

## WBD Steering Committee Minutes

Friday, January 18, 2013

8:30 a.m. PT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 10:30 a.m. CT, 11:30 a.m. ET  
Teleconference

Call in number 1-605-475-3200; Access code 1003945 #

### Attendees:

NRCS-Tommie Parham, Steven Nechero, Kenneth Becker  
USGS-David McCulloch (Chair), Terri Moore, Jeff Simley, Stephen Daw, Karen Hanson, Pete Steeves  
BLM-Lee Koss, Dan Wickwire  
EPA-Wendy Blake-Coleman, Tommy Dewald  
USFS-Mike Eberle

1. **Introduction of Terri Moore, Acting Chief Office of Water Information** (*David McCulloch*)
  - a. Terri is an IT specialist on a 120 day detail
  - b. A vacancy for Katherine's position has been announced and closes on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The new person in this position will now report to "Jarad Bales-Chief Scientist". This position will still be referred to as the "Chief for the Office of Water Information".
  
2. **Status of updated USGS NRCS MOU** (*Karen Hanson, Steve Nechero*)
  - a. Status of process within USGS
    - i. Kevin Gallagher, Associate Director of Core Science Systems will sign for USGS
      1. As per Dick Vraga, USGS Federal Geospatial Liaison, who is walking the MOU up through the appropriate channels for review at USGS, the MOU has gone through ½ dozen folks and is now on Vicki Lucas's desk. It will then go to Mark DeMulder, then onto Mark Naftzger, assistant to Kevin Gallagher, and then onto Kevin Gallagher for signature.
  - b. Status of process within NRCS
    - i. Michael Golden, Deputy Chief of Soil Science and Resource Assessment will sign for NRCS
      1. NRCS will also run the MOU up through similar channels for review. Steve Nechero will walk through this Correspondence Control. Tommie Parham will sign off prior to Michael Golden.  
**ACTION: Karen will let Dick Vraga know where the process with NRCS is at.**  
**ACTION ADDRESSED: Karen updated Dick in an email.**  
**ACTION: Karen will send the latest version of the MOU to Steve Nechero.**  
**ACTION ADDRESSED: Karen sent the latest version of the MOU to Steve.**
  
3. **WBD as the "authoritative dataset" for hydrologic units for the nation** (*David McCulloch, Wendy Blake-Coleman, Group*)
  - a. Katherine distributed memo to USGS Water prior to her departure
  - b. From September WBD Strg. Mtg.....what is the current status of registering WBD to "The Platform"?
    - i. During the last WBD Steering Committee meeting, Wendy had stated that by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, Jerry Johnston...wants datasets "registered" to The Platform
      1. This date has slipped because Data.gov is being improved and won't be ready until March, 2013
      2. With regard to running WBD through the "Maturity Model"
        - a. Wendy states that they need to get Theme Mgrs. Together at the Esri User Conference. Lorri Peltz-Lewis has agreed to come back and assist with this effort.
      3. WBD and NHD have been through the 7 Lifecycle steps  
**ACTION: Wendy will contact Karen to initiate and action with respect to WBD on the above items.**
      4. Need to market NWIS Basin Boundaries
        - a. As a success story in business

- b. Need to market to, and then through the Core Science Systems
- c. Jerry Johnston-USGS GIO could market as a success

**ACTION: Need press release (need further discussion on next call)**

**FYI: Karen posted an article that she wrote for the NHD Newsletter last summer on NWIS in WBD for the committee to view.**

- c. Where are other agencies at with identifying WBD as the “authoritative” dataset within their agencies?
  - i. **EPA**-Working on terminology, rather than “authoritative”. Within EPA WBD has a specific function, it isn’t the dataset for all reporting.
  - ii. **NRCS**-National Bulletin-sponsored by Mike Golden, Deputy Chief of Soil Science and Resource Assessment, and Lisa Reed, in charge of Strategic Planning and Accountability. Using the dataset for modeling, conservation planning and practices, and reporting. Posted on electronic directive sites where standards reside. In process!!!!
  - iii. **BLM**-Planning to get that out in spring of 2013 to update the release made several years ago. Struggling with the “authoritative” word.

**ACTION: An agreed upon definition of “authoritative” needs to be made. (Need further discussion).**

**ACTION: Need to find out where USFWS stand on this (Lee Koss pointed out). There has been some push back. (Who will follow through?)**

**4. Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data needs to meet (David McCulloch, Wendy Blake-Coleman)**

- a. Katherine had sent out notice to Todd Dabolt and Bob Pierce for action to get this group functioning again.
  - i. Todd was looking for a replacement within EPA to Chair the group
    - 1. This has been determined but has not been announced at this time.
  - ii. Steve Aichele will replace Bob Pierce on the SSWD as co-chair

**ACTION: We need to invite Steve Aichele on the next WBD Strg. Com. call.**

**ACTION ADDRESSED: Steve Aichele has been sent an inquiry about participating in future Steering Committee quarterly calls.**

**5. Steve Aichele roles (Jeff Simley, Wendy Blake-Coleman)**

- a. Vicki Lucas has 2 deputies: Steve is over the Water Community of Use. There are 8 additional liaisons in the states that Steve will be assigned to the hydro theme. They will all work with the Community of Use.
- b. Steve is also the USGS representative as the A-16 theme lead for the Inland Waters theme. Bill Willand “Wetlands” possible co-theme lead

**6. NHD & WBD Product Information Documents(PID) and Transition Road Maps (Karen Hanson, Jeff Simley)**

- a. PID-Aimed toward Marketing and Vision, Position Statement, Key Benefits, etc.
- b. As part of NGP product management and planning both Jeff and Karen, along with the other Product & Service Leads created Product Information Documents and Transition Road Maps thru FY16 planning that outlines the direction of program/product. The goal is to coordinate this planning across the other products so that we have as much integration as possible. We presented to NGP Mgt. December 13, 2012.
  - i. WBD Ex. Data Acquisition, Data Operations, Data Delivery, International Harmonization and Data Integration with NHD
    - 1. Each of these break down to 4 different goals

**ACTION: Post both hydro PIDS and Transition Road Maps for Strg. Com. and also give copies to Bill Willand and Steve Aichele.**

**ACTION ADDRESSED: These documents were made available for the committee.**

7. **WBD State Stewardship Work Group (SSWG) subgroup is planning to meet with NGP Managers on key issues (to offer Progress Report)** (*Karen Hanson, Dan Wickwire*)

- a. General issues are:
  - i. Communication
  - ii. USGS commitment to resourcing WBD program
  - iii. Project management
  - iv. Support and guidance to state stewards
  - v. Public access to WBD
- b. Scheduled time for meeting is at 11:00 a.m. MT, Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- c. *Wendy has concern that we need to be having dialogue higher up within USGS-Jeff agrees (more discussion on next call after we see results of item 7. (above))*

**ACTION: Send out minutes to Strg. Committee**

**ACTION ADDRESSED: power points were made available to the committee.**

8. **NHD/WBD Report card** (*Jeff Simley*)

- a. From Jeff: "The NHD Management Team annually evaluates how well their agency's water science program's need for geospatial information is being met by the USGS. The objective is to get feedback that will allow the USGS to validate that its actions have proven to be valuable and to evaluate areas of concern. From this the USGS can build a strengthened program to ensure the NHD and WBD remain at the forefront of water science."
  - i. The report card covers Technology and Data Model, Communication, Project Management, Funding and Staffing, Collaboration and gives recommendations on remedies for issues.
  - ii. Jeff said the report card would currently receive a grade of A-, so many things ARE working or improving.

**ACTION: Post report card for WBD Strg. Com**

**ACTION ADDRESSED: The report card was made available for the committee.**

- b. Jeff stated that integration with Groundwater is in the NHD Transition Road Map, but needs much more discussion. Pete added a few examples that are moving us in that direction.

9. **Overview of December NHD Mgt. Team Meeting** (*Jeff Simley*)

- a. Meet twice monthly on the phone and held annually
- b. An executive summary was included in the last NHD Newsletter
- c. 21 pages of minutes are available to anyone that would like to see the full notes from the meeting

**Minutes and overview documents were made available to the committee.**

10. **Data and Stewardship support update** (*Karen Hanson, Stephen Daw*)

- a. WBD Edit Tool
  - i. Beta Testing is now completed
  - ii. 90 errors reported
  - iii. 23 significant issues
  - iv. Tools are a month away from trying another beta testing
- b. Data delivery options, formats, and refresh cycle
  - i. Currently being worked on for USGS and NRCS sites which offer WBD
- c. WBD Standards
  - i. Currently updating Section 6 to match the new direction of the WBD Edit Tools and current version of the WBD Data Model

**ACTION: Karen needs to work with Wendy on Julie Maitra request**

- d. International Harmonization
  - i. CANADA:
    1. Great Lakes coastal process being applied

- a. Erie and Ontario in database, other lakes at various stages of final in state review, or development
  - 2. Red River workshop planned for the 10- and 12-digits the end of February
- ii. MEXICO:
  - 1. Mexico almost complete, ready for review by Mexico team next week.
  - 2. Poster being prepared for The National Map Conference in May.
- e. National data focus
  - i. Diversions (Modification line and poly updates and HUC12 flow tables)
 

***ACTION: Karen will check her folder on EPA folks that were on discussions pertaining to quantifying water transfers several years ago***  
***ACTION ADDRESSED: Ryan Albert, Jamie Hurley, Keith Bartlett, Marcus Zobrist, and Deborah Nagle were the folks on those calls from EPA. Karen passed their contact info onto Paul Kimsey and Kristiana Elite that prepare the invite for the Diversions Work Group.***
  - ii. NWIS Basin Boundaries
  - iii. Coastal
  - iv. NH
  - v. D/S Codes
  - vi. GNIS names/codes integration
- f. Data updates
  - i. LiDAR updates in the PNW
  - ii. Numerous miscellaneous improvements across the nation
  - iii. 14-digit updates going on in SE Alaska

#### 11. Other business

- a. There have been editing issues with relation to WBD and NHD for editing riparian areas pointed out by Lee Koss. Jeff thinks this will improve over the next few months with the Tool updates.
- b. Steering Committee attendees at the upcoming Federal User Conference-Jeff and Wendy will be there.

#### 12. Next quarterly meeting

- a. April 2013
- b. Karen will set up doodle poll for this meeting