

Minutes from NHD TWG meeting Thursday, July 29, 2010

Participants: Bill Sneed, USGS
Susan Horvath, AGS
Doug Hanson, AGS
Mary Barnett, ADEQ
Katy Hattenhauer, ADEQ
Randy Puckett, ADEQ
Bart Dudley, AHTD
Tony Davis, Brown Davis, Inc.
Tracy Moy, AGFC
Pam Starks, AGFC
Ray Postolovski, USGS POC (Guest)

We started off the meeting discussing the current Fayetteville Shale grant. As of right now, Jason has completed 2 of the 8-digit HUCs and may start the final HUC within the next couple of weeks. This grant ends September 30, 2010.

We have been approved for our two new grants as discussed at our last meeting. We are requesting another Fayetteville Shale grant which will focus on 46 different 12-digit HUCs. The other grant will focus on all other existing HUCs that we could minimize down to specific project areas. In other words, if a sub-steward is working in a specific area, part of this particular cooperative agreement could go toward that project area to edit the NHD. This is an undefined proposal, and would include some travel money, and also would be set up as contractual. Each grant is \$25,000, and will run through October 1, 2011. Bill Sneed will check with the USGS grant specialist to see if we can change our current start date which reads June 1, 2010. This needs to be changed to begin sometime in September 2010.

Update on ArcInfo licenses: waiting to hear back from ESRI and/or USGS to see if there's any other documentation they need, and/or how we proceed next. Not sure at this time when we might hear back from them. We may have to make an amendment to our current NHD MOU.

NHD WET Tool: Katy was hoping to demonstrate the tool during this meeting, but the tool is currently being updated to include some new functions the group has built. She is hoping to be able to demonstrate this at the next meeting.

Katy will begin editing the last couple of HUCs along the Oklahoma border next week. The Oklahoma steward is ready to work with Katy if necessary on these HUCs. Katy will also go back into the Fayetteville Shale HUCs and enter the pipeline data beginning immediately after the Oklahoma border is complete.

There is a GNIS Conference to be held in Springfield, MO October 5-9, 2010. Katy will be attending, and will be giving a presentation and participating in a panel discussion to express needs, concerns, etc., with the NHD and GNIS names for Arkansas. This will

occur on Wednesday afternoon. The presentations/panel discussions will consist of Arkansas, New Jersey, and possibly Oregon. The presentations will be 20 minutes, with the panel discussion following. Bill has been in touch with us on what to discuss during our presentations. We need to focus on errors in our GNIS names (i.e., names wrong or missing in ditches, names wrong in segments in lakes, and derogatory name). Katy encouraged anyone in the group to attend as well. The link to the GNIS website for this conference is: <http://cogna50usa.org/> Conference registration is available at this time. All conference details will be on this site. As of right now, there's an estimated cost of \$125 for the registration fee, with additional fees involved (optional additional fees). Tracy Moy with AGFC will try to attend, and Becky White with AGS may also be attending. Doug Hanson brought up a couple of ideas to the group about how to go about naming some of the ditches – naming them numerically and alphabetically. Or somehow name them by County or by Section and Township. Katy will make sure on the rules on this before the group makes a decision on this. Katy will also bring this up at the COGNA conference to see if other states have done this or have any more ideas.

The USGS has finished with their statewide edits to date. Katy will try to update the “AR HUC Errors by Subbasin” list as quickly as possible. Most of these statewide edits were fixing the microgaps in the 1:24,000 scale.

Katy updated the group on the Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) integration. NHD and WBD are officially integrated, so when we download any NHD HUC, we will be receiving WBD attributes as well. Katy read a couple of quotes from an e-mail from the national WBD Coordinator: “The integration of NHD and WBD is an ongoing project, which is seeing various components of the overall plan phased in over time. The initial desired level of integration should be achieved by Spring 2011, however, the WBD is currently implemented in the NHD geodatabase. Starting on June 7th, 2010, when stewards download data from the NHD web-site, included in this data will be certified WBD data instead of the old 1:250,000 hydrologic units.

Ray Postolovski, our new USGS Point of Contact (POC) attended our meeting and showcased the new and improved NHD GeoEdit Tool. This tool is set to officially roll out in December or January. This new tool will work with ArcGIS Desktop 9.3 or higher. Katy will make a new training manual for it by that time. Katy will also send the group a copy of the model release notes, which discusses in detail the changes that this new tool is making. Ray will come back after the tool is officially rolled out for training, which will take 1 to 2 days. Ray will get the new Help file information from Paul Kimsey, and Katy will send that information out to the group. Katy will make sure to coordinate the new training manual with the new Help file information. The group had a nice working lunch with Ray, and we all look forward to working with him in the future.