Minutes from NHD TWG meeting Thursday, March 20, 2008

Participants: Bart Dudley, AHTD
                Steven Hill, AHD
                Rusty McAllister, ANRC
                Alan Price, ADEQ
                Mary Barnett, ADEQ
                Randy Puckett, ADEQ
                Katy Hattenhauer, ADEQ

Katy went over the GNIS Names issues in a little more detail. David Anderson from Florida DEP has helped Katy create tables with all GNIS names for Arkansas, and explained to her how to compare those names with what is already in the NHDFlowline table. Katy has managed to join the tables together in ArcMap, and is waiting to hear from the USGS POC's about how to change the names and ID's in the table.

When the time comes for us to decide on a new name for the streams, rivers, etc. that do not have a GNIS name already, and we can't find the name on a Topo map, or on any local data, then we will choose a name, Katy will fill out a form, and send the form to the proper GNIS staff. Katy has learned so far that there is a delay with giving something a new name – once the form arrives at GNIS, the proper staff there has to check with all local businesses, city, county, state, and federal government, before they agree to our new name. Therefore, this can become a very lengthy process, and can take months to get accomplished. Katy will contact GNIS to find out if they can use specific contacts (e.g., the Land Information Board), rather than asking the entire state. Katy will also send a copy of the form to the Land Information Board when it gets sent to GNIS.

Katy also re-capped on the Stream Order Classification, and what she learned in Denver, CO, at the NHDPlus Workshop. She reported that the NHDPlus tool WILL do the stream order classification for us. Some members of our group had questions/concerns about this classification process, and it was decided to wait on Katy to get the classification accomplished, and get it saved as a layer file for everyone to view. Then, the group can make any final decisions about Stream Order Classifications.

Katy gave a progress report on HUC 11140109. She has a few more things to do – finish "fixing" names wherever possible, compare with aerial imagery, and double-check the metadata. Then, it will be ready to be sent back to the USGS, and her report can be finalized.

Alan Price (along with some others in the group) had some concerns about names and reach codes. So, Alan gave a demonstration on what his thoughts were, and Katy clarified them for everyone. These thoughts/concerns were:

     Q: If a stream is broken in one place, how do we fix it, and will it have to have a new reach code?

A: We will fix it by "stretching" it back together, using the standard Editing tool. No, it will not have to have a new reach code.

Q: What if the stream has two reach codes where it is broken (i.e., above the break it has reach code of 001, and below the break it has reach code of 002).
A: If you create a node at the end of reach code 001, and stretch it to the beginning of reach code 002, then it should be assigned reach code 001. And, vice versa.

Q: If you add a new line, rather than digitizing one, does it need a new reach code, no matter where it is, and what the surrounding reach codes are?
A: Yes, anytime you add a new line, it will be automatically assigned a new reach code, which throws off the numbering order, but it can't be helped.

Q: What about adding a line through a lake/pond?
A: Adding a line through a lake/pond to fix a flow error is called an Artificial Path. It should have the same reach code as the stream/river you are connecting with.

Q: There is a stream with no name. However, the highway department has a bridge over it, and the bridge is named. Should we use the bridge name?
A: Yes. If there is a surrounding landmark that is already named, then we should use that name.

Katy also checked with everyone about the letters to the USGS Director, Mr. Mark Myers. Everyone so far has talked to their Director, and each Director has agreed with the letter, and has also agreed to sign the signature page.

Katy will be giving a presentation about the NHD and our TWG at the GIS User's Forum meeting on April 15. She will try her best to "sell" the NHD to others, so that we can have more people to join our TWG and help us with the editing process! Also, after the Forum meeting, Katy will send out an e-mail to the forum for the same thing (to "sell" the NHD, and to get people to join us).

Katy discussed what our next meeting will be – "Policy Day". She feels that she is starting to repeat the same things over and over, and feels that we should all sit down for one full day, and hash out any and all policy decisions we need to make. Then, we can shift our focus if needed.

Katy will send out an e-mail ASAP with the details for Policy Day.