

Minutes from NHD TWG meeting Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Participants: Katy Hattenhauer, ADEQ
Tony Davis, AGIO
Shelby Johnson, AGIO
Jason Lyon, City of Conway
Mary Barnett, ADEQ
Randy Puckett, ADEQ
Doug Hanson, AGS
Nathan Taylor, AGS
Gina Perry, AHTD
Elizabeth McCartney (on phone)
Mike Jezierski (on phone)
Tracy Moy (on phone)

We started off the meeting with an introduction of our new USGS Point of Contact (POC) Elizabeth McCartney. Elizabeth has been working solely with the NHD for approximately 3 ½ years now and is stationed in Rolla, Missouri at the USGS office there. We look forward to meeting her when she is available to come teach us some training in the future.

Review of previous meeting minutes – nothing new to report; no new updates or any errors.

There are several new gas pipeline crossing proposals currently in place in the Fayetteville Shale areas. Katy will keep up with which crossings actually get completed, and will updated the NHD as needed in this process. Katy also needs to go back and review all of the previous pipeline crossings and make sure she entered all of them into the NHD database. She will do this within the next week.

Past, Current, and Future Grants - Jason and Tony have completed the Fayetteville Shale grant. Dharmendra Saraswat with UAEX and his team of students have completed the Special Projects grant. The current grant in place is the editing of the HUC's in the Bayou Meto area, and it will work in conjunction with the new LiDAR data for that area. There are two grant proposals in the works: L'Anguille LiDAR (just like the current Bayou Meto area) and another Specified Study Area (just like the previous Special Projects). USGS no longer wants to fund maintenance of the NHD; they are funding projects that further utilize the NHD database. The group discussed a few ideas for future projects that would accomplish this task. They are Losing Streams which we could tie events to and use it as a downloadable layer; Union, Columbia, and Lafayette Counties will be undergoing drilling processes in the future for oil primarily; Water Quality; Lake Maumelle and Lake Wynona which serve central Arkansas' water; linking events to the entire NHD database (i.e., our shareholders); Illinois and Buffalo River studies; Low water crossings (this was discussed in depth and was decided upon to be a 2-phase process with Phase I being an analysis to determine the scope of the project and Phase II to actually create the events to attach to the NHD database). The low water crossings

proposal would assist in future infrastructure construction, emergency response coordination, transportation, and reduce the economic impact of flooding due to replacement of these low water crossings. Katy will get a proposal written and submitted to Bill this week.

LiDAR data could also help us in direction for 2013. Lake Conway LiDAR should be completed in March. Conway Corporation should receive the data once completed.

The naming of the ditches within the state is still tabled at this time. Upon review of our previous meeting minutes, it was decided that we will wait until we roll out the NHD-WET tool so that the public can make comments, which would greatly help us out.

Update on Beta Testing of the New NHD GeoEdit Tools – Katy has completed a 3rd round of Beta Testing on the New NHD GeoEdit Tools. She is very excited about the new tools and will be ready as soon as the tools are given the all clear to set up a training for the group. These new tools will NOT be available for Arc10.

New GNIS Name Changes – changing spelling of Shinall Mountain to Chenault Mountain; changing spelling of Baron Fork to Barren Fork; changing spelling of West Branch Baron Fork to West Branch Barren Fork; addition of a new name is Johnson Branch in Van Buren County.

AWRA and NHD/WBD Conference – the conference will be held in New Orleans, LA at the Sheraton from March 29-30. The AWRA conference runs that entire week, and focuses on applications of GIS in water resources. Arkansas is scheduled to be on a panel during the NHD/WBD part of the conference, and is currently on the schedule for Thursday morning. Katy is unable to attend this conference this year and is hoping that Shelby Johnson can take her place.

Status Map updates – everything has been completed, including the HUCs that the USGS had checked out. Katy will be downloading the HUCs that are “gaps” in the Status Map (the NW and Western parts of the state), and will be editing and updating them in the next couple of weeks.

WBD update – in January, all WBD edits are to be reviewed by USGS and NRCS and integrated in the NRCS WBD database. In February, the NRCS is to finalize WBD database and give to USGS; the USGS is to begin loading WBD data into new WBD model. In March, the USGS is to introduce WBD editing tools and process to stewards; the USGS is to provide training on WBD editing tools and processes; WBD stewardship is to go live with the USGS. The integration of the WBD into the NHD represents many years of effort on the part of not only the NRCS and USGS but also many other State, Federal and International agencies. The USGS and NRCS are excited to be nearing the end of this project and to be moving WBD stewardship forward.

Lignite possibility – Katy showed an Arkansas Lignite Investigation Map which shows the locations of lignite drilling. This could possibly be tied into the NHD, just like the

Fayetteville Shale. This is tabled for now as there is not really anything going on with lignite at this time.

Shareholder meeting – There is a need for all agencies to work together to have the NHD as a turnkey database to attach other data to. This has not been done yet. This will be a 2-pronged approach for Shelby Johnson and Tony Davis. They will have a one-on-one meeting with State agencies. Then they will host another meeting in group form. Most likely the group meeting will be held at ADEQ.

Applications/Updates – Katy did not have time to discuss this during the meeting, so she will send out a list of updates, including links, in an e-mail to the group.

Update on NHD WET tool – Katy has received the specifications and technical requirements for implementation of the NHD-WET tool, and she has passed this along to the ADEQ Computer Services Division for further review. This Division is currently looking at purchasing a new ArcServer which will hopefully include these new specifications. If not, Katy will get with Shelby to implement the NHD-WET on GeoStor.

Buffalo River changes to be reviewed – Katy received a list of ComIDs and Reachcodes from a contractor. The contractor seems to think that these ComIDs and Reachcodes need to be removed from the NHD database. These were originally fish ponds, which according to a couple of other people, no longer exist. Katy will review this issue further in the next couple of weeks to determine whether or not to remove these from the database.

Mississippi River Project – is complete! This project was an update of the local-resolution NHD work in the Lower Mississippi-Helena subbasin that borders Arkansas, therefore an edge-matching effort with the high-resolution data to edit the Mississippi side of the area feature for the Mississippi River and join that up to the existing high-resolution data for the other side of the river in Arkansas.

Walk-Ons – the NHD files on GeoStor are just a snapshot. Shelby and Tony will go back and update the data on GeoStor. When the new WBD data gets implemented, we would like to have that on GeoStor as well.