

Hydrology/Hydraulics GIS Applications Workgroup

Minutes of teleconference June 12, 2008

Attended: Mary Greene, Zhida Song-James, Bill Merkel, notekeeper

Web Pages:

The web page for the workgroup is: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/h2gisa/>

The web page for the Subcommittee on Hydrology (SOH) is: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology>

These teleconference minutes will be added to the web page.

Questionnaire:

The Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) is going to respond about the issue of distributing the questionnaire. In a preliminary opinion, they said that non-federal members of the Work Group could distribute and receive replies from the questionnaire. If this is the way we end up going, it would not create large problems. One option would be to have Work Group members submit e-mail addresses of all those who would be sent a questionnaire. Our non-federal members could actually send out the e-mails with questionnaire attached. We will discuss this over the next couple weeks and hope to resolve the issue.

A questionnaire was received on June 10 from Rose Dopsovic, USACE, Mobile, AL, Coastal programs.

Live Meeting

The largest part of the teleconference was setting up and participating in a Live Meeting demonstration of the open source public domain GIS called MapWindow. MapWindow is a “complete” GIS in that it can be used to display geographic data layers (grids, vectors, and images) which are both ESRI compatible and/or generic quality such as ASCII grids. The “complete” means that though it contains a significant number of commands, options, menu bars, etc, there are many things that are in standard ESRI products that are not available in MapWindow. Some of these include many of the Spatial Analyst, ArcCatalog, and ArcToolbox functions.

There is a plug-in menu which does elementary DEM processing to derive a watershed boundary and certain watershed and stream characteristics. A complete sample project

was demonstrated in the Live Meeting. Advantages of MapWindow are that it is not so complicated (meaning that a user would need less training to use it) and also if someone has been using ESRI products, commands, options, and menus in MapWindow are quite similar in both naming and operation.

Action Items from Teleconference:

1. After some initial operational questions were resolved, the Live Meeting worked well. Members are encouraged to investigate if they can access this meeting protocol. At future teleconferences, more Live Meetings are planned. If anyone would like to demonstrate a GIS application at a future teleconference, please let Bill know. There are several good candidates which would have wide-spread interest such as AGWA, EPA BASINS, and StreamStats.
2. Workgroup members are requested to submit a list of e-mail addresses of individuals who are intended to receive a questionnaire within their respective agencies. We can discuss further logistics at the next teleconference.

Next teleconference: Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at 11:00 AM eastern time.