGS – particularly regarding education. ASPRS was founded as an educational institution though there has been less focus on this in past few years. Hence, ASPRS wants to open discussions now with AAGS for this area of effort. Concern relates to ASPRS members not having enough education on geodesy that underlies positioning in these communities (item 1).

B. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

ASPRS' focus is on outreach. ASPRS is teaming with America View and Freedom USGIF to develop a proposal to present workshops/camps to bring in teams of students & teachers to create curricular materials to take back to their schools – college through high school level. They would solicit volunteers from ASPRS. USGIF supports this. America View brings in 40+ states into this effort. This is intended as a ten-year program. So planning starts this fall and goes into the future. There could be 15 or more of these courses spread around the country. Experts aren't necessarily needed for the two-week intervals – though that would also be acceptable. America View will be the prime contractor with very little of the funds going to ASPRS. Most funds are for students to travel. By April, a notice of intent is required to be submitted. That will require a list of potential partners, which includes ASPRS who is formally inviting AAGS to participate in this effort, and requests a response.

{This is about the point when a quorum was reached and the official meeting started}

Because America View has a college-centric focus, this program of courses will be more academic. There are other potential collaborations possible. The focus for ASPRS-AAGS would be on more practical efforts. ASPRS has been putting on workshops with NGA as a part of their NGA University (item 4)

Other existing NGO (non-governmental organization) programs also include IAG's Geoid School (Commission 2) and geometric training (Commission 1). There is also a Reference Frames In Practice Seminar offered through F.I.G to provide practical surveying skills. The discussion then turned to other agencies (USGS, FEMA, USACE, Forestry/Park Service) who may be interested in supporting this work, since there is a great deal of collaboration going on between the various agencies. The interest expressed by ASPRS is to expand this into education of various professional groups. Michael Dennis mentioned that this may tie in to how certifications will be made by AAGS in the future. Dr. Hauck covered how ASPRS is working with USGS on training required for LiDAR observations. They are lacking certifications in geodesy to provide cadastral layer.

Michael Dennis asked about how ASPRS or AAGS wish to proceed with the certification process since there has been no response yet from NSPS on the matter. We need to ensure that we have coordination between all organizations and groups. Ronnie mentioned that this is a lead in to the next section of the meeting. What is needed is a task force from AAGS, NSPS, GLIS and ASPRS to ensure that this gets accomplished.

Michael Dennis mentioned that ASPRS already has experience with certification; they already do it. Dan Martin mentioned that the AAGS is focused more on an academic program. AAGS would develop the education aspect, while ASPRS would focus on certification. Fortunately, we do not have to find clients – they are already out there. ASPRS has found a need for training/education for geodesy. Ronnie noted that AAGS might focus there but rely on ASPRS to ensure the standards aren't too strenuous. Dr. Hauck mentioned that they have certification programs that collect funds for training and workshops, so the possibility exists of a revenue stream.

C. UAS Mapping Workshop

Item 2 on his list – will have a UAS mapping workshop in September 2015 in Reno. ASPRS is inviting AAGS to participate in this. There are many conferences on this. Rather than AAGS having its own, AAGS would piggyback on the ASPRS one. Survey crews established ground stations, and the unmanned aerial systems (UAS) then mapped it. Michael Dennis mentioned that we should be

focused on this – buzz word was “Structure from Motion”. Dr. Hauck stated that this is a modified rebirth of photogrammetry; just different equations. Dr. Hauck stated that the systems of tomorrow will require unprecedented levels accuracy for positioning in real time. Aircraft and ground vehicles both will be addressed. AAGS will not develop the technology; we will provide a mechanism for affirming the actual accuracy of the systems to ensure that it is operating correctly and accurately enough.

D. Geodesy session at ASPRS

Item 3 related to the Tampa geodesy session for ASPRS. Ronnie said he and Steve Briggs might talk about the eventual adoption of the new datums in 2022 as well as the AAGS certifications. Dr. Hauck said this would work, and that this was the first time he had heard about the datum changes in 2022.

Ronnie asked if the two topics were OK; no negative responses. So he said he would combine them into a single panel discussion, and submit it on Sunday. Topics will be datum changes followed by education and then certifications. Ronnie said that AAGS would participate. Dr. Hauck said that a little scare is good to get people interested. He emphasized a Y2K scare may be in order. He encouraged Ronnie to be highly provocative. Raise the importance of geodesy, and the impact of what they are doing.

Michael Dennis mentioned that he covers the potential problems that arise from not understanding the geodetic underpinnings. Show them what could happen, and how bad it could be. Emphasize the local effect. Michael Dennis mentioned that he had slides that document such impacts and that he would make them available.

E. Ad Hoc topic on uncertainty in GNSS

Dr. Hauck mentioned a new topic: Many countries are putting up different systems and that there is confusion about how these all inter-relate, particularly for the users in the field.

F. AAGS Proposals

Item 8 is the last topic: Dr. Hauck asked if there is anything that AAGS would like to propose for collaboration Ronnie said that we would give it some thought and get back to him. Control is the weak part of the ASPRS system – we need to improve that through work with AAGS.

Later, Ronnie Taylor has asked Dr. Hauck if it was OK to put his one-pager up on the AAGS website. Dr. Hauck agreed.

Michael Dennis suggested that Dan Gillins is doing a rewrite of the ASCE Engineering Surveying Manual that might aid in the education/certification development.

3. GLIS–AAGS possible collaboration suggestion

Ronnie Taylor covered the material in the agenda. Michael Dennis noted that there is a tremendous amount of confusion about datums, which ones surveyors are on and what positions are defined by them. Ronnie Taylor noted that there is an entire community that needs to be educated. He brought up the idea that a task force would need to be assembled that all the groups would collaborate on. He noted that ASPRS, GLIS, and AAGS cover about 90% of the communities collectively that are concerned. URISA and ASCE Geomatics Division might be other groups that should be included. He

said he would take the lead in meeting with the heads of these organizations to see if they are interested. He asked for a poll to endorse pursuing this.

1. Chuck Ghilani moved
2. Michael Dennis seconded

Discussion: Instead of just calling it a “task force”, use a formal name for this group that the other organizations can get behind.

Ronnie Taylor asked for any objections; none were given. The motion passed.

Ronnie Taylor said that he will coordinate and then ask them to develop a name for the task force. Curt Smith suggested that a simple white paper be developed along the lines of what Dr. Hauck had developed.

4. Status of Letter or Letters to the Supreme Court or Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) or both.

Ronnie Taylor noted there had only been one change made. Many expressed they hadn’t seen it. He said that he would get it out tonight. Still looking for input from other organizations.

5. AAGS Affiliations and Chapters

This was skipped, though Michael Dennis is now more optimistic about the inclinations of students to join AAGS.

6. Geodetic Education and Certification

Largely skipped, but Michael Dennis again reinforced students are apparently more receptive.

7. SaLIS

Dan Martin had already checked offline; no budget update.

Tom Meyers and Chuck Ghilani provided an update on papers.

There are still some papers in the pipeline. Subscriptions are up to \$8000 but we were at \$11,000 last year. We will send out a new letter out to the previous subscribers asking them to re-enroll. The discussion then focused on Bob Jupin and the CCC, and how that could be leveraged. It was mentioned that Colleen had suggested that we send pointed letters to academic institutions to get them to enroll.

8. Adjournment:

1. Chuck Ghilani moved
2. Michael Dennis seconded

Approved unanimously.

Next meeting 09 April 2015 (1600-1700)

Meeting adjourned 1731