

## Minutes from NHD TWG meeting Thursday, January 8, 2009

Participants: Bart Dudley, AHTD  
Susan Horvath, PAGIS  
Shelby Johnson, AGIO  
Mary Barnett, ADEQ  
Randy Puckett, ADEQ  
Katy Hattenhauer, ADEQ  
Bill Sneed, USGS

Katy went over the decisions made from December meeting in Denver. AR received kudos from everybody there, due to “playing well in the sandbox together” and less NHD errors.

The main goal for the meeting in Denver was to “leave knowing how to finish Project Charters and Scope documents, and to understand the suite of documents so partners can use them to defend the NHD program”. The “suite of documents” are the Project Charter, Scope Document, Communications Plan, Requirements Plan, and the Project Management Plan. Members of the NHD Senior Management Team have decided that it would be better for USGS and it’s partners to apply project management processes and disciplines, as there has been a problem of competing priorities, shortage of resources, and the need to keep the NHD program in demand. These documents will not directly affect our TWG.

Funding was also discussed at the meeting in Denver. I had asked our TWG to come up with what each agency needed to get started on the editing process (e.g., computers, software, personnel, etc.). It was agreed at our meeting Thursday that there is only one need for a computer (ADEQ), and one need for the ArcInfo software (AHTD). Since there is not a mass majority in need of hardware/software, Shelby brought to our attention that extra help is needed more (i.e., hire 2-3 people to only do NHD editing). Any agency should be able to do this. The AGIO will not be able to do this, unless they receive the grant, and get it included in the budget specifically for “extra help”. Shelby also shared with the group an example of how much to pay this extra help, which would be a part-time position. The example is \$10.30 or \$10.50 per hour, and there is a 1,000 hour cap. Each extra help person receives a 1,000 hour cap. It was decided by the group that the extra help would ONLY fix the error report errors within the NHD GeoEdit tool.

Next, the group talked about grant proposals, and how many different projects we can use to write the proposals on. Here is the breakdown of the proposals:

1. Susan Horvath at PAGIS could use a proposal for their upcoming project to collect and implement Urban storm water data.
2. LIDAR in the Bayou Meto area.
3. Editing HUCs specifically within the Fayetteville Shale area, and adding gas pipeline data to the HUCs.
4. Hiring extra help to edit the error report errors only.
5. WBD/NHD Integration.

Katy has written the WBD/NHD Integration proposal already, and has sent it in to Bill for review. Then, any changes will be made as necessary before sending on to the USGS. Katy will also write the Fayetteville Shale proposal and the Hiring extra help proposal. Once completed, Bill will review these as well, and we will make any necessary changes. Then, once finalized all proposals will be sent in to the USGS.

There are also some EPA grants available which are specific for Hydro programs. Katy has not received any specific information on these, yet. She will share with the group once this information is received. Members of the Senior Management Team would also like to create a national grant workgroup.

The Senior Management Team has also revised the Priorities List into 10 major projects. The Team has grouped items on the big list of 83 in an attempt to better accomplish these priorities. Here they are:

1. The NHD Data Update Processes including the NHDGeoEdit tool and transaction processing.
2. NHD Data Quality Improvement Programs including USGS maintenance programs.
3. Integration of the WBD into the NHD Geodatabase and joint program integration.
4. NHD and WBD Data Stewardship Administration and Support.
5. Issues on a Single Multi-Resolution Database of best available data.
6. Use of the Hydrography Event Management Tool in the NHD program.
7. Data Conflation Issues involving high resolution conflation with local data sources.
8. Data Generalization Issues to provide datasets from a multi-resolution dataset.
9. Enhancing the Content and Capabilities of the NHD.
10. Other NHD Management Issues covering a myriad of miscellaneous NHD topics.

Each of these 10 major topics will have a manager who will be responsible for all aspects of the projects and lifecycle management of ongoing activities.

Katy clarified an editing concern of who would edit what HUC. Here is the example: if Katy is editing the borders, and Susan is editing Pulaski area only, and AHTD is editing another HUC, and AGFC is editing another HUC, then that only leaves very few other HUCs for the other members of the group to edit. This is WRONG. Any sub-steward who has a project in a particular HUC, or if they simply have a particular HUC in mind to edit, is allowed to do so. If another person would like to edit a portion of that same HUC, they can. Katy will make sure that dual efforts are coordinated. However, this event is unlikely.

Training & Training Manuals were the next item on the agenda. Katy reported that the most recent training was a bust. The networks, software, etc. just didn't want to work, which happens sometimes. However, during the training it was mentioned that the training manual still needs some revision. So, Katy has begun re-writing the training

manual to make it easier for sub-stewards to complete the editing process. Once this task has been completed, she will notify the TWG. Also, it would be better to train the sub-stewards one-on-one, or at least 2 at a time, rather than 10 at a time. This way, there aren't as many network and software issues. The USGS Technical POCs (point-of-contacts) have been saying for a while that this would work out better. It will still be a little while before we can really get started on the editing process. We need to get these grant proposals in place, and re-do some training, before this really gets off the ground.

Katy also reported that there is a newer version in place of the NHDPlus tools. Katy used NHDPlus to create the Stream Order Classification shapefile. This Version 2 is to be completed in 18 months, and is hoped that these newer tools will ultimately be used to build higher resolution NHDPlus. Remember, the Stream Order Classification shapefile is only currently available in medium resolution (1:100,000 scale). Once the higher resolution data becomes available, Katy will create a high resolution Stream Order Classification shapefile (1:24,000 scale).

The NHD Stewardship Conference will be held on April 15-17, 2009 in Denver, CO. Bill and Katy both are on the Planning Committee for this conference. There will be lots of panel discussions and presentations to attend. Katy encouraged everyone to attend, if they can. Katy also will be participating in a panel discussion and/or a presentation discussing our progress here in AR. One particular presentation will be on "Hydro Names in NHD", as they are changing the way GNIS Names appear in NHD. Details are not known yet, and as soon as they are, Katy will send the information out to the TWG.

**Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 26 from 1:00-4:00 at ADEQ.**

Remember our goal – to make state recommendations on strategy moving forward!