



## Great Lakes Regional Forum

### NOAA/NGS Height Modernization Program

• Wednesday, September 24, 2008 • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison, WI •

## Agenda: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

- 8:00           **Registration/Continental Breakfast**
- 8:30           **Welcome/Opening Remarks** - *Paul Hartzheim, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Gilbert Mitchell, National Geodetic Survey (NGS)*  
This opening session will provide an introduction to the discussions planned for the next two days, including NGS interests in partnering with states to improve elevation data, WisDOT's plans for support of state Height Modernization efforts in the Great Lakes Region, and expected results from this forum.
- 8:45           **National Height Modernization Program (HMP) – An Overview** - *Renee Shields, NGS*  
For the past several years, at the specific direction of Congress, NGS has been developing ways to cost effectively improve elevation across the country. This session will include a discussion of the history and evolution of the HMP, and describe the regional program now being put in place, built on partnerships between NGS and states.
- 9:45           **GRAV-D Program** - *Mark Eckl, NGS*  
Information on gravity is a key component in the determination of accurate elevations. Improvement in the quality and quantity of gravity data through the GRAV-D program is critical for improving the accuracy of elevation data. This session will describe specific goals and expectation for GRAV-D, expected costs, and how it benefits and compliments other components of the HMP.
- 10:15           **Break**
- 10:30           **Height Modernization Applications** - *Gary Thompson, North Carolina Geodetic Survey*  
North Carolina was one of the first states to partner with NGS to improve their elevation data. Over the past 10 years North Carolina has realized substantial benefits as of result of this partnership. Several applications of these HMP efforts and the resulting benefits will be described in this session.
- 11:00           **Regional HMP Plan** - *Renee Shields, NGS*  
NGS's parent organization, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has been using a regional approach for many of the programs under its jurisdiction. Benefits and challenges of the regional approach will be discussed, along with the details on current NGS plans for partnering with states on a regional basis.
- 11:30           **Report from other HMP Regions – Gulf of Mexico Region** - *Dr. Gary Jeffress, RPLS, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi*  
NGS/NOAA regions have a number of things in common, as well as unique characteristics. This discussion will describe Gulf of Mexico regional efforts that have been designed to build on the common problems and characteristics, and still provide support of the unique situations that each state will typically face.
- 12:00           **Lunch** (provided)
- 1:00           **Individual State Presentations:** Opportunity for a representative of each state to give a 15-20 minute presentation on activities/needs in their states
- Wisconsin
  - Ohio
  - Michigan
  - Indiana
  - Illinois
  - Minnesota
  - Iowa

State presentations will include such things as the history and status of geodetic programs in their state, plans for the next five years, interest and support (staffing, cost sharing, etc.) at the present time for HMP, and any preliminary thoughts on the NGS/NOAA regional approach for the HMP.

- 2:30            **Break**
- 2:45            **Continuation of State Presentations**
- 3:30            **Open Discussion and Comments** by states on current status and prospects -An opportunity for all forum participants to share their thoughts on the HMP in general, the regional approach outlined by NGS, and opportunities they see for participation (or continuing participation) in the HMP.
- 4:45            **Wrap-up** (day one)



## Great Lakes Regional Forum

### NOAA/NGS Height Modernization Program

• Thursday, September 25, 2008 • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Madison, WI •

#### Agenda: Thursday, September 25, 2008

- 8:00            **Introduction/Plan for the Day** – *Paul Hartzheim, WisDOT*  
Day two is **primarily a working session for state representatives** with an interest in developing or expanding a Height Modernization Program partnership with NOAA/NGS.
- 8:15            **Grant Program** – *Sonita Tiwari, NGS, Paul Hartzheim, WisDOT*  
Federal funding support for state partners in the HMP has been provided for the past several years through a grant program administered by NOAA through NGS. This session will provide an overview of this grant program, including use of the [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) site that provides the gateway for general information about grants, applying for grants, and providing technical and financial reports that are required.
- 9:00            **Additional Comments** and questions/feedback on topics presented on Day 1
- 9:45            **Break**
- 10:15           **Continue Discussion:**  
- NGS National HMP Plan  
- NGS/NOAA Regional approach to the HMP  
- Ideas for governance of N-HMP
- 10:45           **Where do we go from here?** - State representatives:  
- Brainstorm strategy for Great Lakes Region  
- Potential opportunities for multi-state HMP efforts  
- Specifics as to what and how on joint efforts
- 11:30           **Wrap-up:**  
- Summarize action items  
- Plans for future meetings
- Noon           **Adjourn** or Lunch (on your own) if afternoon breakout meetings are planned
- 1:00 – 4:00   **Space** will be available at the hotel for additional breakout meetings that may be needed, such as:  
- State DOT representatives to discussion items of mutual concern  
- State Geodetic Advisors to hold a regional meeting for general NGS programs of general interest.



**Great Lakes Regional Forum Registration Form**

**Great Lakes Regional Height Modernization Meeting**

• Wednesday & Thursday, September 24 & 25, 2008 • Crowne Plaza Hotel • Madison, WI •

**To Register:** Please email, fax or mail your form to Ann Barrett with Conners/Barrett & Co., LLC at: [abarrett@uniontel.net](mailto:abarrett@uniontel.net) or fax: 715-366-4501 or PO Box 389, Wild Rose, WI 54984 or call: 715/366-4500 to register for the Great Lakes Regional Forum September 24- 25, 2008 in Madison, WI.

**Directions to Crowne Plaza Hotel:**

4402 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53704, Phone: 608/244-4703 or 800-404-7630, <http://www.crowneplaza.com/madison-etown> email: [crowne@inxpress.net](mailto:crowne@inxpress.net)

The hotel is located on the east side of Madison and is three (3) miles from the Dane County Regional Airport (MSN) with a complimentary airport shuttle.

**From Chicago:** Travel I-90/39 West to Highway 151 South, Exit 135A. Travel 1/2 mile. Hotel will be on your right. **From Milwaukee:** Travel I-94 West, continue towards Wisconsin Dells, Take Highway 151 South, Exit 135A. Travel 1/2 mile. Hotel will be on your right. Or, go to their website under transportation for directions.

**Lodging Reservations:** Call 608/244-4703 or 800-404-7630 to make reservations. The Great Lakes Forum has two blocks of rooms set aside. One block for Federal employees for \$89 single, \$99 double and another block for State employees for \$70 single and \$80 double. Please let the hotel know which rate you qualify for.

**Cost: Registration Fee: \$40.00 (\$40 covers both days).** Make check or money order payable to **Wisconsin Department of Transportation** and mail to: Great Lakes Regional HM Forum in c/o Conners/Barrett & Co., P.O. Box 389, Wild Rose, WI 54984. Check or money order must arrive prior to September 22, 2008.

**Cancellations:** You may cancel by Monday noon, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 for a full refund. After September 22, 2008, there are no refunds.

**REGISTRATION FORM:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK ATTENDANCE\*:**

- Wednesday, September 24 Meeting  \$40.00
- Thursday, September 25 Meeting  No charge

**PAYMENT:**

Please make check or money order payable to **Wisconsin Department of Transportation** and mail to:

**Great Lakes Regional HM Forum  
c/o Conners/Barrett & Co.  
P.O. Box 389  
Wild Rose, WI 54984**