# Wetland Names Working Group (WNWG)

May 23, 2012

# Mark Your Calendar

Future WNWG Conference Calls/Webinars are scheduled on Wednesdays at 3:00pmET/2:00pmCT/1:00pmMT/NoonPT on the following 2012 dates:

* June 13 and 27.

# 2 Tasks from Last WNWG Webinar

## May 9, 2012

* 1. LLWW--Organize the next WNWG meeting to discuss the pros and cons of using some level of LLWW as a basis for polygons for applying stable unique identifiers.

* 2. WPDG--Organize a team to draft a national Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG) proposal for WNWG that would include a wetland unique identifier pilot project.

# LLWW
## (LANDSCAPE, LANDFORM, WATER FLOW PATH, AND WATERBODY TYPE)

* 1. LLWW--Organize the next WNWG meeting to discuss the pros and cons of using some level of LLWW as a basis for polygons for applying stable unique identifiers. Reasons include the greater temporal stability of the landscape setting relative to the vegetation, and that some level of LLWW could potentially be mapped for sites of interest which are not currently wetlands (including historic, restorable, and riparian sites). A related suggestion for discussion is using the geographic coordinates of a point within an LLWW polygon ("Locator Point") as a unique identifier (as opposed to HUC/NHD).

# Wetland Program Development Grant

* 2. WPDG--Organize a team to draft a national Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG) proposal for WNWG that would include a wetland unique identifier pilot project. We discussed potentially working with ongoing wetland mapping efforts in several states (including Maryland, Montana, New Mexico, Minnesota, and others). It has also been suggested that we consider funding to support the proposal to FGDC of any needed mapping standards to support the implementation of stable unique identifier codes and names for wetlands, as well as related WMC programmatic work to support these efforts.

* WPDG team members as currently identified--if you haven't been contacted about this but would like to participate, or have questions, please contact me ASAP at wmc.jane.awl@gmail.com or (865) 607-3149.

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. LLWW Discussion
4. Poll and Planning for Intecol/SWS 2012
5. Proposal for Pilot Project
6. Wrap-up and Next Meeting

# Questions/Discussion Points

- What do we use as a starting point?
  - Landscape Position
  - Landform
- What about intersections (roads, streams, etc): When do you break polygon, or keep complex together. Would LULC rules work? Depends on scale/resolutions. Consider whether accepting linears or polygons only. Sounds like we may need to state our conventions. NH split on 2 lane roads, also looked at hydrological connection.
- When working with NWI data, and applying LLWW would you redraw polygon?
- We need to be able to track polygons over time.
- Geographic Coordinates for a Locator Point (Central, Internal point) should not change and could function as the unique identifier code.
- For MN LLWW creates polygons too small to include entire complex—maybe need to look at NH method.
- What about using DEMs?
- How much aggregation is reasonable or helpful?
- Do we really want to use complexes for our base unit, since monitoring will be looking at parts. What parts are important for monitoring? Landscape setting?
- What about multiple levels. Could the Complex be identified separately? Separate Identifier code for complex, with sub-identifiers for landscape setting.
- CMECS (may be endorsed today) has ecoregion codes. Given hydrological connections in coastal areas, is geomorphology more important in a nested approach.
- Remote and automated mapping of features for coding would be helpful. But that depends on what data is available for mapping at a particular site. Ultimately our goal is to develop a national system, so we need to look at something that can be applied everywhere. NWI and LLWW are being applied nationally and would be amenable to pilot study.
- Pilot should address defining polygon for study area, Could we test LL vs NWI for nesting, as best way to apply. We may want to vary regionally.
- We may be recommending a process to identify most effective unit to apply

# Stable Unique Identifiers: State Projects

* Numeric Codes for the Identification of Basins in Minnesota http://mn.gov/oet/policies-and-standards/geospatial/gis-pages/mn-basin-identification-codes.jsp --This standard has been developed to improve the sharing and exchange of information about lake and wetland basins.

* Generation of unique identifiers for complexes of NWI polygons based on the updated New Hampshire Method http://nhmethod.org/index.htm. See "NHWetlands Base Map" at http://www.granit.unh.edu/data/downloadfreedata/category/databycategory.html.

# Stable Unique Identifiers: Key Issues

* Codes must function within a relational database context to support robust analysis. The national level is the missing puzzle piece to putting state and regional databases together for analysis.

* Codes need to reflect wetland dynamism: expansion/contraction, disappearance/reappearance, and fragmentation over time.

* Will there be a target minimum or maximum wetland size for coding? The wetland Mapping Standard specifies a target mapping unit of 0.5 acres. Some smaller wetlands have significant biological functions which there may be need to monitor.

* Length of code may become unwieldy.
  * Alpha- numeric code packs more info in field space.
  * Multiple fields may be required to store components of code and to aid in analysis.

# Stable Unique Identifiers: Recommendations:

* Use of only these codes and names would **NOT be mandated**, states and others would still be free to use their own systems. The intent is to build methods that will solve fundamental problems and be so useful that everybody will want to use it as a complement to their data set.
* The names and codes should remain **separate from any wetland/upland determination** (even currently drained wetlands or planned/future wetlands could be issued national wetland names and identifier codes.
* Utilize **multiple approaches** and relational tables for robust usage possibilities.
* Code(s) should be informationally robust enough to allow for **multiple levels of aggregation and splitting**. Potentially include HUC and NHD in identifier code, ending with assigned value.
* Develop a **new FGDC standard and National Coverage** for Wetland Names and Stable Unique Identifier Codes (work towards grants and funding to develop)
* Stable Unique Identifier Code assignment by **online web-based tool and database lookup**.
* **Develop a regional pilot project**.

# Next Steps

2012

* Wetland Names Working Group (WNWG) conference calls and document reviews (ongoing)
* INTECOL/SWS combined Meeting, June 3-8, Orlando, FL
  * Larry-either
  * Ralph-either, Tues&Wed

  ++Lunch together right after session Tuesday?

* Draft Review, July 2012
* Technical Report distribution, September 2012

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* June 11 –works for everyone on call (Instead of 13 )
* June 27.

# Join the WMC

Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC) membership is FREE. Members have access to email updates, online collaboration tools, as well as the monthly Webinar Series (3rd Wednesdays at 3pm Eastern). For registration information see http://clic.cses.vt.edu/WMC/WMC_Organizers.htm

If you are interested in joining the Wetland Names Working Group (WNWG) or being notified of our future activities, please send an email to wetlandmappingconsortium@gmail.com with the subject line "Join WNWG". WNWG Conference Calls are held 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 3pm Eastern.

# QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?

- Wetland Names Working Group (WNWG)
- Stable Unique Identifier Codes
- Wetland Mapping Consortium (WMC)
- SSURGO Package for Wetland Mappers
- Wetland Mapping Training

**For more information please contact:**

**Jane Awl**

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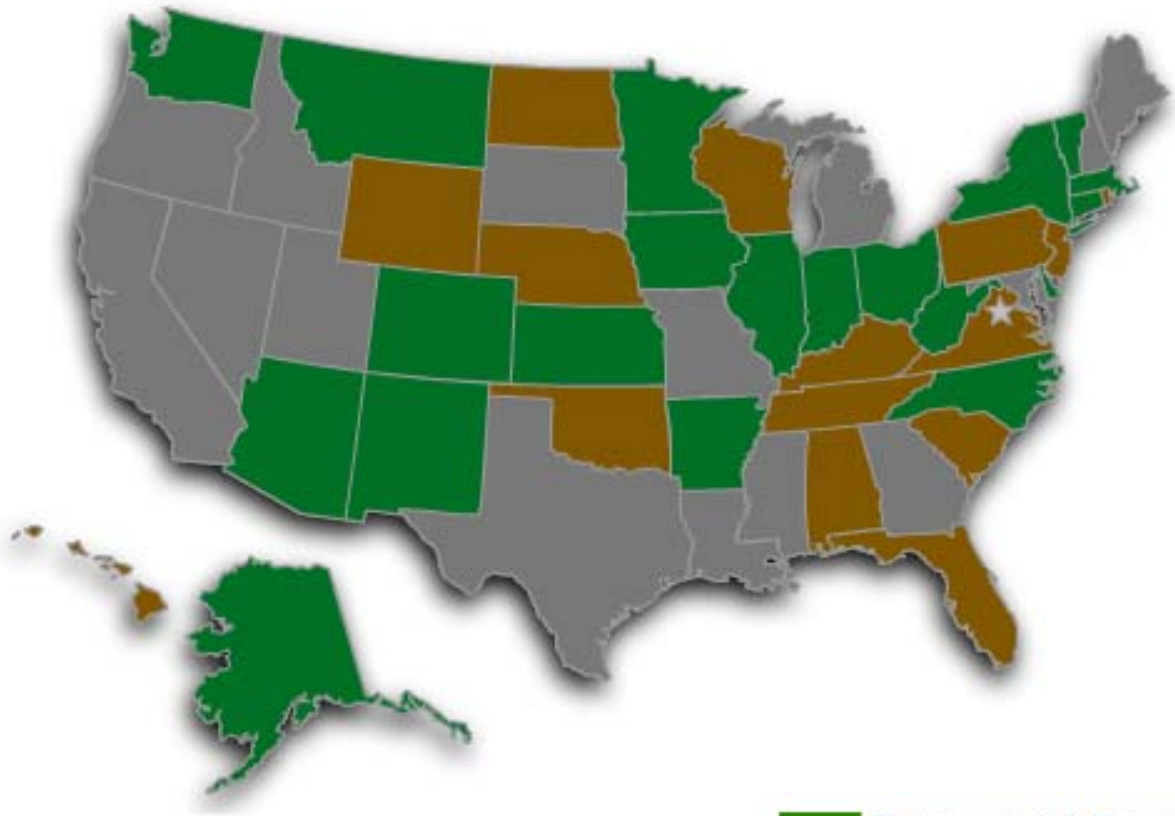
# http://aswm.org/wetland-mapping/-state-mapping-efforts



2010 Wetland Mapping Summary

Saturday, 01 October 2011 00:00

State responded, Mapping underway

State responded, no mapping underway

State did not respond

# Components of WPDG Proposal

* 1) Coding and Quality Control, Regional Application (Most Important)
  * Compare NWI, LL(WW), HGM, or, NHD, HUC, DEM-based ?
  * Riparian, Hydric Soils (potential wetlands) ?
  * Alternative methods for mapping (automated vs manual methods)
  * Accuracy Assessment on each part
  * Retrofitting NWI Data
* 2) Demos (Applications):
  * -- Retrofitting NWI Data
  * -- Relate Coding to NWCA data for decision-making in geographic context
  * -- Relate Coding to EPA 3 level approach
  * -- Relate Coding to regulatory delineations (State & Fed)
* 3) Report: Recommendations & Implementation
* 4) WMC programmatic maintenance and development work to facilitate improvements in wetland mapping
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* Next Steps:
  * Development of Guidance and Conventions
  * Development of Proposal(s) of new FGDC Standards)

* Next WPDG
* May 30 at 11 am ET/10am CT
* Present DRAFT Outlines for 3 or 4 components

* Plan on lunch group meeting after INTECOL Session Tuesday