

Minutes of the Thirteenth Meeting of The Americas Petroleum Survey Group February 17, 2005

Convened at the Offices of Devon Energy, 1200 Smith Street, in Houston, Texas.

The thirteenth meeting of the APSG was called to order at 9.00 am by Mr. Jim Cain, standing in for the chair in the absence of Mr. Jon Stigant, welcoming attendees to this meeting.

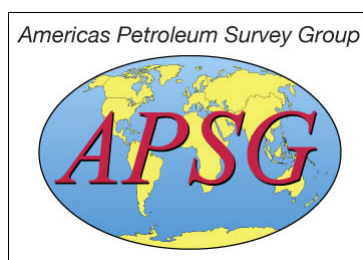
Mr. Bish Karko then followed with a welcome to the Devon Energy offices and then gave a briefing on the emergency and egress procedures of the facility.

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

APSG Meeting Attendees February 2005

(Alphabetical)

| <i>Last Name</i> | <i>First Name</i> | <i>Company</i> | <i>Email</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Blaskey | Stephen | Digital Mapping Services, LP | stephen@dmslp.com |
| Buhler | George | C&C Technologies, Inc. | george.buhler@cctechnol.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 |
| Morse | John | RPS Hydrosearch | morsej@rpsgroup.com |
| Nash | Jim | Terra Hydrographic Surveys | jnash@terra-surveys.com |
| Smith | Jonathan | Shell International Exploration & Production Inc. | jonathan.j.s.smith@shell.com |



Agenda – February 17th, 2005 Meeting – Devon Energy, 1200 Smith Street, Houston

| Activity | Action by | Schedule |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Coffee and Welcome | Jon Stigant or Bish Karko | 8:30 to 8:55 |
| Emergency Procedures | Jon Stigant or Bish Karko | 8:55 to 9:00 |
| APSG Meeting #12 – Review Minutes and Acceptance | Jon Stigant/Bish Karko | 9:00 to 9:15 |
| IHSEnergy – User Group and Forum - Report and Discussion | Hugh Beattie | 9:15 to 10:00 |
| Break | All | 10:00 to 10:15 |
| EPSG Working Group Report | Jim Cain | 10:15 to 10:45 |
| APSG Technical Advisory Group | Barry Barrs | 10:45: to 11:15 |
| Discussion on Software Management and Technical Advisory Group Goals | All | 11:15 to 11:45 |
| Lunch | All | 11:45 to 12:30 |
| Position issues for Seismic + 15 minutes for discussion | John Conner | 12:30 to 13:30 |
| "Automated Conflation Policy: A Petroleum Industry Dilemma" + 15 minutes for discussion | Norm Berls | 13:30 to 14:15 |
| Membership Committee Report | Barry Barrs | 14:15 to 14:30 |
| Education Committee Report | Hugh Beattie | 14:30 to 14:45 |
| APSG Website Report | Norm Berls | 14:45 to 15:00 |
| Treasurer Report | Bish Karko | 15:00 to 15:15 |
| Open Floor – Any Other Business | All | 15:15 to 15:30 |
| Adjourn | All | 15:30 |
| Social 'Hour' – Grappino's – http://www.ninos-vincent.com/index.html | All | 16:00 to 17:00+ |

At 9:05 Mr. Jim Cain led a review of the minutes of APSG 12, and the group accepted them into the record.

At 9:15 Mr. Hugh Beattie gave a report on the IHS Energy User Group Forum held in Houston, at which APSG gave a 3 paper geodetic presentation.

Presenters Mr. Jim Cain. Mr. John Conner and Mr. Jon Stigant were listened to by 82 attendees. Immediately following the presentation 5 people delivered compliments.

APSG also had a booth/table, but experienced very little traffic. The booth setup needs to be improved to a more professional display.

Overall the IHS geodetic presentation was very well received, although time was short in giving a 4 hour presentation in 1.5 hours. Copies of this presentation was put on CD by IHS, in Power Point and PDF formats, for distribution.

Mr. Jim Cain recommended that these presentations be put on the APG website.

At 9:40 Mr. Jim Cain gave a report on the activities of the EPSG Geodesy Working Group .

Activities included: Maintenance of the EPSG geodetic data set; maintenance of the Guidance notes and maintenance of the EPSG website at the HIS host.

Version 6.6 of the EPSG Geodetic dataset was published in October 2004. EPSG is looking at ways to automate retrieval of parameters from the data set.

Further acceptance of the EPSG geodetic data set as a standard continues.

Mentor has ported the version 6.3 of the dataset to a proprietary format for use in their software, but have made no provision to track EPSG releases.

Geodetic Solutions are incorporating the dataset into their software.

SEG have formally adopted the EPSG dataset, and EPSG codes can be referenced in SEG formatted data.

WITSML (Wellsite Information Transfer Standard Markup Language) www.witsml.org, are working with UKOOA P7/2000 which includes mandated reference to the EPSG data set.

Mr. Jim Cain recommended that APSG also study the EPSG guidance notes and give comments and upgrades.

Mr. Jim Cain provided a copy of his report, in power point format, to APSG.

At 10:20 the meeting restarted after a break.

Mr. Barry Barrs gave a report on the activities of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Their 1st meeting was held on September 23rd, 2004. Discussions were on a working cooperation with EPSG. The need to change focus from just a link to EPSG, and to improve communications, on activities of common interest.

Specifically development of guidelines/standards on auditing software applications and sharing APSG education presentations.

A 2nd TAC meeting was held October 7th. 2004, prior to the EPSG meeting of October 22nd. 2004.

TAC discussed setting immediate and intermediate goals, and having long term goals evolve., based on direction of the APSG executive.

Immediate goals are to come up with a Mission Statement, recognizing APSG's continued emphasis on education.

A response to TAC's communication was received from EPSG, favorable in principal but emphasizing EPSG's strict oil company membership only.

EPSG is also pursuing a possible structure change by being absorbed into the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP).

APSG needs more information on the OGP organization. <http://www.ogp.org.uk/>

At 10:50 the meeting was opened to a discussion on Software Management and Technical Advisory Committee Goals.

Fundamentals and what should be audited needs to be defined.

Which software vendors should be involved.

Maybe more subcommittees to spread work load.

Guidance notes needed for geodetic issues, geodesy in GOM identified as immediate need.

Mr. John Conner and Mr. Michael Barnes, with input from Mr. Dale Lipps . After GOM, Venezuela.

After an initiative is approved for TAC, then bring in other APSG members for subcommittee on issue.

Mr. Bruce Carter proposed that TAC members Mr. John Conner and Mr. Norm Berls should start looking at a subcommittee for software guidance notes.

A formal response to EPSG on TAC's cooperation with EPSG is required. Mr. Michael Barnes suggested a possible meeting between APSG and EPSG at the 2005 SEG fall convention in Houston.

The meeting restarted at 12:30 following lunch.

Mr. John Conner led a discussion on Positioning Issues for Seismic Data.

Precision of values are important in maintaining quality of data. Importance needs to be given to preserving acquired precision while not attributing precision that was not in the original measurement. The consensus was that software and users do not follow a regimen in maintaining precision, at a cost to data quality.

Non preservation of header data and a lack of metadata describing values is another major source of positioning issues. Deletion of original headers to make data more friendly to various software, and non conformity to standards when formatting and describing data frequently leads to geodetic guessing games.

Misidentification of geodetic parameters, like datums and shift values, were deemed another major position issue.

Blunders give incorrect data, but normally are simpler to find and correct.

At 13:15 Mr. Norm Berls presented his paper "Automated Conflation Policy: A Petroleum Industry Dilemma."

The paper addressed the issue of moving data sets, that exist on a variety of geodetic datums, to a common geodetic datum within a software project.

The paper reviews software implementations of and the pros and cons:

i) early binding procedures, where each data set has a CRS and geodetic transform parameters attached to it on load to a project.

ii) late binding, where only a CRS is attached to each data set on load to a project, but geodetic transform parameters are accessed from software tables.

iii) hybrid binding, where early binding is the primary default, but with a supplementary system of late binding overrides.

Norm's paper is published on the APSG website, available for further study.

At 14:00 Mr. Barry Barrs gave the Membership Committee Report.

A Updated list of active members

Collected membership dues from members that were not present to pay at the previous meeting.

Records of membership dues paid will be kept on the Membership List.

At 14:15 Mr. Hugh Beattie gave the Education Committee Report.

The IHS presentations had been covered in an earlier agenda item.

Look at possible venues to present :

AAPG domestic meeting in Calgary and international in Paris, therefore not possible this year.

SEG to be held in the fall in Houston. Initial contact with the SEG had obtained a poor response claiming questionable fit into SEG structure.

Mr. John Conner recommended that Mr. Dave Monk be contacted, on APSG's attendance at the convention and presentation of papers.

APSG can rent booth space at the SEG convention, but will require funding.

At 14:30 Mr. Norm Berls gave a report of the APSG website.

The Use of the Web Name www.apsq.info needs to be extended for 5 years.

The presentations to IHS are not on the Website, Norm need to be given these by the presenters.

The website chronology tab has been updated with website actions.

At 14:45 Mr. Bish Karko gave the Treasurer report

After receiving the latest paid membership dues, the APSG treasury balance was \$200.00.

Mr. Norm Berls was then given the payment of \$100.00 to cover the cost of the 5 year

Website name extension.

The current APSG Treasury balance is \$100.00.

At:15:00 the meeting was opened for other business.

Members discussed and recommended a To Do List:

Mr. John Conner:

Together with Mr. Norm Berls start up looking at software audits.

Start on a guidance note on Geodesy in GOM

Mr. Norm Berls

Together with Mr. John Conner start up looking at software audits.

Renew Domain name for APSG Website
Post Minutes for 12th Meeting on website
Post IHS Presentations on website

Mr. Jim Cain

Glossary to translate ISO speak to local geodetic use for website
Circulate EPSG guidance notes 16 and 17 for review.
Identify EPSG members who will attend SEG fall convention, and involve with APSG.

Mr. Barry Barrs

Organize next TAC meeting
TAC response to EPSG
Change the membership report updates
Change APSG Articles, after 2004 fall meeting vote, to executive for approval.
New APSG poster to graphics.

Mr. Michael Barnes

SEG and OTC check out sponsorship with a view to exhibiting.

Mr. John Morse

Check on possible surplus display panel to Mr. Hugh Beattie.

Mr. Hugh Beattie

Contact Mr. Dave Monk for APSG at SEG fall 2005
Corrections on Oblique Mercator on APSG website
Liaise with Mr. John Morse on Display Panel and Posters.

Devon Energy was thanked for their hospitality and the meeting was adjourned at 15:45.