

WBD Steering Committee Minutes

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

11:30 a.m. PST, 12:30 p.m. MST, 1:30 p.m. CST, 2:30 p.m. EST

Teleconference

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

Meeting room at Esri: Hall B, Room #10

Attendees:

NRCS-Steven Nechero, Laura Davenport, Ken Becker

USGS-David McCulloch (Chair), Jeff Simley, Stephen Daw, Steve Aichele, Karen Hanson

BLM- Dan Wickwire

EPA-Wendy Blake-Coleman

USFS-Mike Eberle

1. **Welcome** (*David McCulloch-Chair*)
2. **Chief Office of Water briefings** (*Karen, Jeff, others*)

Jeff and Karen had an hour teleconference with Nate Booth, new USGS Chief Office of Water Information, in order to brief him on the Hydrography Program highlights, as well as WBD and NHD product current events, and fiscal year 2014 planning.
3. **Water Information** (*Steve Aichele*)
 - a. Status subcommittee on Spatial Water Data-Still working to get this committee back up and running. Wendy Blake-Coleman stressed that it is critical to get this group back into play.
 - b. USGS Water Liaisons-There was a meeting in Denver the end of June to provide training to the newly designated USGS Water Liaisons. This is an added resource to serve the Water Community of Use and provide feedback to the various Water programs. Roles of the Water Liaisons, and relationships to other Liaisons, and USGS POC's (who do you go to when and for what) will continue to be clarified and that information made available. Wendy suggested that a tree with the inter-related functions be developed and posted. It also needs to be clarified what role the USGS Water Science Centers (WSC's) will play in this.
 - c. Inland Water Theme-Still working out the details of this function between Steve and Bill Wilen (FWS).
4. **SWUDS/Diversions** (*Jeff Simley*)
 - a. WaterSmart-Is reporting by HUC12. NHD/WBD Diversion tracking will complement the WaterSmart effort.
 - b. Georgia pilot-A pilot is underway in Georgia for a selected area in order to demonstrate the technology to link the NHD and WBD HUC12 and the SWUDS data base. From this pilot we will gain a level of effort for projecting additional work in this area. The positional accuracy of the data in this pilot area was exceptionally good, so it did make it much easier to accomplish the work. Longer distance diversion data and positional accuracy that isn't this good would make the level of effort harder/longer to accomplish the work. USGS can test the concept and develop the process, but WaterSmart will need to provide funding and then have the USGS WSC's do the work.
 - c. WBD Navigation table-will be designed to host natural and diverted flow through the HUC12 system.
5. **NWIS in WBD** (*Karen Hanson*)
 - a. Steve Aichele provided Karen with a template that will have to be filled out so that the data model design can go through the new Data Product Review Board for approval. Karen is working with Kevin McNinch, USGS National Geospatial Technical Operations, to complete this. The data model has been vetted and fully agreed upon between the USGS Water team.

6. **WBD FY14 requirements planning** (*Karen Hanson, Jeff Simley*)
 - a. Jeff provided an overview of the NGP process of FY program planning. Karen and Jeff have submitted all of the planned FY14 tasks into the process.

 7. **Data and Stewardship support update** (*Stephen Daw, Laura Davenport, Karen Hanson*)
 - a. Tool development/stewardship (Stephen)
 - i. WBD Edit Tool
 1. Kim Jones is testing the latest version of the tool
 - ii. Check out/check in process
 1. There have been back end database problems that are being worked out. WBD is still under an edit moratorium until these get resolved.
 - iii. Training
 1. Stephen has been providing Stewardship website and WBD Edit Tool training to the WBD Stewards
 - iv. Website
 1. The WBD State Stewardship Work Group provided a comprehensive list of recommendations for the NHD/WBD websites
 - v. Summer sprint-will occur in August after moratorium is lifted
 1. Bug-reduce upload file size (fixed, needs testing)
 2. Bug-fix in tools that is looking for Navigation Table (fixed)
 3. Add ability to collect feature level metadata on lines (coded, needs testing)
 4. Work on Mod Tool (provide domain, enforce rules) for both lines and poly
 5. Import geometry (under consideration)
 6. Add topology with rules to check out

 - b. Program/data improvements (*Karen*)
 - i. International Harmonization (Mexico, Canada-Great Lakes, upcoming workshops) continues.
 1. It is estimated that Mexico will be completed by the end of FY13. All of the linework and ½ of the attribution is completed.
 2. Canada coordination is much more challenging than Mexico. All shared 8-digit are completed. Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron are completed. Lake Superior is completed except there are 3 pending subbasins that the State Division of Natural Resources in Wisconsin have not signed off on yet. Four workshops have been held for the 10- and 12-digit harmonization. Completion of those areas are at various stages. A fifth workshop is planned for fall for Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence Corridor.
 - ii. Subregion 1904 change in Alaska-to subdivide this large region is scheduled to be completed by the end of FY13
 - iii. Downstream coding review-is underway. This project will likely go through the end of calendar year 2013. The moratorium will have to be lifted before updates can be incorporated into the national WBD.
 - iv. New Hampshire statewide revisions to WBD are in progress and estimated to be completed by the end of FY13. This will be the first state to have the new Poly/Line Modification model implemented.
 - v. Coastal-are planning to have the WBD coastal standard implemented for Massachusetts by the end of FY13.
 - vi. There is a dedicated hour for WBD presentations on the first Tuesday of each month during the NHD Advisory calls. These are going well.
- Note: Suggestion from group: to present national data updates through status graphics for next call.
- c. NRCS update (Laura)
 - i. Tools

1. NRCS is testing 10.0 for use within NRCS. 10.1 has been approved.
- ii. NRCS Data distribution
 1. NRCS has a directive to serve the authoritative version once annually (October 1st version). It has been decided that the NRCS will host both the October 1 and April 1 versions on their ftp and label as such. The Gateway will carry the most recent snapshot.

8. Agency round table (Group)

- a. Dan Wickwire reported on behalf of BLM.
 - i. A new statement about NHD and WBD being the authoritative hydrography datasets for BLM is forthcoming and will declare that through 2017. Wendy asked to see a copy of the notification that BLM will send out.
 - ii. BLM has now established a Water GIS Work Group that meets quarterly. The objective of the group is to improve communication and to increase participation.
 - iii. **Dan will be retiring prior to the next WBD Steering Committee call. This will be a huge loss to both the NHD and WBD Programs. It has been such a pleasure working with Dan. The many contributions that he has made have been invaluable.**
- b. Wendy Blake-Coleman reported on behalf of EPA.
 - i. Should use Larry Sugar Bakers "3DEP Business Requirements Study" and tailor a similar document for WBD programmatic needs. We need to configure WBD Applications after this. Water needs to be a key partner of NGDP. Steve Aichele said that he is working to make that happen.
- c. Steve Nechero, on behalf of NRCS, sent a follow up email to the group concerning serving the authoritative *WBD to NRCS and to the public*. *There are some differences between agencies which is expected as each have their own internal change control issues when we serve the data to our customers.* Steve asked this committee for feedback whether it is a good idea for USGS, EPA, and NRCS to have a reference in our metadata to clearly indicate which version we are serving for data provisioning and web services. Please give us some feedback.

Next week, NRCS NGCE staff will meet to discuss how internal web services will point to the NRCS agency data mart version and not the best available version from USGS. The Geospatial Data Gateway will serve the authoritative snapshot from USGS on a bi-annual basis per our agreement.

- d. Tommy Dewald reported via email after the call on EPA Data distribution
 1. EPA's Office of Water is standardizing on the WBD snapshot used to produce the recently NHDPlus Version.
 2. EPA cites the WBD vintage in the metadata.

9. Next quarterly meeting

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