Reports Agenda October 6, 2017 Frisco Texas

9:00 AM
Opening Remarks - President Fokens
Call for Nominations – Election of Officers (Vice President & President Elect)
Roll call Tim Burch
Summary of proceedings Lisa Van Horn
Board Reports

Hydrographer Board Gary Davis Chair
Tony Cavell Representative to Board

CST Board Art Haase Chair
Lisa Van Horn Representative to Board

NSPS Foundation Joe Dolan
Tony Cavell Representative to Board

Committee Reports
Admissions Gerry Curtis
NSPS Fellows Gerry Curtis
By Laws and Resolutions Tom Berkland
Policy Review Tom Berkland

Membership Wayne Harrison
Lisa Isom
Awards Robert Dahn
Joe Dolan
Benefits Wayne Harrison
Development Wayne Harrison
Retention Wayne Harrison

Nomination Tony Cavell

ITEMS IN BOLD HAVE WRITTEN REPORTS IN PACKET
Tellers (will need 4 tellers)

Government Affairs
Railroad R/W
State and Local Government

Pat Smith
Bob Akins
David Holland

Certification
Federals Surveyors (CFedS)
Floodplain Surveyors (CFS)
Geodetic (CGS)

Tim Kent
Tim Kent
Tony Cavell
Dave Doyle

Education
Accreditation Board (ABET)
Student Competition
Student Scholarships

Steve Gould
Jason Racette
Rich Vannozzi
Kurt Wurm

Professional Practice
Government Practice
Nat. Council for Engr. & Surv. (NCEES) Curt Sumner
NCEES Participating Organizations
and Liaison Council (POLC)
Private Practice

Gerry Curtis
Pat Beehler
Bill Coleman (LIAISON)
Gerry Curtis

Professional Standards
American Land Title Assoc. (ALTA)
Unmanned Aerial Systems

Bob Dahn
Gary Kent
JoAnne Williamson

Public Relations
Youth Outreach
Communications Task Force
Trig Star
Workforce Development
Future of Surveying

Lisa Van Horn
Daren Leavitt
Tommy Brooks
Patricia Brooks
Jerry Juarez
Emily Pierce
Curt Sumner

External Affairs
Liaisons

Pat Beehler

ITEMS IN BOLD HAVE WRITTEN REPORTS IN PACKET
American Association for Geodetic Surveying (AAGS)
American Bar Association (ABA)
American Consulting Engineers Council (ACEC)
Association of Petroleum Surveying and Geomatics (APSG)
American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Cartography and Geographic information Society (GAGIS)
Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)
National County Surveyors
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
Geographical and Land Information Society (GLIS)
International Right-of-Way Association (IRWA)
Assoc. of Photogrammetry, Mapping, & Geospatial Firms (MAPPs)
National Geodetic Society (NGS)

Past Presidents Council
Professional Surveyors of Canada (PSC)
Society of Mining Metallurgy & Exploration (SMME)
Surveyors Historical Society (SHS)
NSPS Political Action Fund (PAC)
NSPS Young Surveyors North America

Distribution of Motions

ITEMS IN BOLD HAVE WRITTEN REPORTS IN PACKET
Subcommittee for Certified Hydrographic Surveyor  
2017 Annual Report to the Board  
Prepared by:  
Gary R. Davis

Abstract: (Provide a brief statement about the work of the committee. It can be just a sentence or two about when the committee met and what was discussed and accomplished.) The Subcommittee for Certified Hydrographic Surveyor held numerous teleconferences during the past year during which the following business was discussed:
- New members: Thomas Newman, Jason Magalen
- Review of application status.
- Review of challenged exam questions and exam questions.
- Review of continued support from the Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA).
- Discussions of the Hydrographer Certification Program with NCEES.

Charges:
- The primary charge is to develop the criteria, policies, and procedures to grant and maintain certification in each of the fields assigned to it in a manner consistent with
  - the NSPS Educational Standards,
  - the general certification guidelines and avenues articulated by NSPS

ACTION: No action.
- To recommend a Code of Conduct/ Statement of Ethics for NSPS certification

ACTION: No action. Charge has been addressed in our charter and master document.
- To recommend continuing education requirements for NSPS certification

ACTION: No action.
- The CC may also develop other proposals to present to the NSPS related to the certification process, and may be charged with other tasks that related to its primary charge.

ACTION: The subcommittee has started work with NCEES proposed Guidelines for Hydrographer Certification.

Recommendations: None

Motions to Be Considered by the Board Of Governors Or Board of Directors: None

Committee Members:
Gary Davis – Chair
Ray Williams – Vice Chair
Patrick Nissen – Secretary
Capt. Rick Brennan (NOAA)
Jon Dasler (David Evans & Assocs.)
Ian Fergusson (NAVO)
Max Van Norden (University of Southern Mississippi)
Dan Proudfit (US Army Corps of Engineers)
Paul Donaldson (Leidos Corp)
Grant Froelich
Thomas Newman
Jason Magalen
Andy Armstrong (Associate member, University of New Hampshire)
Tony Cavell (NSPS Representative)
Trish Milburn (NSPS Facilitator)

Gary R. Davis
Chairperson
NSPS Certified Survey Technician (CST) Board Report
October 2017

Some Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicants Tested</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>571</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicants Certified</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Active CST’s Nationwide</td>
<td>1707</td>
<td>1368</td>
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Recent Activities

- Full Board continued to meet three times per year for business, grading exams, and reviewing question challenges. Partial Board meets by phone for fourth quarter grading
- Continued testing at Level I, II and III quarterly and Level IV two time per year
- Updated Business Plan for 2017-2021
- Began overall Question Database Review/Update Project (approximately 3000 questions)
- CST Program 30 year recognition ceremony
- Continued relationship with CST Learn (Spatial Media/American Surveyor Magazine)
- Outreach efforts made to support CST State Coordinators
- Updating Sample Test questions
- Exploring request for Mining Surveying Certification
- Working on recognition for long-term active CST’s
- Meeting minutes available on CST Website

CST Board Members

Art Haase (Chair) Indiana
John Fenn Michigan
Ron Torrence Washington
Bob Moynihan Maryland
Celeste van Gelder Florida
Tim Kent Oregon
Randy Rambeau North Carolina
Tim Burch Illinois
Lisa Van Horn Wisconsin (NSPS Board Liaison)

Alternates: Don Falken (Maryland), Bill Coleman (N Carolina), John Pierce (Texas)
September 15, 2017

NSPS Awards Sub-Committee Report (Membership Committee), Questions and Recommendations
NSPS Board of Directors (BOD)
2017 Fall Meeting,
Frisco, Texas
September 15, 2017

The NSPS Awards Sub-Committee (ASC) has been asked to review the current guidelines for the following awards; Map/Plat Design Competition, Affiliate of the Year, Surveying Excellence, Student Project of the Year, Earle J. Fennell Distinguished Educational Contributions, Excellence in Journalism Contest and Public Relations.

Each award will be addressed individually. Emphasis will be placed on ways to increase participation and streamlining the application process if possible. To start the ASC suggests the NSPS BOD needs to make some philosophical decisions regarding the awards application and judging process. If you choose to overhaul the process specific guidance will be needed by the ASC or any other group or committee that would be undertaking this task.

On 8/15/2017 Lisa Van Horn forwarded an email chain to the ASC requesting that the ASC review these awards. The email chain indicates that participation in each of the awards has been minimal. Is it the NSPS BOD’s desire to prioritize greater participation? It has been suggested that NSPS needs to better promote these awards. How is NSPS currently promoting these awards? Whose responsibility is it to promote the awards? Are there guidelines and timelines for the promotion?

NSPS Map/Plat Design Competition

As mentioned above, this award appears to be the only award that requires an entry fee. The fee is intended to offset the $875.00 cash prize. Currently, State Surveying association affiliates of the NSPS are invited to submit maps and plats. The preparer of the map or plat need not be a NSPS member but must be endorsed by an NSPS member. Given that almost all of the state affiliates are currently 100% NSPS participants, the ASC suggests that 100% state affiliates be able to submit the “Best in Show” selection from their individual “Map Contests” with the entry fee waived. It is reasonable to expect
this would have an immediate impact on participation. Obviously NSPS will have to find another way to fund the award if the entry fee is waived. Examples of alternative funding would include, finding a sponsor, establish a fund and ask for individual contributions. Another possibility would be to eliminate the cash award. Having the “best” map or plat in the United States should be an eye catching addition to any business’s website or promotional materials. Is the cash award necessary?

The executive directors of the state affiliates are extremely busy, if the submittal requirements could be streamlined, it may result in more state affiliates entering their winners into the NSPS Contest. The guidelines should require that the State Directors assist the state executive director in preparing and submitting the application.

The current guidelines require the applicant to submit prints or PDF’s on six separate CD’s. The ASC believes this is no longer necessary. Many of us submit PDFs to attorneys, title companies, etc. for review. This process works fine. We all have the technology to make our own paper copies from a PDF. We suggest that with appropriate input from past judges, the guidelines be amended to require only a PDF submission for circulation to the judges for their review of the submitted plans. The affiliate would need only forward the PDF and the entry form. With exception of waiving the entry fee, the same streamlining could be put in place for individual entrants.

The ASC suggests the judges meet or have a conference call each year to discuss how to interpret the categories. NSPS should explore ways to involve students in the judging process as a learning experience. NSPS should explore developing a seminar/workshop based on the judging process as a vehicle to help educate students and our membership on the attributes of an outstanding map or plat.

The ASC recommends the following criteria for judging the plat entries be adopted;
1) Focus on quality of content, legibility, overall plan design and page format and layout.
2) Composition, clarity, demonstrable purpose.
3) The Plat Judging Committee (PJC) will be comprised of four members from the NSPS BOD.
4) The PJC may decide not to make any award if less than five plats are submitted in any given year. The judges’ decisions are final.

It is our assumption that many potential submissions are from multiple sheet presentations, with streamlined entry criteria the single sheet requirement could be eliminated, allowing entrants to enter submissions that are multiple sheet maps and/or plans.

**NSPS Affiliate of the Year**

The ASC has one suggestion regarding Affiliate of the Year. NSPS should add an NSPS Policy, making it a duty of the State NSPS Director to submit a completed Affiliate of the Year application on behalf of the affiliate, each year at the Spring NSPS meeting. An
additional way to streamline the application process would be to encourage submission of Map/Plat and Affiliate of the Year applications in conjunction.

The first phase of the judging should be identifying three finalists in each category. The finalists could be guests on the radio show. It would be a great way to promote the award and more importantly the activities and achievements of the affiliates.

It is hoped that through increased participation by the affiliates, NSPS will receive a lot of information that would be of benefit all of the affiliates. NSPS could add an “Affiliate’s Corner” to News and Views as way to share highlights of affiliate activities and achievements with the other affiliates, the NSPS membership and again, promote the award.

**NSPS Surveying Excellence Award**

The ASC suspects, if there is a lack of nominees for this award it is due to the award not being promoted in the individual states. If each of the affiliates awards a surveyor of the year award, as a starting point NSPS could request that each state submit their surveyor of the year or other suitable candidate for this award. Each of the suggestions included under Affiliate of the Year could be applied to this award as well. Of course individual submissions would be encouraged as well.

**NSPS Student Project of the Year**

The ASC requests that input be solicited from the NSPS Education Committee regarding how best to encourage student participation and promote the award in the student community. Most of the students I am familiar with maintain academic schedules and in some cases work schedules as well, that leave little if any time for any additional work.

If the timeline for this award could be shifted to the summer months, perhaps students would be better able to find the additional time to put an application together. The ASC suggests the NSPS Education Committee be charged with working out the details of any proposed changes. During the summer months many students have summer jobs. NSPS could take advantage of these working relationships to promote the award, the many ways students are gaining practical work experience and the employers, many of whom are NSPS members, are helping this crucial element of education to occur.

The ASC asks, what is the purpose of requiring Modern Language Association (MLA) style guidelines?

**Earle J. Fennell Distinguished Educational Contributions**

Being from a State that recently had a Fennell Award winner, I was not aware of an issue with this award. Apparently there has not been a nomination in 2016 or 2017. Input should be sought from the Public Relations Committee (PRC) to explore ways to better promote this award.
ASC requests that input and suggestions be sought from the NSPS Education Committee regarding this award. The ASC suggests the NSPS Education Committee be charged with working out the details of any proposed changes.

Excellence in Journalism Contest

The ASC suggests that NSPS request that all NSPS Officers, Directors, Members of the ASC and Journalism Contest judges receive digital copies of each affiliates newsletters and magazines if at all possible. Having an inclusive group receiving publications to review should help identify and highlight examples of excellence. Highlighting articles on a regular basis could be a benefit to the award process and the professional community.

The criteria for judging the entries should include the following edits;

1) All categories will be judged on legibility, composition and clarity.
2) Affiliate newsletters and magazines will be judged on the focus and quality of their content, overall publication, design and layout.
3) Original feature articles will be judged on the substance, relevance, photography and presentation.
4) Editorial entries will judged on how well the topic/issue is presented and the position is argued.
5) All entries will be judged by the Excellence in Journalism Judging Committee comprised of five members of the NSPS BOD. The judging committee will elect a chairman. The decisions of the judging committee are final.
6) The judging committee may decide that no award will be given in any year when there less than five entries.

If there is a lack of submissions for this award, perhaps NSPS highlighting examples of quality journalism could be used to promote the award and the interesting articles being generated by the affiliates? As has been suggested with the other awards, NSPS should take advantage of both News and Views and the radio show on a consistent basis.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Dahn, Sub-Committee Chair

Committee Chairman: Past President J. Anthony Cavell

Abstract: Nominations and Elections Committee

This committee will begin its activity in earnest as the time for nominations draws nigh in the second part of the fiscal year.

Charges:

1. Actively solicit candidates to ensure qualified candidates for the annual ballot.
2. Prepare a slate of candidates for submission in accordance with the NSPS bylaws Article IX. 1, 2, 3, & 4.

Recommendations: None at this time

Motions to Be Considered by The Board of Directors None at this time

Committee Members: Chairman Cavell

Signature: J. Anthony Cavell (Chairman) Date: September 30, 2017

(Please use additional space and attachments as needed.)
Meeting Date: Location: Agenda Item #

Report of the NSPS Election Tellers Sub-Committee.
Committee Chairman: Past President J. Anthony Cavell
Abstract: Election Tellers Sub-Committee
This committee will begin its activity in earnest during meetings at which elections are held.

Charges:

1. Prepare for & perform balloting and vote tallying for NSPS Elections.

Recommendations: None at this time

Motions to Be Considered by The Board of Directors None at this time

Committee Members: Chairman Cavell

J. Anthony Cavell
Signature: Date: September 30, 2017
(Chairman)
NSPS Government Affairs Update  
October 2017 – Frisco, Texas  

John M. Palatiello & Associates, Inc.

3DEP  
NSPS has endorsed the USGS 3DEP program to provide a consistent elevation data, primarily through LiDAR collection, for the United States, and has been a leader in efforts to assure the program is fully funded. Efforts are also include provisions as part of both the FEMA/NFIP Flood Map Reform bill as well as the 3DEP connection to Infrastructure.

NSPS has met with key members of Congress to advocate for fully funding USGS at $146 million per year through the Appropriations process. NSPS has also organized and mobilized other organizations that support 3DEP, such as the National Association of Realtors, who made a similar request of Congress. NSPS met with the OMB Budget Examiner for USGS on June 15 to discuss the budget cut. NSPS hosted a 3DEP Coalition meeting June 26 with USGS’ Kevin Gallagher featuring as the keynote presenter.

NSPS continues to communicate with key USGS staff regarding the budget cuts and where and how the 3DEP Coalition can be helpful. Here is the summary provided to NSPS by USGS staff related to the President’s FY2018 Budget Submission:

"Thank you very much for your ongoing support, and for your questions and interest in the FY18 President's budget for 3DEP. The following is provided to help clarify:

- Following increases in the FY17 Omnibus of $2M for lidar and $2.5M for Alaska IFSAR (total $4.5M), the current USGS 3DEP Base Funding is approximately $29 Million. Of that, approximately $10M is planned for lidar acquisition and $7M is planned for Alaska IFSAR acquisition.
- The FY18 proposed budget describes a 3DEP cut of $3M. However, it does not take into account the $4.5M increase enacted in FY17. Taking the FY17 increase into account, the FY18 proposed budget reduces 3DEP lidar acquisition by $5M and IFSAR acquisition by $2.5M for a total of $7.5M.
- In addition, the FY18 budget proposes a reduction of $5.1M to USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) to ‘Eliminate Geospatial Research and Reduce 3DEP Technical Support’, which supports 3DEP, Hydrography (National Hydrography, Watershed Boundaries, and NHDPPlus High Resolution datasets), and US Topo (topographic map production), including maps for Alaska. The proposed cuts at a total of $12.6M would reduce the 3DEP program to a level less than the 2015 base, defer completion of national lidar coverage to the year 2033 and defer Alaska Mapping progress as well."

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee finished their 2018 bill which included the following report language:

Core Science Systems.—The Committee recommends $114,737,000 for core science systems, of which $24,397,000 is for the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping program. The recommendation includes $67,354,000 for the National Geospatial program, of which $22,500,000 is for 3DEP National Enhancement.

Landscape level assessments—Chesapeake Bay, Geospatial Research and 3DEP Technical Support, 3DEP Program Functions, and the Federal Geographic Data Committee Functions are funded at fiscal year 2017 enacted levels.

On June 28, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) introduced 3DEP authorization language in Section 10104 of S. 1460, the “Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017”. This language is similar to the March 22 bill introduced by Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA), S. 698, the "National Landslide Preparedness Act" with 3 cosponsors. Companion legislation the House, H.R. 1675, was introduced by Rep. Susan DelBene (D-WA) with 8 cosponsors. In addition, NSPS will soon have a bill introduced in Congress designating 3DEP as the nation’s enhanced elevation data collection program. On October 3, NSPS Government Affairs Consultant John Palatiello will provide commentary as a panelist during a Congressional Briefing in the Rayburn House Office Building.
Appropriations (Continuing Resolution, CR) Funding the Government Through December 8, 2017
In September, President Trump signed into law H.R. 601, the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017". As a result, P.L. 115-56 contains the following highlights:
- Expiration Date...Sec. 106. Continues appropriations through December 8, 2017, or the enactment of the pertinent appropriations Act.
- Periodic Censuses and Program Exception Apportionment...Sec. 118. Allows the Census Bureau spending flexibility to keep preparations for the 2020 Decennial Census on schedule and on budget.
- National Flood Insurance Program Extension...Sec. 130. Extends through the duration of the CR the authorization date of the National Flood Insurance Program, which is set to expire on September 30, 2017.
- WIFIA Administrative Expenses...Sec. 133. Provides through the duration of the CR a higher rate for operations to cover costs associated with ongoing water infrastructure projects.

Aviation Bill including UAS Policy
The current authorization of the FAA and aviation programs expires September 30. Congress on Thursday, September 28 approved for the President's signature a six-month extension of Federal Aviation Administration taxes to give lawmakers more time to debate contentious, long-term airline policies, through March 31. NSPS is trying to add language to the full FAA reauthorization to reform Part 107, UAS operations. On June 27, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee bill was approved while the Senate Commerce Committee bill was approved June 29. The Senate bill does not contain the ATC privatization measure. The House bill does contain the ATC privatization measure, and as a result is still several dozen votes short of needed support before bringing the bill to the House floor.

Council on Federal Procurement of Architectural and Engineering Services (COFPAES) & QBS
In January, H.R. 679, the "Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act of 2017" was introduced by Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC). This legislation would limit the use of one-step design-build and reverse auctions in federal procurement of design and construction services. Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) are planning to introduce the Senate companion bill.

NSPS and COFPAES have filed comments and questions with GSA and NGA on the CIBORG IT Schedule 70 proposal. GSA's responses were inadequate. On September 27, NSPS Executive Director Curt Sumner, Government Affairs Consultant John Palatiello, and Federal Lobbyist John "JB" Byrd met with the Judith Zawatsky, the Chief of Staff for the Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) office of the General Services Agency (GSA) to work to address the inherent conflict GSA is promoting through the use of the GSA schedules, such as CIBORG, in that QBS related services are listed on these price schedules. Ms. Zawatsky agreed to review this policy and then communicate back to NSPS and COFPAES in late October or sometime in November after a policy review is complete.

As an additional threat to QBS, NSPS has been alerted through COFPAES regarding the Section 809 Panel that was directed by Congress in the FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act to look at ways to make DoD procurement faster. NSPS believes this panel is getting out of control. It is now looking at government-wide procurement reform (not just DoD) and there are members of the panel who want to attack or even repeal QBS. This is coming from concerns regarding the speed and efficiency of the QBS process.

Davis-Bacon
This issue has been brought to the attention of the Trump transition team and current staff at the Department of Labor. On July 14, NSPS staff met with Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL) and learned that he is planning to introduce a bill before the House Education and the Workforce Committee this fall containing targeted revisions to Davis-Bacon and is open to having a NSPS drafted provision. In addition, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is also planning to advocate repealing AAM 212. SBA staff contacted NSPS in August following the public forums around the country where NSPS members successfully advocated the repeal of AAM 212.

Digital Coast, NOAA Ocean & Coastal Mapping
On May 25, the Digital Coast Act of 2017, S. 110, passed the Senate by unanimous consent. A House companion bill will soon be introduced by Reps. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger (D-MD) and Rep. Don Young (R-AK). On September 21, NSPS Government Affairs Consultant John Palatiello and Federal Lobbyist John "JB" Byrd were among those who attended a standing room briefing, co-hosted by Reps. Ruppersberger and Young, as Congressional staff and stakeholders
gathered in the U.S. Capitol for a briefing on the benefits of the NOAA Digital Coast project. The session featured the project's applications to coastal resilience and economic development, as well as to disaster preparedness, such as the recent hurricanes. Disaster response is a major application of the data from Digital Coast, assisting with preparedness and recovery efforts.

**Federal Prison Industries (FPI) Reform**

Reps. Bill Huizenga (R-MI) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) will soon introduce FPI reform legislation with safeguard language preventing federal inmates from accessing sensitive geospatial, mapping and surveying data, including as part of GIS services, with the potential of adding the bill as an amendment to the House version of comprehensive criminal justice reform legislation.

**FLAIR Act**

On May 23, NSPS Government Affairs Consultant John Palatiello testified before Congress on H.R. 2199, the "Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act of 2017" introduced by Reps. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Ron Kind (D-WI) on April 27. The bill was approved by the House Natural Resources Committee by a unanimous vote on July 26 and the Committee report has been filed, H. Rept. 115-322. On June 28, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) reintroduced the Senate version of the bill, which is a modified version of the House bill and found in Section 6101 of S. 1460, the “Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017”.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government included the following report language for the FY 2018 bill:

*Federal Real Property Profile.—* The Committee remains extremely frustrated with the slow pace at which GSA and other Federal agencies are improving the accuracy of the Federal Real Property Profile. The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) named managing Federal real property to its 2017 High Risk List. The Committee is concerned that despite language in the fiscal year 2015, 2016, and 2017 reports, GSA has not made progress on the value and accuracy of its inventory, taken steps to include public lands as required by Executive Order 13327, made the FRPP available to the public, or geo-enabling the FRPP. The Committee is outraged that the Federal Government cannot provide an accurate accounting to the American public of all the property that it owns. The Committee expects GSA to work with agencies across government and utilize geographic information technology to improve the data contained in this report and enhance transparency to the American taxpayer. The Committee directs GSA to report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate on steps taken to improve the quality and transparency of the profile within 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense included the following report language for the FY 2018 bill:

*Maintenance of Real Property*

The Committee directs the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), in conjunction with the Service Secretaries, to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act that outlines the total real property with a zero percent utilization rate of five years or more currently accounted for in the Department of Defense real property inventory database and assesses the feasibility of conveying or selling this property.

**Geospatial Governance and Coordination**

Jointly introduced May 25 by Sens. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Mark Warner (D-VA), Dean Heller (R-NV) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), S. 1253, the "Geospatial Data Act (GDA) of 2017" is a bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data. NSPS was listed in Sen. Hatch's news release as a supporter of the bill. NSPS successfully advocated reforms which were included: 1) FGDG becomes housed in the Office of Management and Budget, not the Department of the Interior; 2) outlines, by law, a role for the private sector; 3) clarifies, broadens and codifies application of the Brooks Act; and 4) establishes the primacy of state surveying licensing law. In July, Reps. Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Seth Moulton (D-MA) introduced H.R. 3522 which is companion legislation to S. 1253.

Primarily developed at the urging of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the legislation is intended to improve the governance and coordination of federal geospatial activities. MAPPS and NSPS were among the organizations consulted by the bill’s sponsor and it reflects many of these organizations’ suggestions.
Sections 11 and 12 are strongly opposed by GIS organizations as it has been claimed that geospatial services are part of information technology (IT), not the field of architecture and engineering (AE). However, surveying and mapping, and now “geospatial” activities have long been considered part of the broad field of architecture and engineering, not only in procurement, but employment and other government categorization, including the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

NSPS served on a working group created by COGO leadership to try to find consensus of the Geospatial Data Act. The following statement was issued on September 28 by COGO leadership, via NSGIC’s Cy Smith, after over a month of consultations:

"As you know, I have been facilitating a work group to try to develop consensus concerning revised language for the Geospatial Data Act of 2017 (S. 1253). The Geospatial Data Act work group that was formed at the COGO Face to Face meeting in San Diego in July completed its effort late last week. The work group was unable to reach consensus on revised language. Some member organizations are philosophically and strongly opposed to inclusion of procurement and associated definitional language in the Geospatial Data Act (GDA). Others are philosophically adamant concerning its inclusion in the GDA. We are at a stalemate."

Highways/State DoTs
FHWA published new regulations governing the procurement, management, and administration of engineering and design-related services, including surveying and mapping, on federal-aid highway projects. The rules include changes and clarifications to State DOT procurement policies and QBS procedures, contract negotiation and administration, audit and accounting of allowable costs, and program management and oversight. The rules took effect in June 2016. State DOTs will have one year to update their policies and procedures to comply with the new regulations.

HUD
In April 2015, NSPS responded to a request for feedback on proposed changes in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) loan underwriting guidelines on multi-family projects. In its response, NSPS provided suggestions and volunteered to assist in resolving the numerous redundancies and problems related to the HUD Multi-family survey requirements. Examples include the use of a separate "Surveyors Report," requiring an additional certification, and other requirements that cause confusion such as those related to wetlands and references to "as-built" surveys. Gary Kent, PS, chair of the NSPS committee on the ALTA/ACSM Standards, coordinated the NSPS participation.

Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA)
A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that NOAA needs to improve efforts to track and report costs under its hydrographic survey program. GAO found that NOAA did not consistently provide complete or accurate cost data in its cost comparison reports from fiscal years 2006 through 2016. GAO added that NOAA has yet to develop a strategy to increase private sector involvement in the hydrographic survey program as required by law.

In January, Rep. Don Young (R-AK) introduced H.R. 221, the "Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA)" which was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The Senate Commerce Committee marked up S. 171 on January 24 and reported the bill out of Committee as amended.

Infrastructure
Infrastructure is critical to our nation’s prosperity. President Trump and Congress are planning a major infrastructure program of an estimated $1 trillion for roads, bridges, airports, and other types of infrastructure. All of these projects require quality and accurate surveying and mapping data, products and services. In recognizing the importance of accurate geospatial data, Congress should include legislative language calling for surveying, mapping and geospatial data for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance for all related infrastructure projects. Data needs include: Elevation; Boundary; Topo; Planimetrics; As-Builtons; Asset Management; and others. NSPS is urging sponsorship of provisions enabling the utilization of surveying and mapping technologies and applications in infrastructure legislation in the 115th Congress.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation (THUD) included the following report language for the FY 2018 bill:
Infrastructure mapping with geospatial tools.—DOT possesses and collects much information on airports, airways, roads, bridges and transit infrastructure, but this rich data source is neither location-based nor integrated across asset types. As the nation contemplates making a significant investment in improving infrastructure, the Committee encourages DOT to establish a location-based, comprehensive, integrated asset database that would allow the selection, measurement, measurement, cross-asset analysis and impact of infrastructure investments using competitively acquired commercial geospatial tools. This would optimize the Department’s ability to properly analyze the condition of assets, project outcomes of investments, choose investments that would be most impactful, accurately report where investments were implemented, monitor infrastructure projects, measure the results of the investments, and provide data for public oversight in a modern, completely transparent environment.

LightSquared
In 2016, LightSquared, which has rebranded with a new name, Ligado Networks LLC, continued to concern the Air Force command that operates U.S. military satellites over possible interference with GPS signals. General John Hyten, head of the Air Force Space Command, told a subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives he wants to see results from new tests that will begin in April. In May, Reps. Mike Rogers (R-AL) and Jim Cooper (D-TN) introduced a "Sense of the Congress" amendment, which eventually was adopted by the House, to the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to prevent the next version of "LightSquared" from damaging GPS signals. DoD is working with the Department of Transportation through its adjacent band study to evaluate this new proposal and to conduct GPS-adjacent band compatibility testing. The FCC will analyze the report and public comments before making a final recommendation and before it issues a final decision, and possible rulemaking. The FCC, DoD, and USDOT are working together, cooperatively, to develop the technical record to support a final recommendation on the revised proposal. S. 2943, the "National Defense Authorization Act of 2017" and signed into law by President Obama on December 23 contains this language as found in the Conference Report to S. 2943:

"Section 1698 indicates that the House amendment contained a provision (Section 1673) that would amend the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) conditions on commercial terrestrial operations (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) by adding that the FCC shall not permit commercial terrestrial operations in the 1525-1559 megahertz band or the 1626.5-1660.5 megahertz band until 90 days after the FCC resolves concerns of widespread harmful interference by such operations in such band to Department of Defense GPS (GPS) devices. The provision would also require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of harmful interference of Department of Defense GPS devices and to notify Congress if the Secretary determines the existence of widespread harmful interference. The Senate bill contained no similar provision. The Senate recedes with a technical amendment;"

National Address and Parcel Data
A parcel system has been a NSPS public policy goal for many years. NSPS remains optimistic that this session will result in actions that will finally result in a parcel system that will assisting with economic development, housing, homeland security, land management, and dozens of other government and commercial activities.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) & Flood Map Reforms
In September, a short-term extension for the NFIP was enacted moving the current deadline to approve comprehensive reform to December 8. Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV) will soon introduce legislation known as the Improvement of Mapping, Addresses, Geography, Elevations and Structures (IMAGES) Act to accomplish NFIP reforms. On June 15, the House Financial Services Committee approved several bills that will be merged into one comprehensive bill. The goal is to have the soon to be introduced Mooney added to the comprehensive bill in time for or during floor consideration in the House. On July 17, the Senate Banking Committee released its bill, S. 1571, but has not yet marked up its bill. Section 202 of this bill Directs the Administrator to utilize the most up-to-date mapping technology and develop, in consultation with the Technical Mapping Advisory Council, a digital display environment to store and disseminate flood maps and hazardous data.

While the President's FY2018 budget request zeroed out flood mapping within the NFIP, the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee bill does fund the mapping activities for the NFIP:

Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis. The Committee recommends $177,531,000 for Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis, $177,531,000 above the amount requested and the same as the amount provided in fiscal year 2017. In lieu of discretionary funding for FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk
MAP) program, the fiscal year 2018 budget proposed to establish a new surcharge on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies to fund these activities. The Committee believes the Risk MAP program is critical to a wide range of users, not just flood insurance policy holders. In addition to informing flood insurance rates, flood mapping data is used to establish zoning, land use, and building standards, and to support infrastructure, transportation, and emergency management planning and response. Therefore, the recommendation sustains funding for the program at fiscal year 2017 levels. Accurate flood mapping data is the foundation of ensuring that communities are resilient in the face of disaster. FEMA's data collection and modeling processes must be transparent from beginning to end and involve the active participation of local jurisdictions to ensure maps accurately reflect local conditions and minimize costs to local communities. FEMA is directed to assess its existing processes to identify potential areas for improvement, including the process for reviewing and responding to appeals of preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps received from local communities. FEMA shall brief the Committee not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act on any changes planned or implemented as a result of this assessment. Further, FEMA is directed to allocate flood map funding to assist local governments and cooperating technical partners in acquiring the data collection tools necessary to produce accurate, local data that meet FEMA's standards for use in the agency's modeling processes to re-map local jurisdictions.

Recommendation The Committee recommends $13,573,000 for salaries and expenses associated with flood management and $189,927,000 for floodplain management and flood mapping. Flood mitigation funds are available until September 30, 2019, and are offset by premium collections. In addition, the bill establishes obligation limitations on the use of mandatory NFIP collections, including $175,000,000 for flood mitigation and flood mitigation assistance grants and $5,000,000 for the Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate (OFIA). The recommendation does not include the proposals to establish a new surcharge or to increase premiums and surcharges on flood insurance policies, as the authorization of these proposals is not under the jurisdiction of this Committee. A comparison of the budget request to the Committee recommended level by budget activity is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Flood Insurance Fund Floodplain Management and Mapping</th>
<th>Budget Request</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$239,927,000</td>
<td>$189,927,000</td>
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</table>

The Committee continues to support the OFIA and encourages the Advocate to assist policy holders in accessing resources to validate applicable premium rates as FEMA establishes the rating criteria for all NFIP policies. The Advocate is required to aid potential policy holders under the NFIP in obtaining and verifying accurate and reliable flood insurance rate information when purchasing or renewing a flood insurance policy under the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are the basis for establishing the floodplain management responsibilities of communities participating in the Community Rating System program and for determining which properties require flood insurance coverage as a condition of receiving a mortgage from a federally regulated or insured lender. The Committee is aware that, as FEMA updates FIRMs across the country, it requests documentation from local communities and levee sponsors to demonstrate that levees meet or continue to meet the regulatory criteria for accreditation. According to a November 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), levee inspection reports by USACE may satisfy certain criteria for FEMA accreditation. FEMA is directed to work closely with USACE to share information related to levee accreditation and avoid imposing unnecessary costs on levee sponsors or surrounding communities. In many communities, particularly in coastal areas, there are often a relatively small number of high-value homes existing alongside far more modest homes and businesses that have been present for decades, with a commensurate disparity in household income and financial resources. The Committee is aware of concerns that the use of micro-simulation models in determining eligibility for NFIP vouchers would result in skewed assumptions regarding average home values and incomes of NFIP policy holders, resulting in the disqualification of some homeowners who truly need the vouchers. As a means to address affordability of the NFIP, it is critical that accurate data be used in determining eligibility for and distribution of vouchers. For the forthcoming statutorily mandated affordability framework in which vouchers are being considered, FEMA is directed to collaborate with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census Bureau to use data on actual home values and household income instead of simply relying on micro-simulation modeling.
Pipelines, Utilities and Infrastructure
In a major victory for NSPS, President Obama in June signed into law the "Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety" or "PIPS Act" of 2016 as Public Law 114-183. The law extends the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), makes changes to PHMSA safety policies and gives the Department of Transportation more power in the event of pipeline emergencies. The law also includes an issue promoted by NSPS in the organizations' annual "lobby day" activities in Congress. It ensures coordination and collaboration on pipeline mapping, research, development, and technology between PHMSA, industry, and public stakeholders, including provisions strengthening geolocation data for pipelines and other underground utility infrastructure through enhanced underground utility location data requirements. Improved location and mapping of underground utilities has been a NSPS priority and was an issue NSPS members took to Congress in April 2015.

NSPS has drafted a Congressional Research Service (CRS) for a member of Congress to file to gather information on policies and programs related to underground utilities, including One Call or Miss Utility systems.

Privacy and Geolocation Legislation
In February, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced S. 395, the “Geolocational Privacy and Surveillance (GPS) Act of 2017” to specify the circumstances in which a person may acquire geolocation information. The House companion bill, H.R. 1062, was also introduced that month by former Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) who resigned his seat this summer.

Private Sector Utilization
In March, Rep. John J. “Jimmy” Duncan, Jr. (R-TN) and Sen. John Thune (R-SD) introduced the Freedom from Government Competition Act (FFGCA), legislation (H.R. 1339/S. 506) that would require federal agencies to rely on the private sector when providing goods and services that are commercially available. Thanks to NSPS member visits to the Hill on March 15, the House bill now has 12 cosponsors.

NSPS participated June 15 at a policy roundtable hosted by OMB at the White House regarding President Trump’s Executive Order to reorganize the Federal Government, and submitted numerous recommendations impacting geospatial programs and activities.

Railroad Reauthorization
Recent railroad accidents in highlight the need for Positive Train Control (PTC) systems, which utilize highly accurate geospatial data, such as GPS data, LIDAR data, high resolution digital imagery, survey data, and mobile mapping to delineate the location of rails, clearances and a detailed asset inventory, to assure safety, train separation or collision avoidance, speed enforcement, and for asset management. The Railroad Authorization was attached to the 2015 Highway Bill signed into law by President Obama included a three-year delay in the implementation of the PTC program for Class 1 railroads. NSPS is still working on the issue of survey monumentation upon railroad abandonment, but no legislative remedy has been identified.

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
In December 2016, President Obama signed into law S. 612, the "Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act". P.L. 114-312 contains the following provisions:

- Section 1124 authorizes the designation an individual, within the headquarters office of the Corps of Engineers, to serve as the coordinator and principal approving official for developing the process and procedures by which the Corps of Engineers operates and maintains sUAS systems in support of civil works and emergency response missions of the Corps of Engineers, and acquires, applies for, and receives any necessary FAA authorizations for such operations and systems;
- Section 1134 amends Section 2040 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 by enabling an applicant or requester to track the status of a permit application or request in a manner that will allow identification and display of the location of the activities subject to a permit or request through a map-based interface;
- Section 3101 authorizes the Bureau of Indian Affairs to establish a flood plain management pilot program to provide, at the request of an Indian tribe, guidance to the Indian tribe relating to best practices for the mitigation and prevention of floods, including consultation with the Indian tribe on flood plain mapping or new construction planning as part of Indian Dam Safety;
- Section 5006 provides for qualifications-based-selection (QBS) be used for grants to rehabilitate high hazard potential dams as a condition on the receipt of a grant of an amount greater than $1,000,000, in that a non-Federal
sponsor that receives the grant shall require that each contract and subcontract for program management, construction management, planning studies, feasibility studies, architectural services, preliminary engineering, design, engineering, surveying, mapping, and related services entered into using funds from the grant be awarded in the same manner as a contract for architectural and engineering services is awarded;

- Section 5009 authorizes a report to Congress on groundwater contamination by the Secretary of the Navy on the groundwater contamination from the Bethpage, New York site that includes a description of the status of the groundwater contaminants that are leaving the site and migrating to a location within a 10-mile radius of the site, including detailed mapping of the movement of the plume over time, and projected migration rates of the plume;

White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB)
NSPS Federal Lobbyist John "JB" Byrd is leading a coalition of trade associations and professional societies to have the next version of a White House Conference on Small Business (WHCSB) authorized either by legislation in Congress, or by Executive Order. The WHCSB was a series of three conferences that occurred in 1980, 1986, and 1995. A critical piece to the success of the WHCSB is the utilization of state conferences to ensure broad and equitable representation of the very diverse small-business community. Through the state conferences, which feed into the regional conferences and then into the national conference, small-business owners can develop, enhance and fully embrace the key issues facing small businesses nationwide. Rep. Rod Blum (R-IA) will soon introduce this bill in Congress.

Workforce Development
H.R. 2353, the "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act" was reported out of Committee on June 7 and passed by the House on June 22.

NSPS is implementing a program, with its state affiliates, to develop high school programs in surveying and geospatial in Career and Technical Education (CTE) through the state CTE offices and local workforce boards.

As announced in News and Views, model letters for all NSPS state societies to send to their state’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) office seeking to prioritize surveying and geospatial workforce development. Also, model letters for local chapters and individual surveyors to send to their local workforce development board were prepared. NSPS is currently encouraging its members to begin this grassroots lobbying and awareness campaign.

This initiative is designed to help attract the next generation of professional surveyors and technicians. That program begins with a letter-writing campaign by state surveying societies, as well as by local chapters and individual surveyors and firms.

On the NSPS website, a new page for workforce development has been created. On it are two sample letters to urge state and local workforce agencies to place a focus and emphasis on the surveying and geospatial workforce. The first is a sample letter that every state surveying society is urged to use to send to its state Career and Technical Education (CTE) office. The second sample letter should be used by chapters of state affiliate societies, or individual surveyors and/or surveying firms, to send to their local workforce development board and office. Included on the top of the letter is a link to every local workforce board across the nation.

This is the first step in a NSPS effort to attract more individuals into a career in surveying. The Federal government provides more than $2 billion to state and local government for workforce development and career and technical education through the Departments of Labor and Education. These letters are a way for state and local surveying organizations to tap into the benefits of those funds.

In 2016, NSPS Executive Director Curtis Sumner and NSPS Government Consultant John Palatiello met with officials of the U.S. Department of Labor to discuss the need for a surveying and geospatial workforce development initiative to attract younger and new workers into the profession.

Pursuant to a motion adopted by the NSPS Board in March, 2016, NSPS is to develop a national strategy for workforce development.
RAILROAD MONUMENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

ROBERT AKINS, CHAIRMAN

GOAL: SEEK LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE RAILROADS TO MONUMENT, IN SOME FASHION, ALL ABANDONED RAIL LINES.

CURRENT ACTIONS:

CONTACT WAS MADE IN AUGUST WITH WARREN WARD, FORMER DIRECTOR FROM COLORADO, WHO HAD SPEARHEADED THIS ISSUE BEFORE. WE DISCUSSED WHETHER WORDING FOR A BILL HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PREPARED. HE AND CURT SUMNER TOLD ME ABOUT CHARLIE TUCKER WHO IS IN THE DENVER AREA AND SPENDS NEARLY ALL HIS TIME WORKING ON ABANDONED RAIL LINE ISSUES.

AN INTERVIEW WAS HELD WITH RETIRED JUDGE CHARLES E. BROWN WHO SERVED ON THE OHIO RAIL COMMISSION FOR MANY YEARS.

FUTURE ACTION:

MAKE FURTHER CONTACT WITH MR. TUCKER AND MR. WARD WITH THE HOPES OF PREPARING WORDING FOR A FUTURE LEGISLATIVE BILL.
Certified Federal Surveyor Program - Report to NSPS

Timothy A. Kent, PLS - September 28, 2017

Current Status

The BLM desires to step away from the administration of the program but remain with technical oversight. This can be accomplished with a new MOU or similar. I am working with Janet Wilkins of the BLM Washington Office to develop a report of recommendations to be presented to the NSPS Board later this year.

The current program has outlived its' need to provide the training directly in response to the Tribal Survey requirements. If a form of CFedS is to be continued, it is suggested to be from the technical content only. The content needs to be revamped to deliver the product in a technical medium and not include any of the administrative units. This means editing a majority of the educational units to meet that requirement.

The original content is based on the 1973 Manual so some updating needs to be done to have it agree with the current Manual. If a different delivery method (not filmed based) is utilized, the updating cost could be less.

The pool of surveyors that desire CFedS certification is estimated at less than 1500 nation-wide. Boundary surveying does not have the employment base it once had. However, it is still needed in the PLSS states.

Administration of the program is uncomplicated and NSPS is accomplishing this now.
Report of the NSPS Certified Floodplain Surveyor Sub-Committee.

Committee Chairman: J. Anthony Cavell

Abstract: Certified Floodplain Surveyor Sub-Committee

Good things are happening despite unforeseen demands, the chairman was unable to participate as actively as he would hope in the first part of this term. Those issues are being resolved and participation will improve going forward.

The committee, led particularly by "Bart" Crattie has continued it functions and made significant advances. The most significant of these is initiation of training courses to prepare surveyors for the Floodplain Surveyor certificate. Also, see excerpts of correspondence at the end of this report.

Mr. Crattie should be recognized by the Board for stepping up when needed and exceeding expectations.

Charges:

1. The primary charge is to develop the criteria, policies, and procedures to grant and maintain certification in the field of CFS assigned to it in a manner consistent with the NSPS Educational Standards, and the general certification guidelines and avenues articulated by NSPS.
2. To recommend a Code of Conduct/ Statement of Ethics for NSPS certification.
3. To recommend continuing education requirements for NSPS certification.
4. The committee may also develop other proposals to present to the NSPS related to the certification process, and may be charged with other tasks that related to its primary charge.

Recommendations:

Support and encourage the development of the CFS program throughout the U.S.

Pursue the Emergency Management Institute training program in Emmitsburg, Maryland

Motions to Be Considered by The Board of Directors None at this time

Committee Members: J. Anthony Cavell, chairman
C. Barton "Bart" Crattie, Roland "Rick" Dreist, Wendy Lathrop

Signature: J. Anthony Cavell (Chairman) Date: September 30, 2017

JAC 20160215
(Please use additional space and attachments as needed.)
9/21/2017  Bart Crattie

This evening, I presented an idea to a number of the folks participating in the Tennessee CFS training and testing program, ...To encourage or entice FEMA to partner or sponsor this program, I suggested we approach FEMA about conducting a nationwide CFS training and testing session at their Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This proposal would be positive two-fold. One, it would assure FEMA that NSPS is a serious partner in floodplain management issues. We are on the front line in the implementation of the NFIP. The other benefit would be a centralized training facility and unified course material in one location, not scattered to the 50 states with 50 sets of training and curriculum. The material that would evolve from this training could then be extended to the individual states for localized training and certification.

9/25/2017  Curt Sumner

Emmitsburg isn't far up the road from our office in Frederick. When we find out who to contact at EMI, I could run up there and talk with them if desired.

9/25/2017  Bart Crattie

My later thoughts on this were to have a train the trainer course. That way, folks from all over could go to Emmitsburg and then go home and train others in their state. North Carolina, in coordination with FEMA, has already developed the model course.

9/28/2017  Amy Miller (Tennessee State NFIP Coordinator)

I talked to Dan Brubaker. He said to contact Robert Perry at EMI. He thinks this would be a great course candidate to add to the roster. Robert.Perry@fema.dhs.gov

9/28/2017  Rick Dreist

I have a contact in DC government who works directly with FEMA

He offered to help with possibly helping with the training or getting us in contact with the right person. Contact info: Phetman Phannavong, Environmental Engineer, Regulatory Review Division, Department of Energy & Environment, Government of the District of Columbia, 1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20002, Cell: (202) 439-5715.
REPORT
CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN SURVEYOR COMMITTEE
Fall, 2017; prepared by Bart Crattie

A great thing happened over a four day period in the latter part of September up in Knoxville. After its initial introduction in North Carolina, the state of Tennessee became the first state in the country to adopt a Certified Floodplain Surveyors program. Tennessee's program is solely based on the program long ago pioneered by North Carolina.

Amy J. Miller, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator for Tennessee is owed a great deal of gratitude by our organization. It was her determination and foresight that assured the program would become available to Tennessee land surveyors. Though too humble to “toot his own horn”, Mike North was in the trenches with Amy from the beginning. Mike and Tonya Howington put a tremendous amount of time into this program at the expense of forgoing many good paying survey jobs with their company. Brian Bartlett, North Carolina CFS, as a member of this committee also played a key role in bringing this program to Tennessee.

Joining Mike and Amy as instructors were Dan Brubaker, NFIP Coordinator for North Carolina and Steve Garrett with NC Emergency Management. We can’t thank them enough for taking the time required to travel and teach the course. Funding for this phase was through FEMA. The program is supported by NSPS and NFIP as well as TAPS of course. There were 28 attendees.

The course covered much material associated with NFIP. General topics included the history of floodplain management and legislation in the U.S. and NFIP regulations, resources, terminology/ acronyms, mapping and insurance. Most importantly though, details and special attention was given to Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letters of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F), the eLOMA process and elevation certificates. Surveyors are the foundation of these aspects of NFIP.

Each and every participant realized something or many, many somethings that had been done incorrectly on these forms over the years. It is eye-opening when you realize some of the things you hold in certainty turn out to be wrong. The more exposure to the subject matter, the more it became obvious that without specialized training, a professional would be foolish to contemplate certifying a LOMC or Elevation Certificate. It is that specialized and esoteric.

The interest level in the classroom was unimaginable. There were two full days (8-9 hours) and one five hour day followed by open Q&A in the afternoon. Discussion was often and animated. There was no dallying with smartphones and very little dozing. The subject matter held your attention. On the fourth day, an exam (4 hour) with 125 multiple choice and T/F questions was administered. In the end, nearly every evaluation sheet had the comments section filled out, not just the boxes checked.

Pass rate of the inaugural class is not yet known so it’s a little early to determine the level of success for the program. A report will be delivered to NSPS next week at their fall meeting. NSPS is excited and supportive. As the program currently exists, there will be no structured fast-tracking of LOMC applications with FEMA's subcontractor technical partners for Tennessee CFS'. However, the NFIP will distribute a list of all CFS' to every floodplain administrator in every community in the state. When asked to recommend a surveyor for elevation certificates etc, the CFS list as well as a list of local land surveyors will be presented. NFIP, NSPS and TAPS will all have current lists on their websites.

It was an inspiring start to what will probably become an integral program for Land Surveyors in the great state of Tennessee.
August 3, 2017

NSPS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Since Spring 2017 NSPS General Membership Meeting the Committee has been involved with setting up the 2018 Student Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada. Attached is the press release of the Announcement of the Competition. Rich Vanozzi came up with a great idea that involves the students in a real-world problem. This competition will take place entirely on site in the Las Vegas area, from the field to office portion and of course the presentation. With the cost to get and stay in Las Vegas, this could be one of the biggest competitions yet. We are very pleased to be working with WESTFED and NSPS on this event. More details on the event will be worked out in Frisco in the Fall.

There have been some bigger issues come to the Education Committee over the summer and I had hoped to start tackling some of these, such as Long-Distance learning, but in June I suffered a heart attack, and now just getting back into the swing of things.

Regards,

Stephen W. Gould, PLS
Chair – NSPS Education Committee
2018 NSPS STUDENT COMPETITION
INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION: The 2018 NSPS Student Competition will be held in conjunction with the Spring meeting of the National Society of Professional Surveyors during the Western Regional Surveying Conference. This is a joint conference of The Nevada Association of Land Surveyors (NALS), the Arizona Professional Land Surveyors (APLS) and the Utah Council of Land Surveyors (UCLS) and the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WestFed). It is being held at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The competition will begin prior to the actual start of the conference and overlap the NSPS meeting by two days.

The Competition will be held February 17-21. There will be a briefing session early on the evening of the 17th that all teams and advisers are required to attend. Critical instructions for the next day’s activities will be provided. The exact time and location for this briefing session is still being confirmed. The 18th will be the Field Day, the 19th will be the Office Calculation Day and the 20th will be the Presentations.

The awards will be presented on the afternoon of the 21st at approximately 1pm at the beginning of the NSPS Board of Directors meetings.

As with 2017, there will be two separate judging divisions, one for students matriculated into Associates degree programs and one for students matriculated into Baccalaureate degree problems.

PRE-NOTIFICATION: To facilitate communications, all teams planning to participate in the 2018 NSPS Student Competition must submit the Pre-Notification Form to the Competition Coordinator: A. Richard Vannozi, MS, PLS to notify NSPS of their intentions to participate in the competition. The following Pre-Notification Form should be completed, scanned and sent via email to Mr. Vannozi as a PDF at the below email address on or before November 3, 2017.

Please direct any questions concerning the competition to Mr. Vannozi at your earliest convenience.

Primary Contact via email: vannozzia@wit.edu

A. Richard Vannozi, MS, PLS, Asst. Professor
Department of Civil Engineering and Technology
Wentworth Institute of Technology
550 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Personal Cell: 617-429-7036
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The topic for the 2018 competition is **Surveying Service**. You might think of it this way: "What would you do if you had an opportunity to be part of a team traveling to a developing country to provide surveying and mapping in support of an engineering design or construction project such as a community well, small bridge, new school or roadway/utility corridor?"

Many surveyors, students, and practitioners, have opportunities to work on projects in developing countries. This might be through organizations such as Engineers without Borders or other local, national or international organizations. One of the challenges they face is that they often must survey without all the "comforts of home" and go back to the basics. Sometimes this means that you are using outdated equipment that you see for the first time upon arrival, and sometimes it means that you have essentially nothing and must improvise and be particularly creative and clever to get the job done... and everything in between.

**This year’s competition will be a head to head surveying and mapping competition.** Teams will be given a parcel of land and using a very basic set of equipment complete, a project scenario meant to mimic what one might find on such short service trips. Teams will be given one day to do their field work, and a second day to create their map and prepare a presentation. On the third day, they will present their project and map to a panel of judges.

This year’s competition will require very little, if any, technical preparation before attendance, so that the earlier conference date should not be a concern.

It is hoped that this year’s competition will accomplish three (3) specific things:

1. Address the feedback from many students that they would like a head to head competition for a change.
2. Limit the amount of “pre-competition” technical preparation so that more schools can attend for the first time.
3. Help students see ways that they can utilize their professional skills to serve those less fortunate in a meaningful way.

**EQUIPMENT AND PREPAREDNESS (30 Pts)**

Each team must bring the following equipment. The reason for what might seem like multiple pieces of equipment is to have a spare in case of malfunction or damage. Field day instructions may limit the type and number of pieces of equipment you will be allowed to use at a given time:

- Two (2) Tripods
- Two (2) Automatic Levels (No Digital Levels, Levels do not need to be identical)
- Manufacturer’s User’s Manual for the Automatic Levels
- Two (2) Fiberglass Philadelphia Rod
- Two (2) Steel tapes
- Four (4) Plumb-bobs
- Two (2) Hand-compasses (traditional or Suunto) reading to the nearest degree.
- Two (2) Rolls of flagging, (each one, a different color)
- Two (2) Three lb. hammers.
- Lumber Crayons (Keel),
- Redi-MARK type Permanent Markers for marking stakes.
- One (1) Safety vest per team member.
- Small First Aid Kit, such as this American Red-Cross model: (https://www.redcrossstore.org/item/329165)
- Small flashlight.
- Two (2) Clipboards, each with a pad of engineering paper.
- Two (2) Blank and unused Fieldbooks such as an “Elan Economy Field Book E64-8x45S”. The fieldbook chosen should have 6 columns on the left side of the page and be gridded on the right side. The book should be brought completely blank. Do not even number the pages, put an index in it...completely blank.
- One (1) copy of a general surveying text book such as “Elementary Surveying, An Introduction to Geomatics”, by Charles Ghilani. It does not need to be this book, nor does it need to be the most recent edition of the chosen text.
- Two (2) calculators. Only those models from the approved NCEES exam list will be allowed to be used.
- Abbreviated Written Safety Plan 2-3 Pages. An Emergency Contact Information Sheet will be provided to each team.
- Ample supply of water.
- Team Lunch.

Students will be expected to dress for the weather and terrain. All students must wear boots/shoes (no sneakers, open toed shoes, sandals, etc.) and long pants. Steel toed shoes are not required. Shorts will not be allowed. Teams should monitor the Las Vegas weather prior to departing for the competition to make sure they have the proper outwear and other clothing necessary for a full day in the field. Individuals not dressed properly, as determined by the competition coordinator, will not be allowed to compete.

At some point during the Field Day, each team will be visited and judged on their equipment and preparedness based on the above criteria (and any supplemental requirements provided in the time leading up to the competition, if any).

Other equipment and supplies that students will need will be provided. NSPS is working with the local Las Vegas chapter of the Nevada Association of Land Surveyors to provide other equipment and supplies for student use so that students will not need to travel with more equipment than in listed above. Students may be provided with Optical or Electronic Theodolites or Total Stations with optical or laser plummets. Any instruments provided will also include a manufacturer’s user’s manual and will be in full working order with ample batteries. Student teams will be expected to be able to figure out how to operate any equipment they are provided using the provided user’s manual.
Students will not be provided with any data collectors, GPS, scanning or UAV technology nor will these technologies be allowed. At the opposite end of the technological spectrum, students will not be provided with or be expected to use Engineer’s Transits, Plane Tables, Alidades, Chains or other types of antique equipment. All fieldnotes are expected to be taken by hand. The use of the internet, smart phones, tablets or laptops in the field is prohibited except as follows:

- Cell phones can be used for communication among team members;
- Still photographs documenting the field work may be taken for use in a team’s presentation. No video may be taken;

*Accessing the internet for any competition related purpose during the field portion of the competition is strictly prohibited.*

Violations of these rules may result in disqualification of a team. Sanctions for violations will be determined by the competition coordinator in consultation with the chairman of the NSPS Education Committee and will be final.

Team advisers will need to be in the field the entire day, as well.

**THE PROJECT AND FIELD SURVEY (Day 1)**

**TRANSPORTATION:** Each team will be responsible for their own transportation to the project site which will be on public land within approximately 30-45 minutes from the hotel. The exact location is still being finalized. Teams will be expected to follow all rules of their home institution regarding travel in vehicles such as those related to insurance, vehicle rental, eligibility of drivers, seatbelt use, the obeyance of traffic laws, distracted driving, etc.

As mentioned above, teams will be given a parcel of land and using a very basic set of equipment, complete a project scenario meant to mimic what one might find on such short service trips. Students should expect that this project will include measurements at varying precisions, such as for cadastral (land boundary) or site detail mapping. This will be a plane surveying exercise. Students should be prepared to perform basic plane surveying calculations in the field based on their field measurements and as required to set out the missing parts of a simple geometric shape. For example, you might be given two stakes at corners of a closed geometric figure (a parcel) and be asked to layout that parcel on the ground and map the features of that parcel. At the beginning of the field exercise the team will be given the specific instructions and the detail to be included in their field survey, the required precision and other information necessary to map and define their team’s parcel.
OFFICE CALCULATIONS, MAPPING AND PRESENTATION (Day 2)

After the completion of the field work on Day 1, students will have until 5 pm on Day 2 to reduce their field data, complete all required calculations and draft their final map, at which time they will need to submit a 24”x36” PDF of their map to the competition coordinator. All maps will need to be monochrome (B&W). Teams can continue to work on their presentation until check-in for the presentations on Day 3, usually around 7:30am. NSPS will print each team’s map overnight between Day 2 and Day 3 and have them available on the morning of Day 3 for the teams to display for judging. During Day 2, NSPS will be providing teams with a room in which they are expected to work from 8am until they are finished or 5pm, whichever comes first. Teams may work elsewhere before and after the times that the NSPS room is provided.

Teams may utilize any calculation, mapping, cartographic, presentation or visualization software for which they have appropriate academic use licenses. Though taking one’s own field equipment is often prohibitive and outdated or unfamiliar equipment is more the norm than the exception when on surveying expeditions such as what we are mimicking in this exercise, Laptops and software travel well, and it is not uncommon to have full access to all the software you are used to using. So what might seem like a double standard, of rudimentary field tools and state of the art computing power, this is quite common. Trial versions of software should not be utilized. Teams should not expect that the internet connections will allow for them to access software license servers, so licenses should be “borrowed” or “stand alone” in nature. To test this, teams should make sure all software they wish to use functions without an internet connection. Teams that are unsure about their ability to access their software under these competition conditions should see their school’s IT helpdesk prior to the competition.

PLAN: (30 points) Each participating team shall prepare a one sheet map of the project at an appropriate scale. The dimensions of the map shall be 24 inches by 36. The map shall include an appropriate title block with the school name, logo, and full names of all team members. The maps will be displayed on the day of the oral presentations at the competition. Teams will be provided detailed mapping specifications and plan scoring rubric prior to beginning the field exercise.

TEAM PRESENTATIONS (Day 3)

ORAL PRESENTATION: (30 points) The presentation should be a coordinated group effort. Teams will be provided with a podium, LCD projector and screen. For initial planning purposes, teams should assume a 25-minute presentation, including 5 minutes of questions from the judges and the audience. The specific amount of allotted time is subject to change once the exact number of competing teams is identified. Teams must include in their presentations their conclusions (reflections) on any lessons learned during the competition might inform or relate to their understanding of “Surveying Service”. Teams will be provided a detailed scoring rubric for their oral presentation prior to beginning the field exercise.
The announcement and presentation of the first, second and third place awards will be at approximately 1pm on the day following the Presentations (Day 4) at the beginning of the NSPS Board of Director’s Meetings. Final time to be confirmed. All team members are expected to participate in all competition related activities including specifically the pre-competition briefing session, the three days of the actual competition (Days 1-3) and the Awards Ceremony on Day 4.

**Teams:**

Teams shall consist of not less than four (4) and not more than six (6) members. Team members shall be matriculated undergraduate students in surveying or surveying related programs at the time of the competition in February of 2018 and shall not have graduated at the time of the competition. All work on the project shall be completed by the students on the team, Team members can be full or part-time students.

**Advisors:**

Teams must also have a faculty advisor who must accompany the team to the competition. The role of the advisor is to be a resource for students by pointing them toward resources that might help them answer their own questions and to help with travel and shipping logistics, safety, and administrative processes. The NSPS student competition is a student activity and is designed for students to have the opportunity to organize, schedule, lead and complete the project on their own. Sometimes this means that student projects are not as “perfect” or “polished” as faculty, administrators or practitioners may envision. An advisor’s role is to support and not participate or direct student efforts.

**FINAL REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES**

A final registration form (Simply update and use the Preliminary Notification Form) must be submitted with a $400 Registration Fee, per team, to the NSPS Office and postmarked on or before December 15, 2017.

*PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS MUCH EARLIER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS DUE TO THE EARLIER FEBRUARY CONFERENCE DATE.*

The mailing address for NSPS is:

**The National Society of Professional Surveyors**
5119 Pegasus Court, Suite Q
Frederick, MD 21704.

This $400 registration fee, per team will include access to all student competition specific activities and conference seminars. There may be activities/meals at the conference that are not included such as evening banquets, tours, etc.

Any additional students or faculty who wish to attend will need to pay the applicable regular rates and must register separately.
GENERAL NOTES ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The focus of the competition and judging will be how well students plan, organize, accomplish, and present their work.

NOTES ABOUT THE COMPETITION AND CONFERENCE:

Detailed judging rubrics, which will be used by the judges for the map and presentation portion of the competition will be provided at the beginning of the field exercise. The rubric for the judging of “Equipment and Preparedness” will be a checklist based on the required team and personal equipment.

All judging rubrics will be returned to teams at the time of the award presentations, at which time the decisions of the judges will be deemed final.

A block of rooms has been reserved for NSPS and includes a limited number of rooms beginning on the night of the 17th (Saturday Night). The link to reserve rooms is:

https://aws.passkey.com/go/SREG0218LXT

Subsurface Instruments, Inc., a Sustaining Member of NSPS has donated a large quantity of their Magnetic Locators to NSPS to give to programs that send a team to the 2018 Student Competition. I think it is safe to say that all schools that participate will receive at least one of these Magnetic Locators! This is a very generous donation with each Locator retailing for approximately $600, (or 1.5x the Registration Fee!)
PRELIMINARY-NOTIFICATION
2018 NSPS Student Competition Registration Form

Print clearly, please!

Please complete and submit this form via email on or before November 3, 2017 to the Competition Coordinator, A. Richard Vannozzi, MS, PLS (vannozzia@wit.edu) as a PDF.

Date Submitted: ____________________________

☐ Associates Degree Program Competition  or  ☐ Baccalaureate Degree Program Competition

School: ______________________________________

Mailing Address: ______________________________

City: ____________  State: _________  Zip code: ____________

Team Leader (Student): (1) ____________________________

Team Leader email address: ____________________________

Team Leader cell phone # (for use at the competition) ____________

Names of other team members, (matriculated students):

(2) 

(3) 

(4) 

(5) 

(6) 

Faculty Advisor who will be attending: ____________________________

Faculty Advisor email address: ____________________________

Faculty Advisor cell phone # (for use at the competition) ____________
September 19, 2017

NSPS Standards Committee Report and Recommendations
NSPS Board of Directors (BOD)
2017 Fall Meeting,
Frisco, Texas
September 19, 2017

The NSPS Standards Committee (SC) did not meet in 2017. Seminars on State Standards of Practice are presented on a regular basis throughout the country. The wise and consistent application of state and national standards can only help to enhance the image of the profession.

The following are the current charges of the SC;
1. Review and update the NSPS model technical standards.
2. Prepare model specifications for photogrammetric control surveys.
3. Review and update the NSPS model accuracy standards for construction surveys.

The last review/revision to charges 1 and 3 occurred in 2002. I am not aware of any change or review of charge 2. A review of the NSPS Model Standards would be appropriate at this time. I began a review of the existing NSPS Model Standards in the fall of 2016. The existing NSPS Model Standards are available on the NSPS website for any committee and/or NSPS members wishing to be part of this review. You are encouraged to contact the committee to express your interest.

As the committee chair I would like to recommend that the following items be added to the committee’s charges;
1. Using the “state survey matrix” as a basis, review the current status of “State Standards of Practice” (SSP) and a compile an easy reference to the SSP for use as examples by state agencies/organizations contemplating changes/revisions to their standards.
2. If not already charged to another committee, review existing state statutes and regulations regarding the definition of land surveying and recommend a Model Definition of Surveying.
3. Form a sub-committee to review and amend, where appropriate, the Model NSPS Standards. There is a significant diversity in practice and standards across the country. This sub-committee should have broad based representation from all parts of the country.
4. Contact photogrammetric service providers and request information regarding existing control survey standards.

The committee does not have any motions to be considered by the NSPS Board of Directors at this time.

The current list of committee members does not appear to be current. Any current members of the SC or current NSPS members with ideas on completing the SC charges and wishing to be active members of the SC should contact the committee.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Dahn, Chair
2017 SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 2017 – Frisco, Texas

ALTA/NSPS Standards Subcommittee of the NSPS Standards Committee

Prepared by Gary R. Kent, PS - Chair

Abstract

This committee works on behalf of NSPS and with ALTA on the Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys. The committee meets every spring and fall in conjunction with the NSPS annual and semi-annual meetings.

Charges

- Continue discussions with ALTA to determine which, if any, of the standards need reviewing.
- Prepare a joint meeting concerning ALTA/NSPS subjects for NSPS meetings
- Aid in developing the answers to questions from members regarding the standards when requested to do so.

Discussion

The current version of the standards – now known as the 2016 Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys - became effective on February 23, 2016. The new standards were the successful culmination of 2 years of effort by dozens, if not hundreds, of surveyors and a dedicated group of attorneys comprising the ALTA committee. The next revision is expected in 2021.

Since the Standards were adopted (on October 8, 2015 by ALTA and on October 9, 2015 by NSPS), the Chair has presented programs on the new standards 76 times in 26 states. A number of other surveyors have received support from the Chair in presenting programs in other states.

The Chair and NSPS Executive Director Curt Sumner collaborate on a regular “questions and answers” feature in the NSPS News and Views publication on the ALTA/NSPS standards.

The Chair, who also chairs the corresponding committee for the American Land Title Association, maintains frequent contact with ALTA’s Kelly Romeo, the staff person responsible for assisting the ALTA committee.

The Chair participated in a program on the 2016 Standards at the ALTA Business Strategies Conference in Indianapolis in March.

The concept of an ALTA/NSPS Surveyor Certification program was brought before the Board of Governors and supported by the ALTA/NSPS Subcommittee approximately six years ago. There has been a committee appointed and the Chair has offered to be a resource for that committee.

Recommendations - None at this time.

Motions to be considered by the NSPS Board of Directors - None.

Committee Members: Subcommittee members are Gary Kent (Chair), Craig Amey, Paul Burn, Armand Marois and Bob Neathamer with many de facto members being those attending the semi-annual meetings or otherwise participating in the on-going discussions.
Vision: The NSPS UAS Committee is in place to define and promote best practices for UAS use as a tool for NSPS surveyors.

There are many hurdles to integrating UAS, as a new tool, into our survey toolbox. They are both programmatic, including manuals, standard operating procedure and training, as well as the technical aspects of the equipment itself. The national and state and local regulatory and legislative environments are nothing if not fluid. And, UAS technology itself will continue to evolve in the context of survey.

The UAS committee identified the following sub-committees as essential to supporting the growth of UAS resources for NSPS surveyors.

These are initial 5 active subcommittees and chairs:

Program Development and Standards: Brad Guinther and Joanne Williamson

Legislation and Regulation-State and National: Craig Amey

UAS Survey Certification and Curriculum: Jolene Hoffman

Liaison: Brent Birth (UAVSI and CDA)

Web Page and NSPS liaison: pinch hitter Joanne Williamson

These sub-committees address the foundation of the resources we are trying to create.

Additionally these areas of interest will be vital to our knowledge base:

- Equipment and Emergent Technologies
- GIS and Image Security
- Insurance and Risk Management

Legislation: Craig Amey is following legislation in an advisory capacity at the State level, and has been following the FAA reauthorization at the national level as it is relevant to UAS.

UAS Curriculum Development and Certification: Jolene Hoffman, Surveyor and instructor at Great Basin College in Elko, Nevada, is actively working on a Survey Certification program for Surveyors.
Liaison: Brent Birth is working to get membership in the AUVSI, (Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International) and organization with local chapters that promotes the UAV and robotics industries. Chris Glantz wrote an article initially for his local chapter explaining the surveyor’s perspective and history with UAS and photogrammetry. It will serve as an introduction of the NSPS UAS Committee to a variety of audiences. Additionally the committee has reached out to the Commercial Drone Alliance (CDA) to investigate their agenda and possible membership.

Program Development and Standards: Brad Guinther, UAS Program Manager for Hunt, Guillot & Associates, LLC in Louisiana is organizing an effort to establish a set of Standard Operating Procedures, Training and Safety Standards, Manuals and logs as a resource for NSPS Surveyors. To that end the NSPS UAS Committee will be submitting a motion for funding to the Executive Committee.

This is a schematic representation of our committee.
### MEMBERSHIP

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Public Relations Report

NSPS President Elect Kim Leavitt and his brother Darin along with the help of the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado worked the annual American School Counselors Association (ASCA) conference which was held in Denver, CO in July 2017. The feedback was again very positive and many counselors taking business cards and requesting Surveyors and the Sand Box at their conventions. As the requests come in they are being forwarded to the Director of the state that they are located in. The next National ASCA conference will be held in Los Angeles July 14-17, 2018.

NSPS is looking into how build and transport augmented sandboxes for use by the states for their Public Relations projects. We are considering the shipping costs and how to make the transportation of the sandbox feasible. (Two hundred pounds of sand is not easy or cheap to ship)

Encouragement of the attendance of neighboring states conventions is still a top priority for informing our members of the great things NSPS is doing for them. Trish will mail you a package of flyers and trinkets for giving away.

If you have not ordered a banner for your state please do so.

Submittal of the Public Relations project will be due again this spring and States are encouraged to participate. This is a great way of sharing Public Relations ideas and possibly expanding on the methods of Public Relations within your own state.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Van Horn
MEMORANDUM of COMMUNICATION TASK FORCE

TO: Lisa VanHorn, Vice-President
FROM: Patricia P. Brooks, L.S.
DATE: October 4, 2017

As a subcommittee of the Public Relations Committee, the Communication Task Force was charged with developing strategies to establish better communication opportunities and structure for the Directors, Committees, and members of NSPS. As Committee Chair, I have failed to produce the required outcome, but have spent much time trying to develop a personal strategy to accomplish the goal. Good communication is the result of properly managing time so you can effectively communicate in a consistent manner. I have not been successful in that regard as it is easy to become derailed and address items that seem to be of a more time sensitive nature when I don’t have a concrete deadline to meet an obligation – or it is six months between meetings.

I applaud the Executive Committee in keeping the members up to date and communicating the minutes from your meetings in a timely manner over the past six months. I note that you generally meet the second Tuesday of each month. I would suggest that each committee chair should be required to submit a written report of activities by the Monday prior to each monthly meeting as a way of keeping the Ex Comm abreast of the Committee activities and to encourage the Chairs to keep the NSPS responsibilities we have assumed in the forefront. If there has been no activity, it can just be stated as such.

I will be working over the next few days to speak with my fellow Directors and develop a written strategy with associated time line for the Task Force. The draft report from the Future of Surveying Forum was great and it is wonderful to have Emily as such an engaged Director. I would like to follow up with Curt to see if I can get the name and contact information of the New York student at the Jamboree who is interested in Land Surveying so I can reach out to him and try to nurture that interest, and hopefully use his experiences to expand the interest to others.

Thank you for your patience and you have my commitment to dedicate the time required to properly perform my duties over the next six months.
Workforce Development Committee Report

August 6, 2017

- Since last NSPS Board of Directors meeting in March of 2017, the committee has formed a questionnaire for the NSPS State Directors. This questionnaire was designed to acquire information from each state to better understand the workforce development needs in each state. It was also designed to better study how those needs change depending on education requirements for licensing and the opportunities for that education in each state. This questionnaire was sent out to the State Directors in May and the NSPS staff compiled the results from that questionnaire. The committee still needs to evaluate those results and will be reporting those results to the NSPS Board of Directors at the 2017 Fall meeting.

- As chair of the committee, I was honored to represent NSPS at the 2017 Future of Land Surveying Task Force meeting on June 22, 2017 in Baton Rouge, LA. This was very much a working meeting with a great facilitator which kept us focused on getting a bunch done. There were quite a few related organizations represented at this meeting, including NCEES, NGS, SaGES, MAPPs, and POB Magazine. This meeting included a review of communications, sub-committee updates, NSPS Workforce Development direction, identifying and prioritizing specific targets, marketing and outreach plan development, tools and tactics for plan implementation, and implementation strategies and next steps. I will be providing the NSPS Executive Committee with a full report on this forum. At the conclusion, each participant had specific responsibilities to prepare information for a tool kit intended to be available by the NSPS 2017 Fall Meeting. This tool kit will be designed for states and individuals and contain templates and examples of outreach, along with lists of targeted audiences, and possible funding sources to help those states and individuals to help tackle the problems we face in the future of land surveying. This will have a direct effect on workforce development in the surveying profession.

- The committee has been communicating via email since the NSPS 2017 Spring meeting. We do not have a scheduled meeting at the 2017 Fall meeting, however, we will likely be meeting informally to evaluate the results of the questionnaire, and discuss next steps for the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily K. Pierce, Chair
Future of Surveying Forum – Previously the Future of Land Surveying Task Force from NCEES, the Future of Surveying Forum has been busy the last few months. As chair of the Workforce Development committee, I was honored to represent NSPS at the 2017 meeting on June 22, 2017 in Baton Rouge, LA. This was very much a working meeting with a great facilitator which kept us focused on getting a bunch done. There were quite a few related organizations represented at this meeting, including NCEES, NGS, SaGES, MAPPS, and POB Magazine. This meeting included a review of communications, sub-committee updates, NSPS Workforce Development direction, identifying and prioritizing specific targets, marketing and outreach plan development, tools and tactics for plan implementation, and implementation strategies and next steps. At the conclusion, each participant had specific responsibilities to prepare information for a tool kit intended to be available by the NSPS 2017 Fall Meeting. This tool kit will be designed for states and individuals and contain templates and examples of outreach, along with lists of targeted audiences, and possible funding sources to help those states and individuals to help tackle the problems we face in the future of land surveying. This will have a direct effect on workforce development in the surveying profession. Currently, on the NSPS website, there is a Future of Surveying tab which will be where the information from this forum will be available. Likewise, other Workforce Development information will reside too. There is also a 3PopQ tab, where small, three-question questionnaires will be available by link, along with the results from previous 3PopQ’s are available for viewing. I recommend you share your information on the 3PopQ, as well as encourage others to complete.

The members that attended the forum are still working on some documents for the toolkit. One that I think will be extra helpful, once ready for publication, is the “Marketing and Outreach Plan.” This has specific goals and objectives for land surveyors and NSPS directors to take back to their states and start implementing. These things include how to position yourself in the marketplace, specific target audiences, marketing strategies, community relations, engagement of the surveying profession, and how to measure your rate of success.

Workforce Development Spring Questionnaire to State Directors/Affiliates

While the committee is still working on summarizing the results for the meeting, here are a few preliminary results:

- Only 48% of the state’s delegates took the time to complete. This is disappointing. The point of this questionnaire was to get a good sense of workforce development needs nationwide. With barely half of the state represented, it’s difficult to decipher how we are doing with workforce development as a whole.
- Less populous states – 50% have no degree requirement, approximately two thirds believe that there is a workforce shortage, but the majority believe that wage levels are ok or appropriate (84%).
- Mid-populous states – only 10% have no degree requirement. Nearly 80% believe there is some sort of workforce shortage, and nearly have believe wages are too low.
- High-populous states – nearly half have a degree requirement, all believe there is a workforce shortage, and a third believe that wages are too low.
- Only 30% of states that have a degree requirement believe wages are too low.
- Half of the states that have a degree requirement believe wages are too low.
- Overall, 80% of respondents believe wages are too low.
- No state reported more than 20 annual graduates. Seems a small change in these numbers could have a huge impact overall.

I am hoping to have more results to share with the PR committee at their meeting, as well as the NSPS directors at the Fall 2017 NSPS meeting in TX. This committee is not scheduled to meet in TX, however, we may have an impromptu get-together to discuss the survey results extensively, as well as next steps.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Pierce, NSPS Workforce Development Chair
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES’ REPORTS
FOR 2017 FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 5TH, FRISCO, TEXAS
Patrick Beehler, PLS, CFedS - Chair

NSPS Committee Update
Donald Buhler
(dbuhler@blm.gov)
Chief Cadastral Surveyor
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
August 24, 2017

Certified Federal Surveyor (CFedS) Program:

In 2017, Steve Parrish was appointed as the new CFedS Panel Chairperson and Training Coordinator. Steve is licensed in 10 states and brings over 52 years of experience, in both private and public land surveying work, to the CFedS Program. Our thanks goes to Ron Scherler, the out-going Panel Chairperson and Training Coordinator, for his many years of dedication to the CFedS Program.

The CFedS Program is continuing on solid financial ground. The CFedS Financial Statements and Annual Budgets can be found under the Resources tab at CFedS.org. New trainees are registering every month and most of the CFedS are keeping current on their Continuing Education credits. There are currently 564 active CFedS and 111 active trainees. The CFedS Program also allows LSIT trainees to become CFedS Candidates. There are currently 4 active CFedS Candidates, and 15 active CFedS Candidate Trainees.

The BLM is excited to be working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide both in-house and private-contractor land survey work, in the near future. Please see the NRCS update below for more information about this project.

The CFedS Program will be participating in the 2018 Regional Conference, in Las Vegas, NV, on February 20-24, 2018. The CFedS Program will be conducting a full-day workshop; including presenters from the BLM Washington Office, BLM AZ, BLM NV, BLM UT, and CFedS. NSPS’s Curt Sumner will be the moderator for the day.

BLM Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Boundary Management:

The BLM is nearing the completion of a two-year Pilot Project that provided Cadastral Survey services to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
The purpose was to facilitate acquisition, management, and maintenance of NRCS conservation easements throughout each of the four NRCS regions.

The NRCS is proposing to expand the scope of work and add a significant amount of funding under a new five-year agreement with BLM for additional Cadastral Survey services nationwide. NRCS requires land surveys to be completed on many new parcels offered for its easement programs. In addition, NRCS has numerous previously acquired (legacy) easements, wherein the U.S. already holds title, that have not been surveyed under State or Federal authority.

When the agreement between NRCS and the BLM is finalized, the BLM will evaluate and determine state-specific locations where boundary surveys are needed. The BLM intends to issue contracts to qualified private land surveying firms for a significant number of these surveys. The contracts will be published on www.fbo.gov (a.k.a. FedBizOpps).

**BLM Public Land Survey System (PLSS) GIS:**

The BLM has nearly finished the collection and assembly of the GIS PLSS Dataset in the PLSS states (with the exception of Alaska); this includes government mineral surveys. The BLM continues to work internally and in partnership with other Federal agencies, state, county, and tribal governments to maintain and improve the data. The BLM uses this dataset to automate the creation of PLSS land descriptions for proposed land transactions on public lands. The BLM is actively promoting the use of this dataset by internal BLM programs as well as by other land management agencies and organizations to minimize the apparent displacement of land boundary information in GIS. Also, this information is used in many other applications, such as recreation, hunting and fishing mapping on cell phones.

Once completed the BLM envisions using this data to automate BLM Master Title Plats; these are maps that depict current land status on public lands in the Western US. The BLM also intends to continually improve the data with new GPS positions and other land survey information.

**Other BLM activities**

The BLM plans to support the NSPS bid for hosting the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Congress at Orlando, Florida, June 2022. BLM was one of the lead coordinator from the Washington FIG Conference in 2002 and fully support the FIG goals and objectives.

The Department of the Interior plans to modernize its organizational structure for better alignment with its partners. This will redistribute people and funding to enhance its mission and public service. BLM will be positively impacted by this effort.
2017 FIG WORKING WEEK – HELSINKI, FINLAND

The 2017 Fig Working Week was held May 27th - June 2 in Helsinki, Finland with the theme of Surveying the world of tomorrow – From digitalization to augmented reality. Three sub events were held prior to the working week: the 5th Fig Young Surveyors European Meeting week, a Building Information Modeling workshop- BIM for Surveyors and Surveyors of the North History Symposium.

Over 1400 attendees from 90 countries participated with over 400 papers presented in 57 technical sessions during the working week.

General Assembly (GA)

I attended both sessions of the General Assembly in Helsinki.

A report of actions by the General Assembly has been published on the FIG website (see http://fig.net/news/news_2017/06_general_assembly_minutes.asp). Here are some issues I believe to be of special interest to NSPS:

- 69 delegates were present in both sessions of the GA, representing 86 votes. (Members are allotted 1, 2 or 3 votes based on number of members in their organization. The US (NSPS), Germany, France, Italy and UK members each have 3 votes.
- A special Task Force on Commission Structure has been meeting since 2015 in response to a previous motion to review the commissions and consider changes. The TF has concluded that “FIG Member Associations are not yet ready for major changes” in commission structure but recommended several minor administrative changes. I expect that US/NSPS will participate in the TF study.
- Since the governance changes of 2001, FIG Statute 5.5 has mandated a limit of 2 consecutive terms for any member of the Council. This statute was revised to limit terms of members of the Council to 4 years while no individual member may serve more than 2 consecutive terms as vice president. (This change makes it possible for a Council VP, after 2 consecutive terms, to be eligible to run for president.)
- Member subscription rates were revised beginning in the year 2019. The 2018 rate will remain at 4.48 euros per member (of member association) up to 5,500 members with a minimum rate of 50 euros or 4.48 per member up to 20 members, whichever is greater. Maximum subscription rate was for 5,500 members, or 24,640 euros. This rate will have been in effect for 7 years (since 2012). Beginning in 2019 the per capita fee will be raised from 4.48 to 4.80 euros. Minimum fee will be calculated to 25 members or 50 euros, whichever is greater. Maximum fee will be 26,400, euros for 5,500 members.
- The venue for the FIG Working Week of 2021 was between Accra, Ghana and Krakow, Poland. In a close vote of 47 to 39 the GA chose Accra, Ghana as the preferred site.
- Two new Fig Honorary Members were selected: Yerach Daytsher (Israel) and Daniel Steudler (Switzerland).
- The FIG Council for the term 2017-2018 is FIG President Chryssy Potsiou (Greece), Diane Dumashie (United Kingdom), Orhan Erkan (Turkey), Mikael Lilje (Sweden), Rudolf Staiger (Germany).
I also represented NSPS in the Council of Regional Bodies (CRB) meeting composed of regional bodies like CLGE (Council of European Geodetic Surveyors), APPA (Pan American Association of Professional Land Surveying), RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), UAG (Arab Union of Surveyors), UMG (Mediterranean Union of Surveyors) and NSPS. CLGE acted as the chair of the meeting. NSPS will take over as chair for next year's meeting being held during the XXVI FIG Congress in Istanbul, Turkey in 2018.

I also represented NSPS in the Presidents Meeting-a meeting of presidents and heads of delegation representing FIG member associations.

Technical sessions
There were 412 technical papers presented at 57 technical sessions at this Working Week. In addition, there were 7 ISS (Inspirational Short Sessions) and 11 FIG Forums.
One interesting session was Developing Professional Networks and Mutual Recognition Agreements Around the Globe. I asked past ACSM President and Honorary FIG President Bob Foster to participate and explain the US system. [FIG Publication No. 27, “Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications” contains a good description of the system in the US and was discussed at some length, see http://fig.net/resources/publications/figpub/pub27/figpub27.asp] Jerry Carter, NCEES CEO, and Pat Tami, NCEES President-Elect, gave a presentation on Surveying Licensure in the United States - The Licensure Process and Efforts to Promote the Surveying Profession (see www.fig.net/resources/proceedings/fig_proceedings/fig2017/ppt/t081/TS081_carter_9111.ppt.pdf). It was their first time attending an FIG event and they were both impressed with the professionalism and broad scope of the conference.

The NSPS delegation in attendance at the 2017 FIG Working Week in Helsinki:
Bob Foster, FIG Commission 3 (Spatial Information Management)
Dan Roman (NGS), FIG Commission 5 (Positioning and Measurement)
John Hamilton, FIG Commission 6 (Engineering Surveys)
John Hohol, FIG Commission 7 (Cadastre and Land Management) and Head of Delegation
Steve Nystrom, FIG Commission 9 (Valuation and the Management of Real Estate)

I also attend meetings and sessions organized by Commission 1 (Professional Standards and Practice) and Commission 2 (Professional Education).

Future venues
2018 FIG Congress- Istanbul, Turkey
2019 FIG Working Week- Hanoi, Vietnam
2020 FIG Working Week- Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2021 FIG Working Week- Accra, Ghana

ACEC: Henry Dingle

I spoke with Tim Cawood who chairs the ACEC Business Practices Committee, and he said the relative topic at this time is strongly supporting the Geospatial Data Act of 2017. As you know this puts Surveying and Mapping in QBS which is a very good thing. He said they continue to
have opposition from the GISCI Board (GIS Certification Institute) because they think it will eliminate them from mapping projects.

ACEC continues to be a strong supporter of our “wonderful” CST program.

We also discussed my joining ACEC so we can continue this dialogue on a regular basis.

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Professional Surveyors Canada (PSC): Patrick Beehler

I remain in contact with PSC and receive their monthly e-newsletter “Horizon News”. Their website is https://www.psc-gpc.ca/

They are participating in a national Damage Prevention Symposium that includes many Canadian organizations and associations who share the responsibility of damage prevention and public safety solutions. Topics under development include:

- Ground Disturbance Standard
- Abandoned Facility - A Panel Discussion
- Excavating Effective Strategies
- International Best Practices
- Protecting the Infrastructure through Public/Private Partnerships
- Municipal Best Practices - A Panel Discussion

September Webinar: "Cyber Security in the Workplace: Are you a target?"
How to Protect Yourself from Ransomware and other Cyber Threats to Your Business
Association of Ontario Land Surveyors
The AOLS Webinar was Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 12:00-1:00 pm.

Canada “GoGeomatics”:
This annual event brings the Canadian geospatial community together to welcome new and returning students to the geomatics sector every year in September. This year they are proud to announce that 12 groups are hosting Back to School Events.
Last year over 400 people participated in the socials.
These are the most popular networking events in Canada for the sector. They get together for drinks and conversation and build a stronger geomatics sector one connection at a time.
Prepared by
David Doyle
Base 9 Geodetic Consulting Services
www.base9geodesy.com
September 21, 2017

BACKGROUND:

The NSPS AAGS Subcommittee is tasked with maintaining a continuing liaison with AAGS and to provide feedback to NSPS on any and all AAGS activities that can have broad benefit to NSPS membership

ACTIVITIES:

Since the last NSPS Directors meeting in March 2017, I have attended all but one of the monthly AAGS Board and General Membership teleconference meetings. During that time three issues have been pursued by AAGS that I believe are of significant interest to NSPS:

1. Geodetic Certification: AAGS has gone through a leadership change on the Geodetic Certification effort. The previous chair Michael Dennis stepped down to work on his PhD dissertation and has been replaced by Dr. Herb Stoughton. Nothing significant in terms of detailing educational assets or the testing and evaluation criteria have been completed at this time.

2. Association affiliation: While the AAGS board is still looking to increase affiliations with state surveying societies no new efforts were made during this period to sign any new state affiliation agreements.

3. National surveying conference: While the board is anxious to work with state surveying associations to provide technical seminar it laments that fact that there is currently no national conference platform provided by NSPS such as was previously sponsored by ACSM. In order to broaden the visibility of the association and to provide more extensive outreach the board has engaged with ASCE to sponsor technical sessions at their Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (USEI) Surveying and Geomatics conference in Pomona, CA during April 22-24, 2018.
Dear President Fokins:

Over the past year, as Liaison for American Bar Association (ABA), I have monitored changes in laws, rules and regulations that affect both attorneys and land surveyors throughout the United States.

Over these 12 months, I have not found any immediate sources of concern to report.

I have contacted the ABA in hopes of finding an ABA officer or volunteer whose role is similar to mine here at NSPS. But the ABA did not respond.

I will continue to monitor changes in laws and regulations and report any important findings back to NSPS.

Thank You,
Dr. Nettleman
Ok. I am unaware of the specific charge of this committee, so at the moment have nothing to report.

A little background: along with my 9 state licenses and two Federal appointments, I hold a Bachelors Degree in Cartography 1998, and a Master's Degree in GIS from U.Idaho, 2002. Further, in the long ago 1980's I enjoyed getting and reading the American Cartographer magazine from ACSM.

Though there is some intersection between small area surveying and large area cartography and GIS, it is of fairly limited extent. Once a cadastral network and parcel basemap is created from survey precision data, the GIS can basically run on its own.

Of course any competent GIS shop should have a PLS on staff, for updates, firewall of data input, etc.

Again, not sure what my charge is here.
REPORT ON SITE VISIT TO FLORIDA

Curt Sumner, NSPS Executive Director, and myself visited Florida August 9-11 to review several potential venues in preparation for developing the NSPS bid to host the 2022 FIG Congress. The bid must be submitted to FIG this fall (2017).

**Wednesday, August 9th**
Met with Rodger Wright, Senior Sales Manager with Disney Destinations in charge of coordination of meetings at Walt Disney World.

Rodger showed us a preview video of the new construction and renovations occurring at Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort, our proposed venue for the 2022 FIG Congress. The construction includes a new 15-story building housing 500 sleeping rooms and a rooftop restaurant, along with other new restaurants onsite. The hotel is also renovating its other sleeping rooms, current restaurants and public spaces. All construction and renovation is set to be completed by fall 2019.

Rodger also took us on a short tour of the updated shopping district originally known as Downtown Disney and now called Disney Springs. During lunch at the Boathouse Restaurant, Rodger introduced us to Cathy Seery, Disney Institute Account Manager, who provided us with information on behind-the-scenes Disney tours that are available.

In the evening Rodger took us to Fort Wilderness and Pioneer Hall to see a performance of Disney’s Hoop-Dee-Doo Revue, a Western-themed vaudeville dinner show which is a potential venue for the hosting of the FIG Foundation Dinner.

Rodger, with his sales coordinator Ashley Lewis, are ready to assist with anything necessary to ensure NSPS a successful bid to host the 2022 FIG Congress.

**Thursday, August 10th**
Met with William (Bill) Muscatello, Orange County Surveyor; Richard Allen, City of Orlando Surveyor; Mark Daynes, Orange County Senior Surveyor and Mapper; Gary Krick, President- Southeastern Surveying; and Ronnie Figueroa, Survey Manager- Southeastern Surveying and NSPS Director representing Florida Surveying and Mapping Society (FSMS). Requested their support and discussed with them ideas for the program, venues for social and technical tours, dinners, receptions, etc. All very receptive and enthusiastic to support in any way.

Met with Elizabeth Pucateri, representative of the Orlando Convention and Visitors Bureau to discuss options and opportunities for technical and social tour venues, dinners, receptions, etc.

Met with Gordon Land, new Walt Disney World Chief Surveyor, who replaced retired Bud Joiner. Gordon is totally receptive in agreeing to participate and support our Congress program in any way. He agreed to behind-the-scenes technical tours of the Walt Disney World surveying and GIS departments as well as presenting, along with Bud Joiner, the history of surveying and construction at Walt Disney World.

**Friday, August 11th**
Met with Hilda Fraticelli, Special Events Manager at Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Hilda gave us personal tour of Kennedy Space Center and highlighted the most important attractions and venues. Both Hilda and KSC will provide customized activities and tours including meeting astronauts, receptions, lunches, dinners, etc.

**** submitted August 14, 2017 **
Rendezvous 2017 is history. Held over the course of four days, September 13–16, 2017, in and around Concord, Massachusetts, the central theme of Rendezvous 2017 was the surveying career of Henry David Thoreau. Most people know Thoreau as the guy who lived in a cabin for a couple of years then wrote a book about it. However, between 1846 and 1860, Thoreau also had a substantial career as a land surveyor in and around Concord, Massachusetts.

Morning classroom sessions included presentations on Thoreau by Patrick Chura, author of Thoreau the Land Surveyor (University Press of Florida, 2010). Chura discussed Thoreau’s literary and surveying careers and how each influenced the other. He also discussed Thoreau’s survey of Walden Pond and his support for the activities of John Brown leading up to the Civil War. Brown also was a surveyor.

Kimberly Buchheit, a Professional Surveyor and Mapper from Florida, gave a presentation titled Exploring Henry David Thoreau’s Footsteps - a Toddler’s Perspective. An overview of the Massachusetts Land Court was presented by Don Poole of Outermost Land Survey in Brewster, Massachusetts and Ed O’Brien, NSPS Director from Rhode Island, gave a presentation on the Massachusetts - Rhode Island Boundary Survey and the Burnt Swamp Corner.

Afternoons both days saw participants visiting the Battle Road unit of Minute Man National Historical Park, conversing with Henry David Thoreau (in the person of Richard Smith) at Walden Pond and taking a walking tour of Concord with historian Jayne Gordon. The walking tour incorporated unique stops at 110 Walden Street to discuss Thoreau’s 1851 Stow survey and at the Thoreau-Alcott house at 255 Main Street where, on February 7, 1851, Thoreau performed a Polaris observation to establish a true meridian that he subsequently used to monitor the variation of his compass needle.

Attendees also visited the Concord Free Public Library where they were able to view the Library’s current exhibit featuring Thoreau’s C.G. King Compass and his homemade chaining pins. In addition, Leslie Perrin Wilson, curator of the Library’s William Munroe Special Collections, prepared an exhibit of Thoreau plats and maps exclusively for Rendezvous participants.

Transporting more than 120 Rendezvous participants to 7 venues on 3 buses over the course of 2 days required more choreography than a Broadway musical but, thanks to some detailed planning and exemplary service from a number of volunteer chaperones, we pulled it off. To the best of our knowledge there are no Rendezvous participants still wandering around Concord looking for their bus.

A highlight of the 2017 Rendezvous was the placement and dedication of a Final Point marker at Thoreau’s grave in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Lorna Hainesworth of Randallstown, Maryland sponsored the Final Point event and David Ingram of Mount Crawford, Virginia installed the monument behind the Thoreau family headstone located on "Author’s Ridge" at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and collected the GPS data to establish coordinates on the point (Lat 42° 27’ 52.945”, Lon 71° 20’ 32.691”). Speakers at the dedication included Gina Nasson (Vice Chair of the Cemetery Committee), Dan Rowley (Superintendent of Highways and Grounds), Richard Leu (current Chairman of the Surveyors Historical Society), and Curt Sumner (NSPS Executive Director). The support and enthusiasm of cemetery superintendent Tish
Hopkins was also invaluable in the success of this project. Quite a large crowd attended the event which also was covered by local media outlets.

Rendezvous 2018 will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. 2018 is the tricentennial of the founding of New Orleans. We have secured a block of rooms at the Astor Crown Plaza hotel for the unheard of rate of $105 per night. The hotel is located at the corner of Canal and Bourbon Streets in the heart of the French Quarter.

Preliminary planning is also underway for Rendezvous 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah. 2019 is the 150th anniversary of a number of events in Utah including the Golden Spike ceremony at Promontory Summit, the establishment of the latitude and longitude stations in Salt Lake City by the USC&GS and the descent of the Green and Colorado Rivers by John Wesley Powell.

Over the years the Rendezvous has transformed and mutated. Some feel the event has strayed from its original objective and become too complicated. Others think it is fine the way it is. To resolve this issue, the SHS Board of Directors plans to conduct a comprehensive review of the goals and objectives of the Rendezvous. As part of this review effort, SHS members are being asked to provide feedback on what they view as the strengths and weaknesses of the Rendezvous. The SHS Board wants to determine what’s going well and what needs improvement. All topics are open for discussion. The purpose of the review is to improve the event while preserving the original goals of the Rendezvous; learn something, accomplish something and have a good time.
Report of the NSPS Past Presidents Council (committee).

Committee Chairman: Past President J. Anthony Cavell

Abstract: The Past President’s Council has not been very active to this point. It was created by then President Warren to provide council to the president. It is still in a formative stage and has not been called on to provide assistance.

The current chairman intends to “stir the pot” a bit and get the council to consider, in advance, items that may prove informative to a current president.

Charges:

1. Encourage and retain past president involvement in the Society
2. Provide membership, operational, and technical support,
3. Maintain an institutional memory for the Society
4. Provide counsel as requested by the NSPS President, Board of Directors, or committees
5. Discuss any matter requested by the NSPS President
6. Report any findings, conclusions and recommendations to the NSPS Board of Directors.

Recommendations: None at this time

Motions to Be Considered by The Board of Directors None at this time

Committee Members: All Past Presidents of NSPS

J. Anthony Cavell

Signature: (Chairman)

Date: September 30, 2017

Digitally signed by J. Anthony Cavell
DR: cowsi, Anthony Cavell,
cGPSman, ou,
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Date:2017.10.01 09:44:59 -07'00'