

MINUTES

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS AND MAPPERS

POSITIONAL ACCURACY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 8, 2003

Hawthorn Suites Orlando
7450 Augusta National Drive
Orlando, Florida

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lou Bush, Chair, at 10:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Lou Bush, Chair
Pam Nobles
Jeff Cooner

Members Not Present

None

Others Present:

Paul Martin, Asst. Attorney General
Christa Patterson, Government Analyst I
Juanita Chastain, Executive Director
David Melvin
Harley Gilmore
Alvin Gloer
Gail Oliver
David Schryver
Jessica Porter
Stephen Gordon
Marilyn Evers
Allen Nobles
Henry Echezabal

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JULY 16, 2003 POSITIONAL ACCURACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes and made the following motion.

MOTION: Ms. Nobles approved the July 16, 2003 positional accuracy committee meeting minutes with corrections.

SECOND: Mr. Cooner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

POSITIONAL ACCURACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Bush asked the audience if there was anyone present at the meeting that would like to address the committee with input on positional accuracy. Mr. Gordon, from the Florida Surveyors and Mappers Society (FSMS), was present at the meeting and stated he was present to listen to the committee's discussion.

Mr. Bush advised the committee that he attended a National States Geographical Information Counsel meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Bush stated that State Directors of geographic information were present at the meeting but there was not a representative from Florida present. Mr. Bush stated there was a keynote speaker, the Director of HomeLand Security, and he also facilitated a panel discussion in the afternoon. Mr. Bush stated that there was a lot of movement on the Federal level to establish national standards for metadata. Mr. Bush stated that he felt that the committee would need to gather more information on metadata, so that the results from the committee would be nationally compliant.

Mr. Bush stated that at the last positional accuracy committee meeting a lot of discussion took place with regard to the meaning of metadata. He felt that the committee would need to provide examples of different types of metadata and their standards being used and then evaluate. Mr. Bush stated there are some standards already set and believed that the committee should consider adopting those standards. Mr. Bush stated he had received a lot of input from the professional community regarding positional accuracy and they want to be involved, however, they are not attending the meetings.

Mr. Bush asked staff to schedule a positional accuracy committee workshop at the January 2004 meeting.

Mr. Bush stated that there are three areas that the committee needs to address at the January 2003 meeting and they are digital ortho imagery, effects of metadata, and examples of metadata.

Mr. Gordon asked the committee what their goals were and what was the committee trying to accomplish. Mr. Bush stated the committee is trying to develop guidelines for survey products and positional accuracy. Mr. Gordon stated he would oppose such changes and stated that he felt the law was clear on the definition of surveying. Mr. Bush stated that he does not feel the law is clear and felt the general public would agree.

Mr. Nobles stated it goes back to truth of labeling. Mr. Cooner stated that the board needs to identify regulated products, but there should also be a clause saying "included but limited to." Mr. Cooner suggested listing the regulated products and then stating the use and then the standards. Mr. Cooner stated positional accuracy does need to be tied in. Mr. Cooner stated he did agree that digital ortho imagery is a product and needs to be addressed.

Ms. Sutphin stated she agreed with Mr. Gordon and felt that if the board identified the products it would open the door for challenges. Mr. Cooner did not agree.

Ms. Oliver advised the committee that Dr. Gibson, former board member, at one time drafted a rule listing survey products and their uses and the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee declined the proposed rule language saying the law had already defined surveying.

Ms. Nobles suggested taking out all reference to accuracy standards and have truth in labeling. Mr. Cooner did not agree and stated it would give the surveyor the opportunity to produce a product that the public could not understand because there were no accuracy standards. Ms. Nobles states there were no guaranties that this is not happening now. Mr. Cooner stated that

the accuracy standards are a self - regulating requirements within the profession and if you take that away there is a danger, and there would be no minimum requirements or standards.

Mr. Gordon stated boundary surveys are unique and the standards need to stay the same. Mr. Gordon stated he thought the profession would be better served with truth in labeling approach but boundary surveying staying the same.

Ms. Nobles suggested two different tracks be pursued by committee members, one being a positional accuracy standards for each type and the other being a non-traditional positional accuracy with regard to truth in labeling, and leave boundary out. Ms. Nobles stated each committee member could bring their suggestions to the next meeting and then the discussion would be a presentation and not a debate.

Ms. Nobles stated she would develop a track for non-traditional positional accuracy language and Mr. Conner stated he would continue the track development of positional accuracy standards. Mr. Cooner stated he would table rule development for metadata. Ms. Nobles asked FSMS to get the word out that there would be a positional accuracy committee workshop at the January 2004 meeting. Mr. Gordon stated he would send the agenda out to members.

Mr. Cooner stated that the committee needed additional information on metadata and that it would be helpful if an expert on metadata could attend the January 2004 workshop. Mr. Bush stated he would try to find an expert to attend the next meeting.

Mr. Armenteros stated that it is easy for a surveyor to relate to positional accuracy terminology but a lay person would not understand and there should be minimum standard set. Ms. Poppell and Mr. Greer agreed with Mr. Armenteros.

Mr. Cooner asked Mr. Poppell and Mr. Greer's what their expectations were of a survey. Ms. Poppell stated she would not be able to review a survey and determine if it was correct, but if she had a brief description of the survey, she thought she would be able to follow. Ms. Poppell stated she would accept a survey on faith that the surveyor was providing her accurate information.

Mr. Greer advised the board that he had knowledge of surveys but he would expect that the survey to be accurate. Mr. Greer stated he does have experience with home mortgage loans and that most of the time the homebuyer does not have any knowledge of how to read a survey. He stated that the consumer knows where the house is located on the survey but 99% of the time they would not know anything about positional accuracy.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.