

Charter Steering Committee for the Watershed Boundary Dataset

I. Purpose of the Charter

This exhibit addresses the responsibilities for the coordination of activities related to the [Watershed Boundary Dataset \(WBD\)](#) at the public, state and Federal levels and among all interested parties. This exhibit establishes a mechanism to coordinate the acquisition, development, use, sharing, and dissemination of WBD financed in whole or in part by federal funds and where appropriate, non-federal partners. The Charter defines the WBD Steering Committee, the National Technical Coordinators, WBD Product and Service Lead, and WBD State Stewardship Work Group, as well as the role of the NHD Program Manager as it pertains to the WBD.

II. Authority

Under the [Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16](#), revised 2002, responsibility to coordinate the Watershed Boundary Dataset is assigned to the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Government-wide leadership for the WBD is carried out, in accordance with agency program needs, under the policy guidance and oversight of the [Subcommittee for Spatial Water Data \(SSWD\)](#), reporting to both the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the Advisory Committee for Water information (ACWI). The SSWD is responsible for establishing vision, direction, and program goals and oversees the WBD Steering Committee.

III. Lead Agency

USGS, in collaboration with NRCS, is the lead for the development of the WBD along with the National Hydrography Dataset and is the designated long-term data steward. However, data development, WBD standards, the data generation process and data delivery is a collaborative partnership among member agencies of the WBD Steering Committee. As such, it is agreed that decisions impacting the data content and usability will be agreed to by the Steering Committee members.

IV. Organization

The WBD Steering Committee facilitates the development and availability of WBD data via standards, advanced technology and techniques, quality control, data access, and funding. The Committee promotes the adoption of standards by all partners in order to leverage available resources.

WBD Steering Committee - Open to any individual or group interested in the development and application of WBD data to support business needs. Committee is charged with 1) Coordinating resources among partner agencies, 2) Communicating unique business needs and interests to foster partnerships and ensuring implemented standards satisfy those needs 3)

Defining broad communication structure among partners, WBD teams and SSWD. 4) Working with source of partner funds to identify funding criteria and distribution process (if appropriate). 5) Developing and communicating the WBD strategy which includes integration with other surface water datasets, training, standards development, funding needs, funding allocation, data archival, distribution, and update. The WBD Steering Committee resolves issues of significant importance as presented by the WBD National Technical Coordinators and participating members. This committee meets quarterly, or more frequently as needed.

WBD National Technical Coordinators - Subject matter experts, as designated by the WBD Steering Committee, to work directly with partners at the Federal, state and local level engaged in WBD data development and stewardship activities. Members provide guidance in the development and review of data for purposes of meeting certification criteria. Members maintain the WBD Standards, as directed by the WBD Steering Committee and provide technical input for the data model, WBD edit tool development, associated training materials, and training to stewards. The team coordinates all WBD activities as they relate to the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), and The National Map. Members convey issues of significance to the WBD Steering Committee for resolution. This group meets weekly or more frequently as needed.

WBD State Stewardship Work Group (SSWG) - A multi-agency team of WBD subject matter experts that identify and address issues at the grass roots level as directed by the WBD National Technical Coordinators. This group meets semi-monthly, or more frequently as needed.

WBD Product and Service Lead - Manages and represents the WBD as the product lead for all National Geospatial Program (NGP) activities, planning and requirements.

NHD Program Manager - Represents the Hydrography Program within the NGP Office on the WBD Steering Committee.

V. Membership

The Steering Committee shall consist of representatives of Federal agencies that collect, or finance WBD data as part of their mission or have direct program requirements for the data. Each member agency shall designate its representative, an alternate if necessary, and changes thereto, by memorandum from that agency to the Chair of the SSWD.

VI. Responsibility

Responsibilities of the Steering Committee include the following:

- A. Facilitate communication between agencies involved in developing and sharing WBD data.
- B. Collect and compile information on Federal agencies' WBD activities and business needs.

- C. In cooperation with the SSWD, define the extent and process by which data are to be integrated to support the surface water framework vision and ensure WBD supports that vision.
- D. Develop standards and specifications for WBD and assist in identifying priorities for WBD data collection, processing, and dissemination.
- E. Develop and adopt standards of content, format, accuracy, and currentness for use by Federal agencies and to encourage use by non-Federal organizations.
- F. Develop and maintain mechanisms to support project planning in order to maintain an online graphic status of WBD activities.
- G. Facilitate the economic and efficient application of WBD through the sharing of experiences involving applications and documenting best practices.
- H. Support higher-order or cross-cutting activities established or recognized by the FGDC in coordination with the SSWD.
- I. Ensure that the disposition of WBD is carried out in coordination with the appropriate data centers and the National Archives and Records Administration in order to provide for the preservation of historically valuable data.
- J. Work with cooperating entities to define data maintenance needs and appropriate technology for data refresh.
- K. Update and report WBD activities via the stewardship website on a regular basis.
- L. Work collaboratively with international standards bodies to enhance cross border data integration.

The following data are currently under the purview of the WBD Steering Committee: Watershed Boundary Data of the United States and its properties. The following data will not be the direct responsibility of the Steering Committee: The National Hydrography Data and data outside of the landward limit coastal zone, as defined in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. The above list is considered to be flexible-- other data can be added as seen fit.

VII. Procedures

WBD Steering Committee members will communicate regularly by phone, email or in person regarding priorities and procedures to maintain the WBD. Decisions shall be on the basis of consensus agreement. Where agreement is not reached, the issue will be referred to the SSWD for

resolution. The WBD Steering Committee Chairperson shall consult with the Chairperson of the SSWD to determine the need for further coordination prior to implementing decisions that impact the FGDC or its other subcommittees or working groups.

VIII. Coordinating Mechanisms

The WBD Steering Committee will employ tools best suited to meeting its responsibilities, such as national user forums, annual requirements solicitations, on-line status reporting, user surveys and analyses, user workshops, research initiatives, and cooperative ventures and innovative technologies. The Steering Committee may establish additional sub-groups, rules and procedures for conducting business as needed.

IX. Subgroups

The Committee may create work groups or task groups, or technical implementation teams, as appropriate to carry out its activities and meet its responsibilities. Participation in these groups may be drawn from its member organizations and from other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

X. Reports

The Committee shall report to the SSWD at a frequency determined by the group, however a status will be provided yearly to support the reporting needs of the FGDC.

The chairperson shall submit reports of meetings, decisions and recommendations to the SSWD

XI. Termination

The WBD Steering Committee shall remain in existence until terminated by the SSWD.

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