



LR-NHD Kickoff Meeting - Minutes

Presentation

The first meeting of the West Virginia Stream Mapping Working Group was on November 9, 2005 at the Euro Suites in Charleston, West Virginia. The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss the potential of completing the National Hydrographic Dataset (NHD) at Local Resolution (LR) for the state of West Virginia. A list of attendees can be found at the end of this document.

The meeting began at 130 PM. Jackie Strager of the Natural Resource Analysis Center and Evan Fedorko of the West Virginia GIS Technical Center delivered a joint presentation. Jackie Strager introduced the project by offering general descriptions of NHD data as well as a discussion on the benefits of LR-NHD over currently available hydrographic data. Evan Fedorko gave a general overview of anticipated methods and potential technical issues. He also led a brief discussion on potential pilot study watersheds and reviewed a new website dedicated to the project.

The final part of the presentation dealt with personnel requirements as well as current and future funding needs. Following the presentation, the floor was opened for discussion.

General Questions and Comments

Harry Berger, Kanawha County: Comment: A good source of information for stream names may be engineering documents, some firms collect good information for their maps. Also possibly check tax maps for local stream names.

Katherine Paybins, USGS: Question: Are we going to be updating/editing stream geometry in the 24K NHD to match the aerial photographs, where we see errors or disagreements? Answer: No, we will only edit obvious omissions in the 24K NHD, such as Stonewall Jackson Lake. Other alignment errors between the 24K NHD and various aerial photographs are merely due to the difference in map scale. The LR NHD would be of a larger map scale than the 24K NHD, so it would match the aerial photos better.

Mike Dougherty, WVDNR: Question: Are we going to attach local stream names to streams? Answer: No, the stream names for the LR NHD will by and large come from the GNIS names. In a few cases we may be able to fix errors in the GNIS names in the NHD when compared with topo maps.

Craig Neidig/Evan Fedorko, Comment: If the LR NHD projects are not undertaken, that no other work will be done on the SAMB stream linework. The SAMB streams are just lines right now, no attributes, no checking. This is our chance to take this linework, edit it, and work it into something useful.

Chris Daugherty, WVDEP: Question: When will the pilot LR NHD projects be completed? Answer: late next summer (2006).



Chris Daugherty, WVDEP: Question: How are we compiling errors in the 24K NHD? If we have lists of errors, who should we send them to? Answer: Send them to either Jackie or Evan. We will take care of compiling them for now.

Harry Berger, Kanawha County: Comment: Larry George is an attorney in Charleston who has compiled a document or publication on legal status of streams and stream rights in West Virginia. This might be of interest to us.

Pat Campbell, WVDEP: Question: Why are we specifically avoiding karst areas in the pilot project? Wouldn't it be better to include some of these areas, so we know how to handle this issue? Answer: We would like to consider a more straightforward area for the pilot project first, without dealing with potential subsurface drainage features. It should be noted that the NHD only maps surface water features.

Craig Neidig: Question to audience: How does the Water Resources Protection Act (SB 163) fit into this, if at all? Answer, Pat Campbell, WVDEP: We will use the best data available at the time to describe location of water features, as required by this bill. There is no money provided by the bill for this purpose. The demonstration project (pilot project, LR NHD) may help provide useful information to help sell the need for water resources inventory to the legislature, if completed in time (December 2006 deadline). Mike Stratton/Nick Schaer, WVDEP: There is no funding provided in legislation to support this work, and guidance provided by the bill is not that detailed. Craig Neidig: reiterates that the pilot project seems like it will be useful to help build the case for increased/better inventory of surface waters in the state.

Specific Discussion Questions

These are questions prepared ahead of time for the audience.

1. Will the local NHD help you do your job?

Answer: Mike Owen, USFS: yes, it should help. Any better mapping of streams should help. We wonder how consistent the new streams will be, because we have looked at the SAMB photos and can see streams that are in photo, but were not mapped. Comment (Jackie/Evan): We will try to systematically capture all streams at the local scale (by using synthetic stream generation, and comparing these results with SAMB streams). We will try to use automated methods to find errors/omissions in streams, rather than visual comparison in all cases.

2. Who else should be present or involved in this LR NHD planning process?

Answer: Highways/DOT, NRCS, Fish and Wildlife Service, Canaan Valley Institute, Army Corps. Some were at the morning meeting, then left. Others (CVI, NRCS) were invited but did not attend. USFWS needs to be included in the future.

3. Data maintenance – how to approach this?



Answer: We provided a general discussion of how NHD maintenance should work, and of the availability of the NHD EDIT software (currently January, but stay tuned). Bruce Bauch, USGS: USGS is identifying logical state level data stewards for each layer in the National Map. Pat Campbell, WVDEP: DEP is currently “contemplating this responsibility” and deciding if they should be the lead agency in the state for NHD maintenance and updates.

4. Pilot area suggestions?

This point was not discussed in detail. Survey results will help lead this discussion and it will be a topic at the next meeting.

Summary

Jackie Strager and Evan Fedorko presented information about a proposed project to create local resolution NHD for the state of West Virginia. The project would use and improve stream geometry collected from orthophotos as part of the State Addressing and Mapping Board's efforts. Following the presentation, a question and answer period was held and several key points were discussed.

At the end of the discussion, a 26 question survey was distributed. The results of this survey will be used to compile two major documents. The first will be an assessment of the present use of and future needs for digital stream network data among stakeholders in West Virginia. The anticipated date of publication for this document is Dec. 2005/Jan. 2006. The second document will include a review of existing standards of stream definitions at different mapping scales. It will also present proposed mapping standards for stream data at local resolution (1:4,800) in West Virginia. The first draft of this document will be available for review in early 2006.

The surveys are due November 23, 2005 and should be sent to either Jackie Strager or Evan Fedorko. The survey, as well as all other documents associated with the project, is available from the project website, which is listed at the end of this document in a section titled “Resources.”

Jackie and Evan also distributed CDs containing some sample data to individuals or agencies interested in completing some minor comparisons between new and existing stream data. Eleven individuals expressed interest in this and were given CDs.

It is anticipated that these two documents will be major discussion points at the next meeting of the West Virginia Stream Mapping Working Group. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for late January, 2006.



List of Attendees

| First Name | Last Name |
|------------|-------------|
| Nicki | Barnetter |
| Marc | Barraclough |
| Bruce | Bauch |
| Doug | Brown |
| Larry | Butler |
| Pat | Campbell |
| Chris | Daugherty |
| Stacy | Denovchic |
| Kurt | Donaldson |
| Michael | Dougherty |
| Hussein | Elkhansa |
| Connie | Ervin |
| Larry | Evans |
| Evan | Fedorko |
| Jerald | Fletcher |
| Terry | Funk |
| Andrew | Gould |
| Jeff | Gula |
| Allison | Jones |
| Sam | Lammie |
| Craig | Neidig |
| Mike | Owen |
| Katherine | Paybins |
| Robert | Perry |
| Nick | Schaer |
| Robert | Shaffer |
| Joshua | Snyder |
| Jennings | Starcher |
| Jackie | Strager |
| Mike | Stratton |
| Steve | Valentine |
| Dale | Vanderlaan |
| Mike | Whitman |
| John | Wirts |



Resources

Project Website: <http://www.wvgis.wvu.edu/stateactivities/lrnhd.html>

USGS, NHD Website: <http://nhd.usgs.gov>