WBD Steering Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 22, 2014
1:00 p.m. PST, 2:00 p.m. MST, 3:00 p.m CST, 4:00 p.m. EST
Teleconference
Call in number 1-712-432-0926; Access code 1003945 #
http://usgs.webex.com

Attendees:
NRCS-Collin McCormick (filling in for Steve Nechero)
USGS-Nate Booth (Chair), Al Rea, Stephen Daw, Steve Aichele, Pete Steeves, Karen Hanson
BLM-Jay Stevens, Lee Koss
EPA-Wendy Blake-Coleman, Tommy Dewald
USFS

Excused:
Vicki Lukas, Steve Nechero, Laura Davenport, Jeff Simley, Mike Eberle

1. **Welcome** *(Nate Booth-Chair)*
   Nate opened the meeting with a brief overview of three water initiatives that he is involved with.
   a. *For the past year the Water Budget Initiative has been coming together. It has funding associated with it.*
   b. *Within Data.gov there is now a climate initiative-dealing with climate change and climate resiliencies. Nate will lead a team in this effort.*
   c. *The Open Water Data Initiate put through the FGDC by Ann Castle-making water data more accessible through the Federal Government. It will support monitoring and hydrologic modeling.*

2. **NRCS** *(Collin McCormick for Steve Nechero)*
   a. *WBD Steering Committee will assume Steve as NRCS co-chair*
   b. *NRCS working on water body detection tools-partnered from University and Esri webex or NHD Advisory*
      ii. *Tommy Parham's job will be advertised soon, NRCS Ft. Worth is cycling through the third 90-acting appointment*
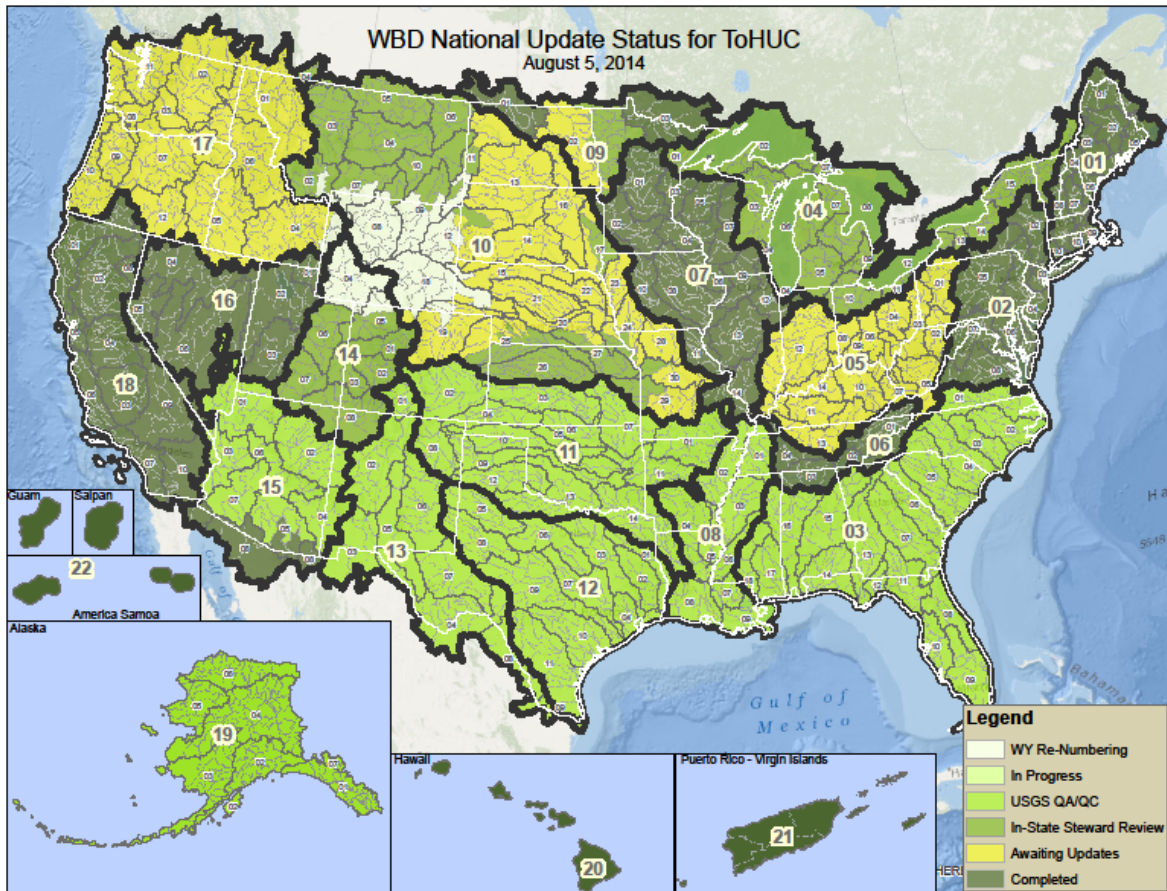
3. **Hydrography Program-NHD updates** *(Al Rea)*
   a. *New NHD Managers vacancy has been filled by Al Rea. He has been in this new role for 4 months*
   b. *There is currently a major NHD focus on Value Added Attributes (geographic, density, scale)*
      i. *Spent last year under the Network Improvement Program cleaning up the network*
      ii. *Will need to work with snapshots on a 6 mo. or annual cycle*
   c. *Future focus will be on catchments in FY15 (producing hi-res NHDPlus)*
      i. *Need to work through process for both as soon as possible-hoping to be working on a handful of hydro regions FY15-will also produce hydro derivatives and flow estimates*
   d. *Currently revising NHD in Alaska from 1:63,360 scale to new Topo base product at 1:25,000 scale-slated to be completed within the next two FY's.*
      i. *Photo-updating channels*
      ii. *AK mapping executive committee chaired by Ann Castle*
      iii. *Statewide IfSAR/LiDAR acquisition is the first step*
         1. *Initial goal was to complete this in 2017*
         2. *$4 Million went in as estimate to update WBD*
         3. *Planning to look for resources in FY16 to update WBD*
   e. *Stewardship program continues to move forward with a new, successful, efficient editing tool*
      i. *New NHD edit tool is working much better than previous versions of the tool*
      ii. *Current NHD Mgt. Team Meeting focus*

          iii. Ele-Hydro-need to align programs (elevation and hydrography programs are better integrated)
                1. Work group has been formed
                2. Derive hydrography from LiDAR
                3. Collection of break lines
                4. Catchment generation

    f. Status Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data
        i. Al is the new chair of that committee
        ii. Will be looking for co-chair of that Subcommittee
        ii. Hoping for a face-to-face meeting in a month
    g. National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) (A-16)
    h. Inland Water Theme (Al Rea is co-chair with Bill Wilen, USFWS). Dataset managers, NHD, WBD, NWI participating, as are others
        i.   There are 5 datasets in the inland water theme, WBD is one of them
    h. Open Water Data Initiative-OWGI emphasis is going to be on Web Services, including some basic functionality

4. **NWIS in WBD** *(Karen Hanson)*
    a. Status of Database implementation
        i.   Verbal approval given February 20, 2014
        ii. Received written approval from Rob Dollison on behalf of the DPRB on July 31st (see attachment)
    b. WSC participation with NGP funding
        i.   4,370 sites will be QC'd and incorporated by March 1, 2015
        ii. $98,185 NGP dollars went to 16 Water Science Centers
    c. Utah WSC will provide technical support on the process, and facilitate packaging the data for NGTOC (Stephen Daw). Curtis Price is taking the effort that Al Rea started to automate delineation of the NWIS drainage area boundaries and which will cookie cut down through the 24k WBD geometry.

5. **WBD FY14 data improvements** *(Karen Hanson)*
The WBD National support shop in the Utah Water Science Center is working on a number of data improvements.

    a. Downstream coding "ToHUC" status
        i.   Working with NHDPlus team to update this field in their Version 2
        ii. Utilizing this field for automated NWIS drainage area delineations

WBD National Update Status for ToHUC
August 5, 2014

Legend
- WY Re-Numbering
- In Progress
- USGS QA/QC
- In-State Steward Review
- Awaiting Updates
- Completed

b. GNIS Names integration on hold until "ToHUCs" are completed
c. Coastal status-working on Massachusetts
d. Modification field migration status being made slowly, only 1 FTE on that until ToHUCs are completed
e. Alaska Subregion 1904 recode
  i. Completed in WBD, NHD reachcode migration is completed, but the database folks need to update the templates so that the data is ready for download/
f. International harmonization
  i. *Canada*
    1. *All of the 8-digit hydrologic unit boundaries and hydro, are completed across the shared border and available within NHD and WBD. This includes Alaska.*
    2. *There are three workshops in FY14 for 10- and 12-digit completion*
        a. *St. Mary's Milk (completed)*
        b. *St. Johns (completed)*
        c. *Lake Champlain, St. Lawrence (week of August 18th)*
        d. *Workshops have already taken place for the rest of the border along the lower 48, may need additional mini workshop Great Lakes and province of Quebec*
        e. *Alaska will be worked in FY15 pending new agreement between the USGS and the International Joint Commission (IJC)*
  ii. *Mexico*
    1. *Completed, letter from INEGI received. Karen will write article for NHD Newsletter, September 1, once data is available for download*

6. **FY 15-16 planning** *(Karen)*

a. Initially had list of 9 things that went into first draft

b. All but a few were cut, as outlined in the first draft of the Statement of Intent received this week. Al, Jeff and Karen have discussed with the National Geospatial Technical Operations Team and NHD Conflation is taking the majority of the resources. Will look for other opportunities to reduce time on conflation or partner involvement (for instance the WBD "names" tool(add in).

7. **Data, Tools and Stewardship support update** *(Stephen Daw)*
   a. 10.0 and 10.1 tools have been working flawlessly
   b. 10.2.1 is a little buggy, so now working on 10.2.2
   Added functionality for Mods and (rollup to 10- from 12)

Delivery remains a challenge. The premise of TNM was based on "Static" data. WBD is "dynamic" and so sometimes the planned 2-6 week turn around is taking much longer.

Where to download WBD:

USGS
The National Map (refreshed every 2-6 weeks):
8-digit (all content within) http://nationalmap.gov/viewers.html

National seamless (refresh monthly), aiming for auto repeat on set date): ftp://rockyftp.cr.usgs.gov/vdelivery/Datasets/Staged/WBD/

NRCS
Geospatial Data Gateway (refreshed Oct 1 and Apr 1):
State, County, Area http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/

National seamless ftp://ftp.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov/wbd/

8. **NRCS update** *(Collin McCormick for Laura Davenport)*
   i. Update to CCE lab to use 10.2 tools, Currently 10.1
   ii. NRCS WBD Data distribution updates on schedule for October 1

9. **Agency round table**
   a. **BLM** *(Lee Koss, Jay Stevens)*
   There was a meeting earlier today with all BLM Soil, Air, Water leads in the states. Karen and Jay presented on behalf of WBD and NHD. BLM HQ reiterating "authoritative" datasets and getting BLM involved with updates.
   b. **EPA-NHD Plus** *(Tommy Dewald)*
   i. Developing NHD Hi res for HI PR and outlying islands this FY,
   ii. In the preliminary discovery mode of what's available in Alaska and how they might move forward
   c. **EPA-A-16 (***Wendy Blake-Coleman)*
   i. On June 30th 193 data asset dataset were solidified
   ii. WBD and NHD will need to be registered to Data.gov

10. **Next quarterly meeting**
    a. Fall 2014
    b. Karen will set up doodle poll for this meeting