

Minutes from NHD TWG meeting Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Participants: Gina Perry, AHTD
Roger Alabach, Green Bay Packaging – Morrilton
Tony Davis, Brown Davis, Inc.
Jason Lyon, City of Conway
Shelby Johnson, AGIO
Ryan Benefield, ADEQ
Doug Hanson, AGS
Susan Horvath, PAGIS
Tracy Moy, AGFC
Bill Sneed, USGS
Alan Price, ADEQ
Mary Barnett, ADEQ
Katy Hattenhauer, ADEQ
Brian Culpepper, CAST (via the phone)

We have 4 new sub-stewards who have joined! They are: Roger Alabach with Green Bay Packaging in Morrilton, Tony Davis with Brown Davis, Inc., Jason Lyon with the City of Conway, and Brian Culpepper with CAST in Fayetteville. We spent a few minutes on introductions.

There were 2 different topics in the GNIS discussion. The first topic of discussion was ditches. Katy had encountered a couple of issues while trying to change over ADEQ's Reg. 2 data into the NHD. The main issue she wanted to discuss was that the majority of ditches are not named, and it makes trying to find these ditches very difficult when trying to digitize them from documentation. Shelby had a comment prior to the meeting that maybe the Corps of Engineers would have this information. He shared an example with the group. While their information is helpful, it still doesn't fix all of the null values for ditches. So, the next suggestion would be to find Levee Districts. Shelby has a contact person for this information, and will share with the group when he gets a list. Also mentioned, was the Bridge Dataset from the Highway Department, and Gina Perry is going to talk to Bart Dudley about this. Lou Yost with the GNIS board agreed to these decisions. Bill and Katy will also talk with some other state stewards at the upcoming stewardship conference in Denver.

The second topic of discussion was duplicate names. After a little bit of discussion, the group decided it would be best to leave this alone, because of the level of difficulty to change these names. Lou Yost agreed that this should not be done. Therefore, a recommendation has been made for everyone to start referencing the GNIS ID number when talking about a particular GNIS name in their documentation. This will clarify which stream feature you are discussing, and will take away the confusion of duplicate names within a county.

Katy will send out a link to the GNIS Principles, Policies, and Procedures for the group to have. That way, when we start naming unnamed features, we can all have the same guidelines to follow.

Katy mentioned that 2 out of the 3 grant proposals written have been approved. These are the Fayetteville Shale project, and the NHD/WBD Integration. The one that didn't get approved was the proposal to hire an extra-help person to fix only the NHDGeoEdit Tool Error Inspector errors. This did not get approved, because fixing these errors is what the sub-stewards are supposed to do in the first place.

Next, Katy talked about the upcoming stewardship conference in Denver. She and Bill will be attending. Katy will be on a panel discussion with 4 other state stewards. During this time Katy will be discussing the following:

- (1) Outline water issues in the state
- (2) Outline the organization of water agencies in the state (theirs and others)
- (3) The status of the MOU (signed in October)
- (4) Who their POC and NSDI liaison are (Tim Hines and Bill Sneed)
- (5) How the NHD can be applied (Bill mentioned that Katy needs to be sure and bring up the Fayetteville Shale project, as this ties in with a lot of environmental concerns)
- (6) The issues and challenges faced
 - With the NHD (inter-agency using different datasets)
 - With NHD Stewardship
 - What works and doesn't work
- (7) Possible solutions
- (8) The recommended solution (to form a technical working group, etc.)
- (9) Other useful information

Training was next on the agenda. Katy will finish re-writing the training manual next week, and will host training during the last week of April, or the first week of May. Brian Culpepper is able to set up a web-based seminar for us to be able to do the training. We will do a dry run to make sure everything is running smoothly, before we do the actual training. Then, there are at least 4 sub-stewards who will be ready to get started.

For the sub-stewards who do not have ArcInfo licenses, it may take a little while. However, Shelby has a computer at AGIO with ArcInfo, and he is willing to allow sub-stewards to work on that computer, if necessary. Also, Katy can contact ESRI and get a temporary license.

Our next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 14 from 1-4 in the first floor conference room at ADEQ. Katy will send out a meeting request tomorrow, and will have an agenda ready to send out a week before the meeting.