

Minutes from NHD TWG meeting Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Participants: Jason Lyon, City of Conway
Susan Horvath, AGS
Bill Sneed, USGS
Katy Hattenhauer, ADEQ
Carey Wilcoxson, AGFC
Doug Hanson, AGS
Mike Jezierski, AGFC
Pam Starks, AGFC
Scott Lane, AGFC
Bart Dudley, AHTD
Randy Puckett, ADEQ

First item on the list was the Ditches discussion again. Katy mentioned using the Ditch Dataset created by the AHTD. Bart mentioned that 85% of the Ditch Dataset comes from the NHD and 15% is hand digitized from aerials. So, these could be up to 15 feet off on some areas, and + or – 70 feet on hill areas. Scott mentioned that during his snakehead fish study, the group had used any ditches that were connected to main waterways. Most of these were perennial. Some of these ditches were 70 feet wide. There's an unobstructive flow of water in these ditches. Katy will bring this discussion up at the Management Team Meeting in Denver, CO in December. So, the Ditches discussion is still tabled for now.

The next item on the agenda was the GNIS Names discussion. A small group of us have held a meeting with Bekki White at AGS, as she is our GNIS person for the State of Arkansas. We have went over some of the GNIS Name issues that we are facing (i.e., NHD has one name, Topo has one name, and GNIS has another name; these names should be matching up). However, we have put this on hold for now, as the USGS is supposed to be fixing these issues during their Maintenance Lite II program. Katy will find out more information on this program in Denver in December. Bill will talk with Carl Nelson and Jeff Simley with the USGS about this topic before Katy goes to Denver. If Arkansas is not on the schedule soon to get this fixed, then we'll look into getting a grant to fix these issues. Bill will follow up with Katy after his discussion with the USGS folks.

Next on the agenda was the Fayetteville Shale project that Jason Lyon is working on. Jason has made excellent progress with his HUC, and Katy showed some examples of his work, and some problems he had encountered. The group looked at a landfill example, and decided that we should include any pond on aerial photography following our criteria we set during our first policy meeting on ponds. If we need to, we can go back at a later date and delete any pond feature we added, such as the landfill ponds. **NOTE: If you are adding a landfill pond, use this code: Lake/Pond: Hydrographic Category = Intermittent.**

The group also looked at an example of a Mining Pit, and it was again determined to add these. **NOTE: If you are adding a mining pit pond, use this code: Reservoir: Construction Material = Earthen.**

The group also discussed the option of a “Reserve Pit” code to use for these reservoir/pond issues. Katy has looked at the NHDGeoEdit Tool, and there is NOT a “Reserve Pit” code. So, the group will have to use the Lake/Pond code, and will follow our criteria for ponds.

Katy and Jason also reported to the group that the “Import Geometry” button works great. You just need to make sure that you import in groups of the same feature (i.e., Lake/Pond: Perennial). Also, select the subtype BEFORE you do the importing. This will keep you from having to copy/paste.

Katy also told the group that she is trying to get a Pipeline code specifically for us, and could also ask for a reserve pit code for us to use. Katy will report back with the group at a later date, as she needs to find out more information first.

Katy told the group about a new tool coming out soon that the public can use to help the TWG in editing the NHD!! This new tool will be in the form of a web browser, very similar to our map viewers we have today. Anyone will be able to add, delete, modify, etc. a flowline, lake, or any other NHD feature. Then, that person will turn in his/her edits to Katy, and then the group will decide whether or not these edits will go into the NHD. The TWG will then have to use the NHDGeoEdit Tool to perform the “real” edits into the database, just like we do now. Katy will report back at a later date when she has more information.

Bill mentioned the ArcInfo licenses. The sub-stewards will need to fill out a form stating the specific use of the licenses for NHD only. Katy will keep up with the licenses at ADEQ, and will disperse them to the sub-stewards who need them. Once the form has been filled out, and the license given, the sub-steward can begin work on the NHD! Bill will get back with the group at a later date when he receives more information.

Our next meeting will be in December after Katy’s return from Denver, CO!!