

ASPRS NSRS Modernization Working Group Meeting Geo Week 2026

February 17, 2026 @ 8:30-9:30 AM; Denver, Colorado

ATTENDEES

WG Members: Qassim Abdullah (Woolpert), Christopher Parrish (Oregon State Univ), Linda Foster (ESRI and NSPS)

NGS: Marian Westley (CO-OPS Director & NGS Director, acting), Galen Scott, Brian Shaw, Seth Pollack, Dana Caccamise II, Dan Roman

Others: Dave Zilkoski (Geospatial Solutions by DBZ & AAGS President Elect), Michael Detwiler (Great Basin Geomatics), Josh Nimetz (USGS), Matt Betthel (Merrick & Company), Blaine Horner (Merrick & Company), Jenna Borberg (Oregon State Univ), and others.

Notes taken by J. Borberg

Supporting materials: WG 2/17/2026 Presentation Slides

AGENDA

1. Intro and Welcome
2. Goals of WG
3. A word from NGS Director, Dr. Marian Westley
4. ASPRS activities in preparing for the modernized NSRS
5. Appointment of a secretary / note taker and comms officer
6. Summary of NGS advancements in the NSRS Modernization program
7. Gathering suggestions for topics and projects for the WG
8. Other business

NEXT STEPS & ACTIONS:

- [PE&RS article – Ready, Set Modernize](#) – Share public article link with NGS, Zilkoski, and others.
- Member Questionnaire – Share draft with other professional societies (including AAGS – Zilksoki), share any updates with NGS (Caccamise), and distribute to ASPRS members.
- File formats - Help NGS understand stakeholder file formats, readiness for time-dependent coordinates, and make sure there aren't any skeletons that NGS isn't already aware of.
- ASPRS NSRS Modernization WG Website and Membership - Distribute link to the WG page (<https://community.asprs.org/wg-nsrs/home>), enlist more subscribers, and encourage discussions on the community forum.
- New Contractual Language - Finalize and put out examples of new wording to include in contracts; as a next step, Parrish will share an updated version of the workflow slide to request input.
- Publish Workarounds – some are just fine and we should publish those.
- Publications - Produce a new article; follow on to the PE&RS article.

MEETING NOTES

Intro and Welcome

Qassim Abdullah welcomed everyone to the meeting of the ASPRS NSRS Modernization Working Group (WG). The WG has met in-person the last few years during Geo Week. He introduced himself as chair and Chris Parrish as co-chair of the WG; other WG members include Linda Foster, Hank Theiss, and Benjamin Wilkinson. Jenna Borberg was appointed as WG note taker and comms officer during the meeting. Around the room introductions were made by all attendees.

A Word from the NGS Director

Dr. Marian Westley, CO-OPS Director and NSG Acting Director, gave welcome remarks from NOAA. She shared NGS' timeline for release of the modernized NSRS – they released a few beta products last year, they will release the remaining beta products in 2026, there will be a minimum six-month public feedback period, and then full release will be in 2027. She also reported that as CO-OPS and NGS have long collaborated on GNSS on tidal benchmarks, they recently (about 6 months ago) decided to release the next National Tidal Datum Epoch (NTDE) in alignment with the timing of NGS' release of the modernized NSRS.

ASPRS NSRS Modernization WG Objectives

Abdullah presented an overview of the WG Objectives:

- To inform the industry about the upcoming NSRS updates being introduced by NGS, expected to be completed by 2025.
- To conduct regular public meetings designed to increase awareness about the new datum and the impact of transitioning existing or legacy data to it in 2025.
- To provide educational materials, training, and information concerning the upcoming NSRS modifications.
- To encourage software developers to adopt these changes in a timely manner.

He also highlighted NSRS related sessions during Geo Week 2026:

- ASPRS NSRS Modernization WG Meeting (ASPRS-hosted)
- NSRS Modernization – Latest Tech Updates (NGS-hosted)
- Preparing to put the Modernized NSRS into Practice – with industry panelists (ASPRS-hosted)
- NSRS Modernization and Professional Societies Roundtable (ASPRS-hosted)

Comments from NGS:

- In general, big companies like ESRI and Trimble are getting ready; smaller companies that have less resources need more help, so it is crucial that we support these companies.
- NGS wants to pass on the awareness side to professional societies so that NGS can focus on supporting the software developers.

ASPRS Activities in Preparing for the Modernized NSRS

Parrish presented a brief background on ASPRS, highlighted activities that the WG has been doing to help prepare industry for the modernized NSRS, and shared potential future activities to solicit NGS feedback on those ideas. *See presentation slides from the 2/17/26 Meeting*

NSRS Modernization WG Activities:

- ASPRS Standards Committee – The ASPRS NSRS WG falls within the ASPRS Standards Committee which plays a key role in keeping industry informed about coming changes in the NSRS. Abdullah is Chair of the Committee and this WG.
- [PE&RS Ready, Set, Modernize](#) highlight article – the WG along with Stephen White of NGS published an article that includes recommendations for industry (service providers, hardware and software manufacturers, etc.) to prepare for modernization; the article is publicly available.
- Meetings at Geo Week Conference – The WG has had dedicated in-person meetings at Geo Week the past 3 years; and members host and participate in associated NSRS modernization panels and sessions throughout the event.
- [NSRS Modernization Working Group Website](#) – ASPRS hosts a page for the WG where the team posts upcoming events and disseminates NSRS information and publications. There are currently 30 subscribers. It is through this site that members can participate in the online discussion board and are encouraged to contribute to NSRS Modernization success stories.
- NSRS Modernization case studies are underway.

Proposed Activities by the WG:

- Membership Questionnaire
 - The WG plans to send a questionnaire to ASPRS members to collect information that would be helpful to NGS in understanding industry readiness and needs for preparing for the modernized NSRS. The survey includes questions about basic demographics, software, geospatial data holdings, processing workflows, and level of preparation for NSRS Modernization.
 - The survey was designed in coordination with NGS, and before releasing it, the WG is looking for further NGS feedback.

Action

- *Zilkoski noted that AAGS is also planning to send a survey to their members; and Parrish responded that the WG would share the draft survey with him.*
- Additional Questions for Geospatial Software Developers
 - Parrish shared some additional questions that can be included in the survey for Geospatial Software Developers. There was discussion around file format challenges and that they aren't all ready for time-dependent coordinates. It was noted that there is good overlap in people that are in this group as well as FGDC to help facilitate these conversations; but that additional survey questions addressing file formats could be good to help NGS make sure there aren't skeletons that they aren't aware of.

- EPSG Codes and ISO Geodetic Registry – The challenge was brought up that geospatial software industry works almost exclusively in EPSG Codes while NGS uses ISO Geodetic Registry. NGS is aware of this and will support EPSG codes, but responded that the ISO is the authority and EPSG and others should align with that. Helping communicate this would be a helpful role for this WG.
- New Contractual Language & Workflow
 - Parrish shared examples of types of questions the WG is hearing from industry professionals. When companies get their new contract with updated language, they need all companies in their workflow to be ready to support the modernized NSRS.
 - He proposed that this WG could share examples of what contract language may look like, and to help companies understand the workflow implications.
 - In response to the question of how they will know if other companies in their workflow are ready to support the modernized NSRS, he proposed the idea of some sort of *stamp* saying that they are ready.

Discussion

- There was general support that it would be helpful for the WG to put out example updated contract language, and to include example workflows. In addition to benefiting industry, this would be important for government agencies putting out contracts to help raise awareness and ensure consistency in language. It was also noted that information needs to be tailored for various audiences – from mid-sized geospatial firms to large firms, and that a decision tree to give guidance may be a good approach. Caccamise suggested that maybe we focus on the bigger vendors first; they need to have a strategy for how to bridge when vendors aren't ready.
- There were several people who voiced support of the WG/professional societies initiating some sort of stamp saying the company is ready to support the modernized NSRS. A challenge was noted from an industry perspective - there will be a transition and many different scenarios; so instead of asking *are you ready to support modernized NSRS*, it was suggested that we ask ***what stage of readiness are you in?***
- It was also suggested that in some cases there are acceptable workarounds, and that we should publish those.
- An important consideration was noted - we have a statutory process unfolding in each state as they prepare for the modernized NSRS; they are all updating the statutes, but are on different timelines.

Actions

- The WG will put out examples of wording to include in contracts; as a next step, Parrish will share an updated version of the workflow slide to request input.

- Other Anecdotal Question Examples
 - Parrish shared a few other anecdotal questions that the WG could post and provide answers to. NGS noted that in general, they are looking to this WG to help come up with questions and to rule out questions that are legitimate and worth responding to and posting.

WG Focus - Suggestions from the Audience

- Increase reach – NGS expressed the importance of building this community and asked the best way to drive people to the NSRS Modernization WG. It was suggested that the NSRS Modernization WG page on the ASPRS website is a good place to direct people and to encourage them to subscribe. It would be good to increase subscribers to the this WG and facilitate more discussions on the website forum.
- Geospatial software:
 - File formats - Help NGS understand stakeholder file formats, readiness for time dependent coordinates, and make sure there aren't any skeletons that NGS isn't already aware of.
 - EPSG codes v ISO Geodetic Registry – It was noted that geospatial industry uses EPSG codes almost exclusively, while the ISO Geodetic Registry is supposed to be the official registry. NGS suggested that a helpful role for the ASPRS WG is to educate industry that ISO Geodetic Registry is the authority.
- Contractual language guidance – Craft draft language to include in contracts (building on the anecdotal questions that Parrish shared during the meeting).
- Case studies – Zilkoski noted that AAGS is also working on a case study, so it could be good to coordinate / share efforts.