NSPS Executive Director Report
January 10, 2018

NSPS Dues Discussion
NSPS leadership is in the process of developing background information related to the need for an increase in membership dues. Treasurer Bob Miller is continuing to develop the background information regarding the need for the increase, as well as preparing responses to inquiries that have been received. This information will be utilized by NSPS Officers and Directors as they visit with the respective state societies, as well as being published in NSPS media outlets.

NSPS Participates in Discussion on Adverse Possession
The Uniform Law Commission, a group of lawyers, judges, and professors from among the States and U. S. Territories, recently requested that NSPS participate with its Study Committee on the topic of adverse possession. Purpose of the Study Committee is “to see if law is needed in this area”. The Commission works to craft Model and Uniform Acts for the States to use as examples of good laws for enactment. The request for participation noted that the Committee is particularly interested in knowing how often this particular issue is resolved by a survey, and therefore how much Surveyors are involved in this issue. Also of interest is whether modern technology has affected this issue significantly. NSPS representatives began participation with the Committee during its most recent meeting December 6.

All Agency Memorandum 212 (AAM 212)
The NSPS Government Affairs team is continuing its efforts to seek withdrawal of AAM 212 by the Department of Labor. As may be recalled, AAM 212 was issued by DOL a few years ago without any correspondence with NSPS, even though the topic of Davis Bacon application to survey crew members has been a subject of discussion between NSPS and DOL for many years. A letter was sent to the DOL on October 18, 2017, followed by a face-to-face meeting on October 31, 2017 with then-Acting Administrator Bryan Jarrett and several DOL Wage and Hour Division staff. With President Trump’s directive to review and revise or eliminate regulations, etc. that create an undue burden on the regulated community, it is our hope to get action on this. ACEC, Associated Builders and Contractors, Construction Industry Round Table, Design Professionals Coalition, and MAPPS have joined in the effort by sending a collective letter to the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Labor. We intend to get design and construction groups signed on to a new, updated letter to the Trump Administration’s new Secretary of Labor.

Compact for the Temporary Licensure of Professionals
NSPS has recently learned of a move by the Governor of South Dakota (with support from neighboring states) to make it easier for professionals to work in South Dakota although not currently licensed in South Dakota. According to recent articles in the Wall Street Journal and Washington Examiner, the idea isn’t to abolish all licensure requirements, but rather to “allow professionals from compacting states to start working immediately and to pursue a permanent license while already employed”. NSPS is looking into this issue. This measure does not appear to be connected to the recent action by NCEES to investigate regional licensing for Professional Surveyors.
**Geospatial Data Act (GDA), continuing activities**
No consensus was reached among the member organizations of the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) regarding language in the Geospatial Data Act requiring procurement of professional surveying and mapping services in accordance with Brooks Act provisions. In fact, a substitute Bill has been introduced at the urging of some COGO member organizations. That Bill omits the procurement language. NSPS and MAPPS continue to support the original Bill’s language on this issue. The proposal of a second Bill, such as has occurred in this situation, is somewhat unusual.

**NSPS UAS Committee Continues to Pursue UAS Position Statement Action Items**
During the Spring 2017 NSPS Board of Directors meeting a motion was passed to should pursue all of the items identified below actively with said items clearly identified as committee objectives:

- NSPS should have a role in getting surveyors involved in UAV/UAS technology and provide surveyors the knowledge to assist in accurate mapping.
- NSPS should define the surveyor’s role in UAS policy to affect initial FAA policy as legislation related to UAS comes up.
- NSPS should assert a role in ensuring that all mapping products from UAV meet the standards of conventional sources.
- NSPS should establish programs to educate clients/end-users of the required skills and certifications to produce accurate maps.
- NSPS should affirm what a surveyor’s role should or could be on a project where UAS mapping is a component.
- NSPS should actively Liaison with ASPRS and UAS associations.
- NSPS should take the lead in developing and implementing UAS curricula for new and existing education programs and certifications.
- NSPS should establish a data bank, via the website to provide the most current laws, regulations and changes from the FAA and related agencies.
- NSPS should foster safe use of airways by responsibly using UAS vehicles without violating or infringing on the safety and privacy rights of others.

**NSPS Prepares for Presentation at PRIA Conference**
The Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) has invited NSPS to make a presentation during the PRIA Winter Symposium for February 26 – March 1, 2018 in New Orleans. The presentation on March 1 will be a “Surveyor 101-type program” to include an introduction to Surveyors, and the importance of interaction with property records professionals to help make property records more complete and accurate, followed by a recorded “interview” with the presenter.
The invitation comes after a few years of dialog between NSPS Executive Director Curt Sumner and members/leaders in PRIA regarding interaction and agreement on the need for collaboration.
**NFIP/FEMA Bulletin Board Proposed**
From within the NSPS FEMA Sub-Committee of External Affairs Committee, a proposal has been presented to create an on-line discussion forum as a first step to improve NSPS membership involvement in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The forum will serve to as a communications opportunity for input from individual members; to collect information from, and provide among, members; foster better communications with the Association of Floodplain Managers; and expand a network among and with allied professional societies. NSPS ExCom has offered approval contingent on identification of costs.

**Update of Geospatial Technology Competency Model**
NSPS will participate in a collective effort among organizations representing the geospatial industry to collaborate with the Department of Labor/National Geospatial Technology Center to review its update of the model.