

Minutes of the Tenth Meeting of The Americas Petroleum Survey Group September 18, 2003

Convened at the PGS OnShore Offices, on Hwy 6 in Houston, Texas.

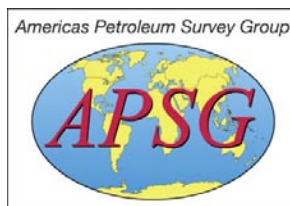
The tenth meeting of the APSG was called to order at 9.00 am by Mr. Hugh Beattie, welcoming attendees to this meeting.

Mr. Kevin Crozier then followed with a welcome to the PGS OnShore 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:

List of Attendees

Barrs, Barry	ExxonMobil Exploration
Beattie, Hugh	Exploration Geodesy
Berls, Norm	Schlumberger
Buhler, George	C&C Technologies
Cain, Jim	Thales Geosolutions
Cleary, Nicholas	PGS Onshore
Crozier, Kevin	PGS Onshore
Gaudry, Chris	MMS GOM
Gillis, Jim	Leica
Karko, Bish	Ensoco
Moreau, Pete	Anadarko
Rayson, Martin	Quest Geo Solutions
Russell, Ken	Houston Community College
Salvage, Derek	ExxonMobil Exploration
Stigant, Jon	Devon
Terpening, Michael	Schlumberger



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Agenda - September 18th, 2003 Meeting. - PGS OnShore Houston, Texas

Coffee		8:30 – 09:00
Safety Procedures Welcome APSG 9 Minutes Review	Kevin Crozier Hugh Beattie	9:00 – 9:15
Appointments Elections	Hugh Beattie Kevin Crozier	9:15 – 9:45
Membership Committee Report Education Committee Report	Barry Barrs Hugh Beattie	9:45 – 10:00
APSG Website Report	Norm Berls	10:00 – 10:15
Break		10:15 – 10:30
EPSG Report	Jim Cain	10:30 – 10:45
APSG / Oceanology International, New Orleans 2003 Review of the presentation with the intent to post this on the APSG website	Jon Stigant Jim Cain	10:45 :11.15
Mineral Management Service Gulf of Mexico Review / Coordinate Reference System	C. Gaudry (MMS)	11:15 to 12:00
Lunch Catered by PGS Onshore		12:00 – 13:00
Software Presentation - New Software Developed by Norm Berls. “Cartographic Laboratory”	Norm Berls	13:00 – 13:45
Open Floor / General Business Discussion on future & Direction of the APSG	ALL	14:00 – 16:00
Adjourn for a “Cold One”	Exploration Geodesy, Inc.	16:00

At 9:10 Mr. Hugh Beattie led a reading of the minutes of APSG 9.

It was noted that that URISA GIS education, with GISC1 Certification program is still not currently available, and will not be complete before January 2004.

The minutes of APSG9 were proposed for acceptance by Mr. Jon Stigant and seconded by Mr. Barry Barrs.

It was agreed that the agenda items would be changed in schedule due time constraints for some of the speakers.

At 9:10, guest speaker, Mr. Chris Gaudry of the Mineral Management Service, Gulf of Mexico presented a review on the Coordinate Reference System used by MMS.

Although the Federal Government had adopted the NAD 83 datum, in the early 90s, the MMS in the GOM area, after consultation, had decided to stay with the NAD 27 datum.

There have been some revisions in implementation plans of NAD 83, and these have been documented in NTL notices, current guidance notice being NTL No. 2002-G12. Location data and plats pertaining to drilling activities are asked for in a combination of NAD 27 and NAD 83, as per the Reporting Guidance Changes in NTL No. 2002-G12.

Transformations between the two datums will be performed by the NADCON software.

There is still no intent, by MMS GOMR, to move away from NAD 27 in the foreseeable future.

The MMS is working with industry groups to arrive at a better format for collecting directional surveying data.

Mr. Martin Rayson commented on difference in formats between the MMS and UKOOA P7. The formats are very similar, with the differences being mostly cosmetic.

Mr. Derek Salvage asked that as the P7 is very robust, could it be adopted by the MMS.

Mr. Barry Barrs suggested that MMS provide data that is not currently in the P7, with a view to UKOOA reviewing a modification to the P7 to accommodate it.

Mr. Barry Barrs questioned whether a well reentry required a new GPS survey with NAD 83 coordinates, also that resurveys on existing data would require updates to many sources and did MMS have a strategy for this.

Mr. Chris Gaudry responded that NAD 83 data was required only for new surveys.

Mr. Derek Salvage commented that existing data, surveyed by different organizations and different navigation methods/systems had established different datum shifts and that their existence and difference from NADCON had to be comprehended.

Mr. Kevin Crozier suggested that where differences were found with a set limit, e.g. 5 meters, then original position data should be kept.

Mr. Jim Cain concurred, pointing out that changes in positions could invalidate relations to other structures.

Mr. George Buhler commented that the biggest problem was how to handle older data, and that there was a lack of clarity and scope in the NTL notices.

Mr. Chris Gaudry remarked that many of the issues raised had not been addressed by MMS or by the industry. Nadcon was being used out in the Gulf as no data had been provided by the industry to develop new shifts.

The discussion on the topic was very robust with a lot of round the table interest. At 10:10 Mr. Hugh Beattie thanked Mr. Chris Gaudry for his talk, and commented that APSG members would be available to MMS whenever needed.

At 10:15 Mr. Jon Stigant gave an overview of the APSG Geodetic presentation given at the Oceanology International convention held in New Orleans.

The talk was the first attempted by the APSG. It was made into a two part presentation, a technical section and a user/with problems section, and was given by Mr. Jon Stigant; Mr. Martin Rayson; Mr. Jim Cain; Mr. Kevin Crozier and Mr. Hugh Beattie. Between 30 and 40 people attended the New Orleans presentation and it was very well received. Mr. Jon Stigant then gave a quick view of the presentation.

Mr. Kevin Crozier requested that a set of slides be made available to all APSG members, use a Power Point format. Also that the presentation should be put on the website for public use.

Mr. Barry Barrs asked that accompanying notes to the slides be made.

Mr. Hugh Beattie concurred that the slides required notes and Mr. Norm Berls said that HTML pages needed a narrator.

Mr. Jon Stigant agreed to get the slides and notes to Mr. Norm Berls for preparation for the web site.

At 10:45 Mr. Jim Cain presented a report on the EPSG activities. The last EPSG meeting had been held in France on April 11th. A reading of the minutes from the meeting was given.

The EPSG Geodesy Working group released the EPSG database version 6.4 in September.

Working on a web enabled database, and with the OGS on reconciling issues (units). EPSG Guidance Notes-- GN7, Transformations with worked examples.

At 11:05 the meeting broke for a short break.

At 11:20 the meeting was reconvened. Mr. Hugh Beattie and Mr. Kevin Crozier chaired the elections and appointments of officers and committee members.

For the 2003 – 2004 Executive committee

Elected were:

Chair : Mr. Kevin Crozier

Vice Chair : Mr. Jon Stigant

Secretary : Mr. Bish Karko

Membership Committee:

Chair : Mr. Barry Barrs

Education Committee:

Chair : Mr. Martin Rayson

Website Committee:

Members : Mr. Norm Berls; Mr. Jim Cain; Mr. Martin Rayson

A proposal was made to change the by Laws of APSG, where the vice chair of the executive committee would become chair for following year.

The Executive Committee needs to distribute wording to all members for a vote at the next APSG meeting.

At: 11:30 Mr. Barry Barrs gave the Membership Committee Report.

A list of active members was distributed.

New members were : Mr. John Conner; Mr. Jim Gillis; Mr. Malcolm Jones; Mr. Jim Nash.

The membership application procedures are working as required.

An email list has been sent for update.

Mr. Bish Karko suggested that new members be sought from non survey types, but survey data users. This could expose issues that experts may overlook as trivial.

APSG membership is now in Australia with Mr. Malcolm Jones joining the group.

Mr. Jim Cain volunteered for committee membership duties, this was quickly approved.

At 11:40 Mr. Hugh Beattie gave the Education committee report.

The main topic was development of the geodetic presentation, that was given as a separate agenda item.

Had 3 APSG/EPSPG laminated posters made, used at the ION and then at Oceanology International. Lost one at the SEG in Salt Lake City.

At 11:45 Mr. Norm Berls gave the Website committee report.

The site is getting approximately 2.5 hits per day. Should get substantially more once the geodetic presentation is loaded.

The site was down for a few days in June due to fees not being paid.

Fees consist of Forwarding agency, domain name and server for an annual cost of \$210. Mr. Norm Berls paid the fees.

Mr. Kevin Crozier suggested resettling the web site at PGS Onshore.

Mr. George Buhler suggested at researching other possible options.

At 11:50 the meeting broke for lunch.

During the lunch recess Mr. Derek Salvage gave an informal report of the proceedings at the ION.

Major items of interest were:

Low Power GPS Receivers.

Much discussion on the European system Galileo.

Wireless Wideband.

National RTK and virtual reference station.

Problems with WAAS not meeting expectations.

Many new ideas to be tested on Multipath.

RTK networks using gravity models.

Indoor GPS being driven by firemen and military.

At 11:50 Mr. Jim Gillis gave an invitation to a Long Range RTK Conference being hosted by Leica, on October 7th, in Port Aransas, Texas.

Demonstration of 100 mile RTK via cell modems.

At 11:55 the meeting reconvened with Mr. Norm Berls presenting on software he has developed called Cartographic Laboratory.

The package is an interactive set of tools that perform Coordinate Conversions and Transformations, Map Projection Recommendations, Projected Coordinate System Analysis, Geodetic datum and projection estimation. No file input or output is allowed, and it could be a useful tool on a website.

Mr. Norm Berls has available copies for evaluation by interested members.

At 2:10 Mr. Hugh Beattie opened the meeting for general discussion.

Financing the APSG was of concern. It was agreed to collect money from the members to equally distribute the cost of running the website. This was done and Mr. Norm Berls was repaid for payment of web hosting fees.

After much discussion Mr. Pete Moreau proposed introducing individual membership dues. This was agreed to by a general vote of the members and the executive committee was tasked with preparing an amendment that can be voted on at the next APSG meeting.

The discussion moved to the format of APSG meetings. A proposal was made for one annual full business meeting, with an additional two social meetings. Mr. Jon Stigant proposed Lunch time presentations.

Mr. Pete Moreau proposed that next annual meeting could be held at Anadarko. At the same time the geodetic presentation could be given at lunch time to Anadarko personnel. Also possibly invite group leaders and interpreters to the meeting.

Mr. Pete Moreau suggested that APSG give their Geodetic Talk at ESRI's PUG meeting held in Houston in February 2004. Possibly also have an information booth. Membership thought this a good idea.

Mr. Barry Barrs proposed that an ESRI/PUG workshop with possible participation of Schlumberger, Landmark, Mr. Richard Wylde work through the Geodesy Black Box notion.

At 16:00 the meeting was closed. Mr. Kevin Crozier was thanked for PGS Onshore's hospitality in use of their facility and lunch and refreshment provided.