

## WBD Steering Committee Minutes

Friday, March 9, 2015

8:00 a.m. PST, 9:00 a.m. MST, 10:00 a.m. CST, 11:00 a.m. EST

Teleconference

Call in number 1-712-432-0926; Access code 1003945 #

<http://usgs.webex.com>

### Attendees:

**NRCS**-Steve Nechero, Laura Davenport

**USGS**-Nate Booth (Chair), Al Rea, Stephen Daw, Steve Aichele, Pete Steeves, Karen Hanson, Jeff Simley, Dave Blodgett

**BLM**-Jay Stevens

**EPA**-Wendy Blake-Coleman

**USFS**-Mike Eberle

### Excused:

**USGS**-Vicki Lukas

**EPA**-Tommy Dewald

Dave Blodgett, with USGS at the Center for Integrated Data Analytics, will join the WBD Steering Committee calls. Main focus is National Water Census (uses WBD 12-digit for water availability...ultimate scale for water budgeting and accounting) and National Climate Change. Focus on in getting Landscape modelers access to data. More information at portal CIDA.usgs.gov

Other work is technical subcommittee lead on SSWD, leading water theme collection for Data.gov climate, etc.

1. **Welcome** (*Nate Booth-Chair*)
  - a. What is going on with USGS Water
  - b. Open Water Data Initiative is excited to take advantage of the downstream coding
  
2. **NRCS** (*Steve Nechero*)
  - a. What is going on at NRCS
  - b. Tommy Parham and Michael Golden also retired. Dave Smith has replaced Michael Golden. He has not been engaged on Water issues yet, but sits on some climate and soil committees. He supports Geospatial Science. We should engage him with what the Steering Committee is all about. Rotation of acting folks are filling Tommy's position.
  - c. Imagery with APFO, Elevation, support National Resource Inventory and Stewardship Lands program.
  - d. NRCS is also partners in the NHRBS. It is very important where the water goes. The engineering group is really coming to the forefront on using LiDAR. In the past it has mainly been the Soil Scientists that were interested.
  - e. International LiDAR mapping forum. Had a great meeting with USGS folks (Jason and Carl). Had a chance to talk about tools and resource sharing. Would like to have USGS test the tools.
  
3. **Hydrography Program-NHD updates** (*Al Rea, Jeff Simley*)
  - a. Current focus will be on catchments in FY15 (producing hi-res NHDPlus)
    - i. Moving to 1:24,000 scale with ability to generalize
    - ii. Programming is getting close to complete
    - iii. Production will start late April, early May on 6 pilot areas
    - iv. Horizon Systems is the contractor
    - v. Idea is to bring production in house with NGTOC
    - vi. WBD is used for walling in NHDPlus generation
    - vii. Process will have iterations of the data-national team will QC as it comes available. WBD community will be part of this review, especially where LiDAR was used and WBD wasn't used for walling

1. Non-contributing areas have been challenging
    - viii. Steve Nechero asked if documentation was available. Documentation for medium resolution on NHDPlus is best available, AI stated. The hi res is using basically the same process.
  - b. 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, using SPOT in some areas (5-meter product)...metadata will hopefully tell us what base is being used
    - iv. Have to supplement LiDAR and IfSAR with photo interpretation
      1. Initial goal was to complete this in 2017
      2. \$4 Million went in as estimate to update WBD-where is this *at (question to group from Karen)*-ask Kevin Gallagher!!! Executive Round Table is discussing updating all of the themes.
      3. Planning to look for resources in FY16 to update WBD
  - c. Status Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data-(AI is the co-chair)
    - i. Subgroups in support of Open Water Data Initiative
      1. Federal effort to get all of the water data out in shared machine readable formats to be used as web services
      2. Tasked with building the infrastructure-which are the most important datasets to focus on (NHDPlus, NHD, WBD-core framework)
      3. Have been working on flood, drought and spill response use cases
  - d. NHD Mgt. Meeting-Future Visioning for Hydrography, will take 4 initiatives and address:
    - i. NHD Model
    - ii. Stewardship
    - iii. Stream classification-especially as we move to higher resolution
    - iv. Generalization/Normalization
  - e. Hydro Seminar Series
    - i. Will take place over the next year, every 4 to 6 weeks
    - ii. First one on April 9<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. This is to take the place of the face-to-face stewardship conferences
4. **National Hydrography Requirements and Benefits Study** (*Steve Aichele*)
  - a. Brief overview, completion of questionnaire date, compilation date, results date
  - b. Survey closes today, March 13. There have been responses from 23 federal agencies, there have been 8 from NRCS, 7 from USFS, 5 from EPA, with a total of 261 federal, and another 261'ish from state, tribal, etc.
  - c. Will take a month to clean up, sorted out and arranged by agency
  - d. Will have report out late Fiscal year
5. **WBD registration to Data.gov** (*Karen Hanson*)
  - a. WBD is now registered to Data.gov
  - b. We have the downloadable collection registered, tagged and with the NGDA spreadsheet name on it as well. We also have a record for the service. We have WBD mentioned in the NHD records.
  - c. [http://catalog.data.gov/dataset?q=%27WBD+NGDA%27&sort=score+desc%2C+name+asc&ext\\_location=&ext\\_bbox=&ext\\_prev\\_extent=-139.21874999999997%2C8.754794702435605%2C-61.87499999999999%2C61.77312286453148](http://catalog.data.gov/dataset?q=%27WBD+NGDA%27&sort=score+desc%2C+name+asc&ext_location=&ext_bbox=&ext_prev_extent=-139.21874999999997%2C8.754794702435605%2C-61.87499999999999%2C61.77312286453148)
6. **NWIS in WBD** (*Karen Hanson*)
  - a. Status of Drainage Area Development utilizing WBD
    - i. Data model approved and implemented

- b. WSC participation with NGP funding
  - i. 4,370 sites will be QC'd and incorporated by March, 2015
  - ii. \$98,185 NGP dollars went to 16 Water Science Centers
- c. South Dakota and Utah WSC will provide technical support on the process, and facilitate packaging the data for NGTOC (Stephen Daw)

7. **WBD FY15 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-Region 6 remaining
  - i. *Still may have instances where NHD and WBD don't agree (base information cited)*
  - ii. *Utilizing this field for automated NWIS drainage area delineations*
  - iii. *Water Census*
- b. GNIS Names integration
- c. Coastal status-working on Massachusetts
- d. Modification field migration
- e. 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.
      - a. Two workshops in FY15
        - i. Whitehorse, YT-week of March 23
        - ii. Juneau, AK-week of June 1
  - ii. Mexico
    - 1. Completed, letter from INEGI received. Karen will write article for NHD Newsletter, September 1, once data is available for download

8. **FY 16 planning** (*Karen*)

**FY16 Guidance**

Ongoing:

- 1) WBD Edit Tool updates to keep up with Esri version updates/ and USGS database requirements
- 2) Timely, and error free delivery of WBD edits.

New:

- 3) Need to develop three "add ins" for **WBD NQC Tool** to enforce data integrity
  - a. Create add in that calculates acres and updates square kilometers
  - b. Create add in that automatically calculates the States field
  - c. Create add in that synchronizes the WBD LineFeature Class, HULevel field with the WBD Line Feature Class, HUCClass field. Also, change the WBD Line Feature Class HUCClass field to be called HUDigit.
- 4) It isn't anticipated at this time, but there could be the potential of a NWIS Data Model change once the NWIS Drainage Area pilot wraps up.

**Standards update (FY16)**

- (1) In progress by the SSWG and select partners having already made WBD hi res updates, is the development of a white paper on specific instruction with graphic examples on how to delineate WBD using high resolution IfSAR or LiDAR elevation. Accompanying this white paper is the supplemental metadata form required upon submittal providing details on acquisition and processing [ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/wr/ut/salt.lake.city/WBD/HI\\_RES/](ftp://ftpext.usgs.gov/pub/wr/ut/salt.lake.city/WBD/HI_RES/). This information will be added to edition 5.
- (2) Minor **consistency edits on references to square kilometers and acres** will be made.
- (3) **Further instruction and graphic examples for delineation of non-contributing areas and coding** of their 10-, 12-, 14- and 16-digit hydrologic units will be added.
- (4) Updates to the **Line and Poly modification fields with graphic examples** will be included.
- (5) **Additional information on topology checks during the WBD Tool editing process** will be added.
- (6) Instruction on updating individual state FGDC metadata and the link to archived metadata will be included.

- (7) Any **updates to reflect changes to the WBD Tool/add ins/ database** will be added.
- (8) Overview and **explanation of the new Data Model additions** which include 4 feature classes hosting digital **National Water Information System (NWIS) drainage area boundaries** based off of WBD geometry will be added. The four new feature classes are as follows:
  - a. NWIS Boundary
  - b. NWIS Drainage Area
  - c. Non Contributing Drainage Boundary
  - d. Non Contributing Drainage Area
- (9) Evaluation and updated instruction will be made for the new 14- and 16-digit delineation processes, now that some states have started to create and include these levels back into WBD.

9. **Data, Tools and Stewardship support update** (*Stephen Daw*)

- a. Current tool is working very well
- b. Currently working on 10.2.2 and testing that
  - i. Will switch from personal to file geodatabase
- c. Delivery, national seamless as of February 26<sup>th</sup>. New one posted early next week. Planning to get on cycle so it is updated monthly
- d. Best bet is to get WBD through pre-staged NHD for most current
- e. The National Map is updated every 4-6 weeks. It is cached so not necessarily the best available and most current.
  - i. Concern about this....at least need notice on date of data when folks go to TNM

10. **NRCS update** (*Laura Davenport*)

- i. Update to CCE lab to use 10.2 tools, Currently 10.1
- ii. NRCS WBD Data distribution updates on schedule for April 1

11. **Agency round table**

a. **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-Tommy reports that it now appears that AK and EPA will be using HUCs for their near term water quality assessment and reporting requirements....no NHDPlus required...may be longer term plans for NHDPlus in AK (Al and Jeff can speak to this).

iii. **USGS-EPA NHD-NHDPlus-WBD Maintenance MOU**

Currently in Office of General Council Review3-EPA, then will go through the signature chain

b. **EPA-A-16** (*Wendy Blake-Coleman*)

- i. NGDA Baseline Lifecycle Maturity Assessment
  - 1. 8 datasets registered within the Inland Waters Theme
  - 2. Once the automated tool is ready, WBD will need to go through the assessment online survey questionnaire

c. **BLM** (*Jay Stevens*)

- i. Bryant Mecklam, BLM Oregon to join the WBD State Stewardship Workgroup
- ii. Stewardship is active in Oregon with the availability of LiDAR
- iii. Current MOU between BLM and USGS Utah WSC to assist with NHD and WBD Stewardship

d. **USFS** (*Mike Eberle*)

- i. USFS WBD related activities

12. **Next quarterly meeting**

- a. Summer 2015

