

IGIC Geodetic Committee Meeting

1/29/2007

Agenda

1. Expanding the monument network on the Geodetic Mapping ArcIMS site <http://igsims.igsb.uiowa.edu/website/Geodetic/viewer.htm>
2. Discuss how to deal with metadata and standards.
Do we need participants to provide a minimal amount of metadata to serve on the site?
What minimum degree of accuracy should we allow on the site?
3. NOAA Height Modernization Program.

Minutes

Members present:

Lawrence Hartpence, Jasper County

Gary Brown, GB Consulting

Gregg Haddish, NRCS

Roger Patocka, Emmett County

Norman Miller, DOT

Alice Welch, DOT

David Croll, City of Johnston

First item discussed was Metadata Standards. The Geodetic IMS site now has monuments for 6 counties. As more agencies send their data and more people use the IMS site, the issue of knowing important information about the points will become an issue. How should this be made available?

One idea was to set up a web based metadata form which participants would need to fill out for their data and then be posted on the website.

Another idea was to require participants fill out the metadata in ArcCatalog.

Also, when monument networks are built, a report is made which outlines the methods and accuracies of the monuments. Perhaps the points on the IMS site could link to this report as well as linking to the tie sheets?

The committee thought requiring agencies to fill out a metadata form of any sort was not a good idea. Many agencies don't know how to identify the accuracy of their monuments. It would also deter agencies from participation if we required them to do too much work. It was also thought that instead of making the report available on the web, if anyone had questions about an agency's data, they should ask the agency which provided it. This way the agency would have a better handle on who is using their monuments. Also, if a monument has been destroyed, the agency would be the most likely to know that. A call to the agency could save time in trying to find monuments which no longer exist.

In the end, the committee decided that it would be best to add fields to the attribute table of the geodetic shapefile for agency contact information and the order of accuracy (A, B, 1st, 2nd, 3rd order).

The question arose: What type of points should be allowed on the IMS site? OPUS points or Bench Marks? It was thought to focus on geodetic monuments (accurate both horizontally and vertically). As the system grows, we can look at bringing in other types of points.

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The next item of discussion was the expansion and promotion of the website. Several Counties were contacted last year after the first geodetic meeting and some sent points which were included in the IMS site. Momentum has died down considerably. What would be the most effect way to contact the rest of the counties to get their data? Also how do we get the word out about the IMS site?

The committee decided that the best way to contact counties to get their data would be to get county engineer information from the Engineer's Service Bureau at ISAC and send them all an e-mail.

How do we maintain the data once it is served on the IMS site? The hope is that agencies would send updates as they come, but that is not realistic. Participating agencies will need to be contacted regularly to request updates. There was mention of setting up a form of a blog for users to comment on the status of particular monuments. It was mentioned that NGS has a blog. This may be something the Geodetic Committee may look into as we progress. There was mention that some counties protect their monuments by registering them with 1 Call. That way, locators would mark the monuments as well as utilities around the area. Another idea was to post requests for updates on the website.

The last items of discussion was the Height Modernization Program.

This is a program set up by NOAA to give money to states to help them set up a vertically accurate network and Geoid model.

The DOT has looked into this and found that it would require more money from the state than Iowa is in a position to spend.

To participate, a state really needs a Geodetic Department or at least a Geodetic Advisor which Iowa does not have.