

MINUTES

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS AND MAPPERS

POSITIONAL ACCURACY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 16, 2003

Department of Business and Professional Regulation
Board Conference Room
1940 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lou Bush, Chair, at 11:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Lou Bush, Chair
Pam Nobles
Jeff Cooner

Others Present:

Paul Martin, Asst. Attorney General
Ed Tellechea, Former Asst. Attorney General
Christa Patterson, Government Analyst I
Juanita Chastain, Executive Director
Les Smith
David Melvin
Alvin Gloer
Alan Morgan
Henry Echezabal
Harley Gilmore
Fred Crawford
Marilyn Evers
Allen Nobles
Louis Lebron
Russell Daly
Gail Oliver
Dan A. Wilcox

NOAA, NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY PRESENTATION

Mr. Bush introduced Ronnie Taylor, Geodesist, from NOAA. Mr. Bush advised the committee that after the presentation they would have discussion.

Mr. Taylor addressed the committee and made a power point presentation titled "New FGOC positioning accuracy standards" How will they affect you?

48 Prior to the power point presentation Mr. Taylor presented an overview that included definitions,
49 the evolution of accuracy standards, and the implementation of new accuracy standards.
50
51 Mr. Bush asked the committee to keep in mind that the purpose of the board is to serve and
52 protect the public, and that the committee needs to be proactive. Mr. Bush stated that the
53 purpose of the positional accuracy committee was to try to resolve some of the challenges that
54 may arise in the future when a surveyor chooses not to follow proper procedures and guidelines
55 for the establishment of a survey. Mr. Bush stated that new technology is available and to
56 accommodate new technology the committee needs to set new guidelines and procedures.
57
58 Mr. Bush asked the committee to draft an outline of guidelines by which the board could monitor
59 the activity.
60
61 Mr. Tellechea was present at the meeting and Mr. Tellechea formally introduced Paul Martin as
62 the new attorney assigned to the board. The committee welcomed Mr. Martin.
63
64 Mr. Bush reminded the committee that the committee wasn't established to set procedures but
65 to establish guidelines on what is acceptable and what is not. Mr. Bush added that he felt a
66 common language was important and he asked the committee for their input.
67
68 Mr. Bush suggested that the committee focus on setting standards and guidelines on GPS,
69 digital imagery, and lidar technology. Mr. Taylor advised the committee that the Corps of
70 Engineers has set guidelines for lidar technology. Mr. Taylor stated that NGS does have GPS
71 specifications for utilizing GPS. Mr. Taylor advised the committee that that NGS was in the
72 process of making revisions to accommodate new technology. Mr. Bush asked if the
73 information could be obtained and Mr. Taylor stated it was not available at this time.
74
75 Mr. Cooner asked Mr. Taylor if the existing control network had already been converted to
76 positional accuracies, and if the procedures to achieve different degrees of positional accuracies
77 were in place. Mr. Taylor advised the committee that both were in process.
78
79 Mr. Cooner stated that it appears like the committee was going to take a parallel path if they use
80 NGS approach and methods. Mr. Cooner stated that he has concerns that the NGS user
81 community may not be the same community that the board regulates. Mr. Cooner stated that
82 he wants to be clear in his mind the relationship between accuracy classification and a higher
83 end, where the regulated profession begins to fall out and goes to a wider user community.
84
85 Mr. Taylor stated that he felt what a surveyor does is based on what the client requires of you.
86 Mr. Taylor used a communication tower as an example and stated you wouldn't find it in the
87 book. Ms. Sutphin stated that more important than the accuracy, at times, is the use of the
88 information.
89
90 Ms. Nobles stated the committee needs to be sure that it's product specific and not tool specific
91 and set standards for each product.
92
93 Ms. Oliver stated that she felt the surveyor should report accuracies on the surveys. Ms. Oliver
94 stated that St. John's County was involved in a lidar project where they are getting one-foot
95 contours but the accuracy is .75 foot on either side. Ms. Oliver suggested that the committee
96 explore the possibility of having a different set of rules for photogrammetry. Ms. Oliver stated
97 that she was not sure if St. John's lidar project was going to meet the National Mapping
98 Accuracy Standards. Mr. Bush agreed.
99

100 Ms. Oliver advised the committee that current MTS rules do not address a lot of
101 photogrammetry issues. Mr. Bush stated that the board could not regulate or monitor if
102 standards are not set.
103
104 Mr. Bush stated that he would like for the committee to draft an outline of the minimum
105 thresholds for the type of deliverable no matter how you arrived with the data.
106
107 Mr. Bush suggested the use of metadata to convey project specification and accuracy in a
108 digital survey product.
109
110 Mr. Cooner suggested identifying the product use and then identifying the minimum level of
111 accuracy classification. Ms. Sutphin stated that the committee would have to go into great detail
112 and she was not sure if that is the way the committee should head.
113
114 Mr. Nobles stated that the NGS accuracy standards are referenced in the current MTS rules and
115 he was not sure of why the committee was addressing these issues. Mr. Nobles stated he felt
116 the problems are in the area of loop closures.
117
118 Mr. Bush stated that the committee's responsibility is to look at the end product and have a
119 measurable standard that says that product meets that threshold.
120
121 Mr. Taylor advised the committee that the NGS had GPS standards already established. Mr.
122 Taylor suggested that the committee review the NGS GPS standards and then consider
123 guidelines.
124
125 Mr. Bush advised the committee that the federal government in the future is going to require the
126 survey profession to tie into the national network to become more global across the page.
127
128 Ms. Nobles stated that she felt the survey reporting requirements should be more stringent and
129 this goes back to truth of reporting.
130
131 Mr. Bush stated that the National Map Standards for survey reporting are very stringent and that
132 there are requirements for even the camera they use. Mr. Bush advised the committee that he
133 was in the process of writing an article for the FSMS newsletter regarding those standards.
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135 Mr. Cooner advised the committee that rule 61G17-6.003, FAC, reflects the majority of the NGS
136 language.
137
138 After discussion Mr. Bush stated that the committee needs to look at positional accuracies and
139 the products. The committee reviewed the National Society of Professional Surveyors Model
140 Standards of Practice that was in their agenda materials on page 72.
141
142 After discussion it was the consensus of the committee to have a positional accuracy workshop
143 at the July 2003 meeting. Mr. Bush stated he would review the NSPS standards and draft some
144 guidelines.
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146
147 There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.