

# **Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of The Americas Petroleum Survey Group September 8, 2005**

**Convened at the Offices of Shell Exploration and Production Company, 200 North Dairy  
Ashford, in Houston, Texas.**

The fourteenth meeting of the APSG was called to order at 9.00 am by APSG chairman, Mr. Jon Stigant, welcoming attendees to this meeting.

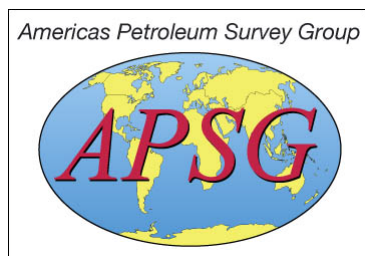
Mr. Brian Schostak then followed with a welcome to the Shell Exploration and Production offices and then gave a briefing on the emergency and egress procedures of the facility.

A complete list of attendees and the accepted meeting agenda is here entered into the record:

## ***APSG Meeting Attendees September 2005***

***(Alphabetical)***

<b><i>Last Name</i></b>	<b><i>First Name</i></b>	<b><i>Company</i></b>	<b><i>Email</i></b>
Barnes	Michael	Cain & Barnes L. P	michael.barnes@cain-barnes.com
Barrs	Barry	ExxonMobil Exploration Company	barry.d.barrs@exxonmobil.com
Beattie	Hugh	Exploration Geodesy, Inc.	hkbeatt@attglobal.net
Berls	Norm	Schlumberger	nberls@houston.oilfield.slb.com
Cain	Jim	Cain & Barnes L. P	jim.cain@cain-barnes.com
Carter	Bruce	BP	carterb1@bp.com
Conner	John	EnSoCo, Inc.	jconner@ensoco.com
Karko	Bish	EnSoCo, Inc.	bish.karko@dnv.com
Manning	Carol	Shell	carol.manning@shell.com
Nash	Jim	Terra Surveys	jnash@terra-surveys.com
Olsen	Norm	Mentor Software	norm.olsen@mentorsoftwareinc.com
Schostak	Brian	Shell Exploration and Production Company	brian.schostak@shell.com
Smith	Jonathan	Shell International Exploration & Production Inc.	jonathan.j.s.smith@shell.com
Stigant	Jon	Devon Energy Corporation	jon.stigant@dnv.com
Swinney	Eric	C&C Brasil	riodee@ig.com.br
Zinn	Noel	ExxonMobil	noel.zinn@exxonmobil.com



## Agenda – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Meeting

Location - Shell Exploration and Production Company  
 200 North Dairy Ashford, Houston, Texas 77079  
 Tel: +1 281 544 4221  
 Mobile Tel: +1 281 701 7419  
 Email: [brian.schostak@shell.com](mailto:brian.schostak@shell.com)

Activity	Action by	Schedule
Coffee and Welcome	Jon Stigant	8:30 to 8:55
Emergency Procedures	Brian Schostak	8:55 to 9:00
APSG Meeting #13 – Review Minutes and Acceptance	Bish Karko	9:00 to 9:15
Upcoming Events Briefing (SEG special session and GISintheRockies) Logo	Jon Stigant/Jim Cain	9:15 to 9:45
Break	All	9:45 to 10:00
EPSG/OGP Working Group Report	Jim Cain	10:00 to 10:30
APSG Technical Advisory Group	Barry Barrs	10:30 to 11:00
Continue discussion on Software Management and Technical Advisory Group Goals	All	11:00 to 11:30
Lunch	All	11:30 to 12:30
Talk – "Reservoirs to Regions: A Geodetic Approach to Scalable Visualization without Distortion"	Noel Zinn	12:30 to 13:30
Update on the Cartographic Laboratory	Norm Berls	13:30 to 14:15
Membership Committee Report	Barry Barrs	14:15 to 14:30
Education Committee Report/Online Tutorial Discussion	Hugh Beattie/Michael Barnes	14:30 to 15:00
Elections (Vice-Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer)	Jon Stigant/Jim Cain	15:00 to 15:15
Treasurer Report	Bish Karko	15:15 to 15:30
Open Floor – Any Other Business	All	15:30
Adjourn	All	15:45
Social 'Hour' @ Town Hall Tavern <a href="http://townhalltavern.com/">http://townhalltavern.com/</a>	All	16:00 to 17:00+

At 9:05 Mr. Bish Karko led a review of the minutes of APSG 13, and the group accepted them into the record.

At 9:15 Mr. Jon Stigant led a briefing on upcoming events.

APSG is giving 7 papers in a Special Session at the 2005 SEG annual convention being held in Houston in September.

The abstracts were submitted to Mr. David Monk, chair of the SEG 2005 convention technical program, and the topics cover: spectrum of exploration activities and functions; core competency; spatial data management.

Mr. Jon Stigant described a recent Leading Edge publication article where core competencies for G&G personnel were listed and survey/geodesy was just a minor side note.

The Special Session is to be held on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Michael Barnes challenged APS members to persuade 3 G&G people to attend this Special Session.

In this year's convention only 2 more Special Sessions are being held.

An APSG planning session is being organized for October 4<sup>th</sup> to critique the presentations.

Mr. Hugh Beattie has invited the APSG to share space in the booth at the SEG convention, being set up by Exploration Geodesy, Inc.

APSG members to volunteer for booth duty,. Mr. Barry Barrs offered help on posters. Mr. Michael offered help on handouts.

Mr. Michael Barnes recommended that an announcement of this Special Session at the SEG, be put on the APSG website.

Mr. Jon Stigant then announced that APSG has been invited to present papers at the GIS in the Rockies in September 2005.

The format is to be similar to what was previously given at an IHS seminar, 3 x 30 minute papers by: Mr. Jim Cain; Mr. John Conner and Mr. Jon Stigant .

Mr. John Conner recommended that APSG should look into presenting at the AAPG convention, that is to be held in Houston in the spring of 2006.

Members commented that consideration needs to be given as to restrictions in repeating papers given at other venues.

Mr. Jim Cain showed the proposed new APSG logo. Mr. Jon Stigant had requested a professional to look at the logo design and also at the content and graphics of the presentations to be given at the SEG convention. His commentary was good.

Mr. Norm Berls had some concern with image resolution and degradation on display and this will be checked.

Mr. Jim Cain motioned that the new logo be voted on by the APSG membership, and the vote approved this logo.

At 9:55 Mr. Jim Cain gave a report on the EPSG/OGP Geodetic Group.

EPSG is now known as the OGP Surveying and Positioning Committee, a sub-committee of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers.

The EPSG Geodetic Parameter Dataset name will be kept due to its familiarity with users.

Guidance Notes will continue to be issued, and the group will maintain the 'UKOOA P' exchange formats for positional data.

The OGP Surveying and Positioning Committee continues liaison and links with ISO TC/211. POSC, SEG and APSG.

There is a proposal that the OGP geodetic group assume responsibility of the ISO register of geodetic codes and parameters.

Version 6.7 of the EPSG Geodetic Parameter Dataset was released in June 2005, and version 6.8 is planned to be released in September 2005. Currently the dataset is maintained in an Access 97 database, but it may be moved to an SQL format. There is high demand for web enabled delivery, and simplified and intelligent retrieval, with a map front end. Some vendors are providing this type of interface in their software.

Mr. Norm Olsen remarked that Mentor Software does not recommend coordinate systems, just makes them available in software, and presents data in its own system.

Mr. Jim Cain commented that the EPSG geodetic dataset has become a standard also in the GIS industry and is not limited to the oil industry.

At 10:30 Mr. Barry Barrs gave a report on the activities of the APSG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which was combined with a in depth discussion by all.

Mr. Bish Karko suggested that presentations be put on the website, and if possible hot linked to the minutes.

A TAC meeting was held August 26, 2005. Mr. John Conner and Mr. Norm Berls led the discussion on guidance notes for software standards.

Mr. Jon Stigant reviewed the PUG strategy conference for ESRI GIS, held at Shell. There was considerable information that could be helpful to software standards guidance notes. The conference is looking at a subcommittee to work on software standards, work which is already underway at the APSG.

Further feedback should be obtained and APSG sharing development with the PUG should be investigated.

Mr. John Conner stated that APSG is not at a point to share progress with the OGP committee on software standards, but more work needs to be done on identifying what is required. More people needed to work on project, and also provide user guidelines. Would like to see active participation by high end users and developers.

Mr. John Stigant commented that APSG will not transform industry, but possibly provide guidelines on future development.

Mr. Jim Cain made the point that the request from OGP about APSG software standards work, should be responded to, passing on what has been done to date, even if no documentation is ready to date.

Mr. Barry Barrs pointed out that the TAC was created to promote APSG and EPSG (OGP) cooperation.

Mr. Jon Stigant and Mr. John Conner proposed that boundaries be put around the project, with Mr. John Conner writing a definition of the scope. The group discussed specifics, and agreed that notes need to be kept understandable but not over simplified.

Mr. Barry Barrs proposed that the word 'Standards' be dropped and replaced with 'Guidance Notes'.

Mr. John Conner showed the preliminary draft of the GOM guidance note, which OGP had requested of the APSG. It encompasses methods and values used historically, and a move to the Nadcon dataset.

Mr. Michael Barnes suggested that Fugro personnel be asked for input, due to their historic experience in the area.

Mr. Barry Barrs commented that the working relationship with the OGP will develop, once the OGP have settled into their new structure.

Mr. Jon Stigant proposed that the APSG presentations for the SEG special session be sent to the OGP for comment and review.

Mr. Jon Stigant brought up a proposal for a change in APSG Articles of Association, in which a segregation is established between the nominating committee and the executive committee. The proposal is to be given at the next meeting.

At 11:30 the meeting adjourned for lunch.

At 12:30 Mr. Noel Zinn presented a paper, Reservoirs to Regions, A Geodetic Approach to Scalable Visualization without Distortion. In it he described a methodology of mapping using ECEF coordinates, and the advantages over conventional projection coordinate mapping.

The group discussed the various implications, with the current lack of geodesy in new visualization software.

It was seen as a possible and viable way of the future, with some data already moving to ECEF.

The group thanked Mr. Noel Zinn for very well presented and interesting paper.

At 13:30 Mr. Norm Berls gave an update on his Cartographic Laboratory.

The program now has a connection to the EPSG geodetic data set.

A new map projection, Near Lambert Conformal Conic has been added. It continues to disallow file in, file out. Its main purpose is an investigation tool, allowing troubleshooting and for development of code.

It is being used during development of code in Geoframe.

Mr. John Conner commented that support from APSG would require extensive testing of the algorithms used.

At 14:00 Mr. Bish Karko gave the Treasurer report.

Balance in the APSG Treasury at the start of the meeting was \$100.00.

Membership dues collected by the membership committee during this meeting totaled \$140.00.

Mr. Norm Berls was given a payment of \$200.00 to cover the maintenance fees of the APSG website.

The current APSG balance is \$40.00.

At 14:10 Mr. Barry Barrs gave the Membership Committee Report.

A new membership list with updates has been prepared.

New member Colin Acheson.

Received emails from Pemex and Petrobras on membership in APSG. Membership forms were sent but no response to date.

Mr. Michael Barnes offered that himself and Mr. Jim Cain send out information letters promoting APSG membership to survey contractors.

Mr. Jon Stigant questioned does APSG understand its growth in membership, and should it be tracked.

The group discussed membership issues, lack of engineering/GIS members, attracting younger members to the APSG. Change the membership database to include industry type for each member.

At 14:35 Mr. Hugh Beattie gave the Education Committee Report.

Mr. Michael Barnes gave a review of the On Line Tutorial by Geodetic Solutions. The modules consist of a training component and an exam component, the instructors are highly qualified, and the program could assist members in professional development.

At 15:00 Elections were held for members of officers and committee members.

For the Executive committee

Elected were:

Chair : Mr. Jim Cain (previous Vice Chair)

Vice Chair : Mr. John Conner

Secretary/Treasurer : Mr. Hugh Beattie

Education Committee:

Chair : Mr. Jon Stigant

The newly elected officers and committee members take on their duties immediately on the conclusion of this meeting.

At 15:30 the meeting was adjourned. Mr. Brian Schostak was thanked for Shell Exploration and Production Company's hospitality in use of their facility and refreshment provided.