

WBD STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES -- December 7, 2010 2:00 -4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Katherine Lins (USGS), Karen Hanson (USGS), Stephen Daw (USGS), Tommy Dewald (EPA), Wendy Blake-Coleman (EPA), Steve Nechero (NRCS), Laura Davenport (NRCS), Kenneth Becker (NRCS), Mike Eberle (BLM), Dan Wickwire (BLM), Brian Sanborn (USFS-acting)

STATUS OF EDITS TO THE WBD

- WY making name changes
- GA doing coastal delineation
- LA re-doing their coastal delineation
- AK WBD being improved/corrected at a better resolution – made changes to the original delineation using IFSAR
- AK NHD being updated using IFSAR
- AK coastal some problems because of previous errors
- WBD US/ Canada harmonization may mean changes to reach codes – some agreement with states will be needed to correct and align as we work with Canada.
- Lake Champlain – The coastal standard has been applied to Lake Champlain. In addition, as a result of the U.S./Canadian drainage area harmonization, this area has moved from Hydro Region 2 to Hydro Region 4

HIGH RESOLUTION PRODUCTS LiDAR (small area)

- MN doing some areas with LiDAR
- NH statewide going to high res.

COASTAL

- TX, WA, OR, FL are in work or completed. – Webex is being used to assist states with applying the optional nearshore buffered distance/or depth, and to resolve issues to apply the NOAA 3-nautical mile-offshore definition as the outer extent of the hydrologic unit. States are requiring a lot of assistance on applying the coding and naming attribution consistently in coastal areas.
- FL getting help from NRCS – naming conventions need some assistance to resolve
- The WBD is being adjusted along the Great Lakes coastal area in a uniform approach with Canada as part of the bi-national hydrologic unit data coordination.

Wendy Blake-Coleman comment —We may want to leverage the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Program. What is the plan for when the coastal can be complete? NOAA may have some funding to provide support. Their portal should be up and running next month. This may be a good time to request funding.

STREAMSTATS -

- UT WSC going to do NHD/WDB integration for AZ StreamStats. For 77 of the 87 Subbasins now completed there have been (166 edits to WBD lines, and 227 edits to polygons to synchronize to the NHD. For NHD there have been approximately 6000 total edits, a number which are StreamStats specific, however about 1,000 of those need to be incorporated into NHD. Changes go back to the in-state coordinators for approval.
- Now bringing in the NAIP imagery to make improvements.
- Using downstream numbering for up and downstream coordination. Coding check is 95%

Wendy Blake-Coleman comment - Would like to leverage these other efforts for cost savings. With A-16 supplemental guidance coming in, need to document where there is data or funding coming in from other programs. We may be able to document the advantages to the program by having users of the WBD flag needed corrections, or enhancements.

NHDPLUS

- NHDPlus refresh – 45% complete. UT Water Science Center is working closely with the NHDPlus team to make some minor attribution updates to the WBD in order to improve the NHDPlus product.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (GNIS) INTEGRATION

- Now in preparation for reviewing and updating the names for all levels of HUCs. Codes will accompany the names in the GNIS.
- Have a draft charter for the integration of WBD-GNIS.

GUIDELINES

- Is complete. Has had four “peer reviews” (included Jeff Simley- NHD Program Manager). The final product is now going to Liz Cigonovich in Madison, Wisconsin (USGS Publishing Program) for edit, then onto final “bureau” review.
- Plans for the next version – resource dependent. Need to clarify and revise terminology, stewardship etc issues to up-date soon. Delineation referencing high resolution guidance needs to be incorporated, as well as reflecting the new USGS NHD Geodatabase design.

- WBD Product Plan has been updated to the National Map Program Managers meeting in USGS – Jeff Simley is at this years' meeting this week.

NEXT STEPS

DATA DOCUMENTATION

- Standards Version 3.0
- WBD Stewardship Handbook - overarching documents as to how Stewardship would flow.
- FGDC National WBD dataset metadata standard– Laura Davenport and Karen Hanson will work together.
- Remaining coastal areas – will be working on how to complete the rest of the country. One good thing is US/Canada has been worked out.
- Need to archive and update documents on the web. We may want to reprint the national WBD map to have it up to date
- Update to the NHD stewardship document.

FUTURE PLANS

- Enhancing web services including:
- A Harmonized US/ Canada basins in the NHD viewer.
- NHD/WBD web service from USGS Denver
- Spatial Water Data layers – e.g Diversions – have a proposal in for this to EPA who is very interested in Interbasin transfer.

Wendy Blake-Coleman comment — The new Theme definition to the A-16 guidance is consistent with that process – a lesson learned for guidance to others.

INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION UPDATE

- Now have included the entire Great Lakes basin in the plan – slowed the project down but takes advantage of the team in place. NHD, WBD and GNIS coordination with the Canada counterparts.
- Mexico – US has 5th and 6th level delineation completed . UT WSC reviewing INEGI's line work. To be available to the public. AZ StreamStats will be the first bi-national Streamstats effort.

HIGH RESOLUTION

- Agreement by the State Stewards Work Group Data Documentation Team that the documentation for high resolution should also include what data should be used for the higher resolution submittal.

Discussion: At what level should the technical reviewers be involved in reviewing the high resolution data?

Dan Wickwire - Initial reaction – has concerns that there may not be the will or resources to taking on the review of 14-16 digits.

Karen Hanson – There is still the question as to how we will receive this in our database.

Steve Nechero – The A-16 will modify the identity of these themes and at what level is a product a nationally supported project? Past effort was never a Federally funded effort. Does the new A-16 address what it constitutes? The NRCS may not be supportive of the managing higher resolution data sets.

Wendy Blake-Coleman – There is a lot of leeway for theme managers to make the recommendations. We are not at the point of calling this part of an authoritative dataset.

Karen Hanson - We have umbrella guidance – still need to resolve what is our level of review for the 14- and 16-digit data – not worked out at the technical level.

Steve Nechero- NRCS agrees we should support providing the technical requirements for the states – NRCS does not have a business case for the 14 and 16-digit. NRCS would need to build the business case to have a program.

Karen Hanson— What is the guidance to the technical team?

Steve Nechero – Can't give guidance to that at this time.

STEWARDSHIP

- Some of the work with Canada means changes to US data. It is best to make the changes now if at all possible in the US States.
- Karen reported on the status of the Stewardship agreements that includes WBD. 7-percent of the states have joint stewardship agreements in place. Eleven states are in progress.
- Nine states have a combined WBD – State Steward

TOOLS and MIGRATION OF THE DATABASE – STEPHEN DAW

- State Stewardship Working Group has been instrumental in developing and testing the tools – In ArcGIS – Users are required to check out an area to make changes.
- Tools will be tested soon

- WBD complete refresh as a prelude to WBD/NHD integration schedule December 30, 2010
- Will be operational later in 2011. Beta testing will help ID corrections needed for the integration tool
- March final changes. Followed by training development.
- April - schedule training events.
- Then the final load on the NRCS database into the NHD database.
- USGS WBD Stewardship operations are to begin June 6, 2011 – August 29, 2011.
- Work then to develop a navigation tool – have a nav table in the new model – both upstream and downstream model. Still need to develop a shared pour-point tool.
- Next a names tool to assist stewards to populate GNIS. Can work and validate in the 14 and 16-digit level.

Laura Davenport – Archiving the entire dataset – up on the gateway where users can go and grab – whenever there is new data submitted.

UPDATE ON THE AUSTIN MEETING - TOMMY DEWALD

- NHD management meeting coincident with the ARCHydro Rivers meeting to take advantage of both
- Tommy described the project leads presentations on ongoing projects in the NHD.
- Tommy shared the agenda from the ArchHydro Rivers meeting.
- Provided a summary of David Maidment's presentation and vision. Slides attached.

Katherine Lins – solicited group as to whether a WBD steering committee should be held at the January ESRI meeting. Members will respond separately.

ADJOURN