
NGAC National Hydrography Dataset Subcommittee

Progress Report

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September 19, 2012

Acknowledgements

- Tim Nyerges
- Mark Reichardt
- Tony Spicci
- Gary Thompson
- David Wyatt
- Mark DeMulder
- Jeff Simley
- Vicki Lukas
- Steve Aichele,
- Tommy DeWald

- John Mahoney
- Tricia Gibbons

Agenda

- Guidance
- Accomplishments
- Next Steps
- Acknowledgements

Guidance

■ Essential Questions

- **What are the barriers to greater standardized use of the NHD? How can implementation of a single nationwide, and multi-agency hydrography dataset be improved?**
- **Is the current stewardship model the optimal strategy for engaging partners and improving the data? What improvements can be made or incentives leveraged to strengthen stewardship and funding?**

Guidance

- **Essential Questions (cont'd)**
 - **What are the administrative, policy, technical and coordination best practices for maintaining NHD data across multiple sectors and levels of government?**

Fundamental

- **Need for a robust, well-scoped survey instrument to obtain input**
 - from stewards in the NHD program
 - from representatives in those states not in program

Actions / Accomplishments

- Conducted three subcommittee meetings with involvement of NHD Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)
 - 6 June 2012, 18 June 2012, 28 August 2012
 - Extensive review, assessment and feedback on survey instrument intended for release to states / stewards
 - Discussion / identification of NHD challenges with SMEs

Subcommittee

Recommendations: Survey

- Establish clearer expectations / uses for the survey
 - Assess Stewardship strategy
 - Identify opportunities and challenges
 - Identify opportunities to rebalance/prioritize resources
 - Further detail value of NHD to users

Key Challenge Areas:

- **Technology** – Do we need more advanced tools? If so, how should we approach this? What costs are acceptable?
- **LIDAR** – Does LIDAR provide a more cost effective method over current processes? Do we need new hydro information to replace what we already have? Is what we have good enough?
- **Consistency** – From a practical standpoint, do we really have a problem with of state to state NHD data inconsistency? Is there a need for a flexible but interoperable data model to address different state data capture and maintenance needs?

These challenge areas may be ripe for Subcommittee development of problem statements for USG to leverage in addressing challenges.

Other Considerations

- GAO, as part of their review of federal geospatial programs, is reviewing several geospatial data themes including NHD. Results of this activity may stimulate additional Subcommittee activity