Alaska Hydrography Technical Working Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes
10/28/2013

In Attendance

In Person (USGS Anchorage Campus):
Becci Anderson  USGS
Wendy Steinberger  ADNR
Bret Christensen  USFWS

Online:
Bill Rice  USFWS
Alan Peck  BLM
Joni Piercy  NPS
Erik Johnson  USFS
Cliff Jones  ADEC
Sheryl Boyack  USGS
J Johnson  ADFG
Carol Barnhill  ADFG
Andy Robertson  Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota
Jeff Knopf  Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota
Kim Homan  UAS
Mike Plivelich  UAS
Jeff Simley  USGS

Brief Updates on Current Work (Group)

Becci Anderson (USGS): Two-thirds of the ACCER Chairs have signed the charter. The Alaska Geospatial Council is ready to be stood-up. AHTWG will not be connected to the council initially. Presented at 10/25 C4 meeting to update group on AHTWG. Will speak during IHCA’s Fall meeting on 10/30. Will be in Juneau at the Southeast Alaska Watershed Symposium week of November 4 to co-present with Kim Homan on AHTWG; and will present AHTWG at the Mat-Su Salmon symposium week of November 12.

Wendy Steinberger (ADNR): No new updates.

Bill Rice (USFWS): Discussing the utilization of Mat-Su lidar to promote better stream mapping for AK Hydro with Jim DePasquale. Jim/Mat-Su to use NetMap to generate stream networks. Bill discussing potential funding with Joel Reynolds.

Bret Christensen (USFWS): No new updates.

Alan Peck (BLM): No new updates.

Joni Piercy (NPS): Working with Saint Mary’s to update coastal features for five National Parks (all recently submitted to NHD). Uploaded the draft NPS Standards for Updating NHD report to the Editing Standards Focus Group myUSGS site.

Erik Johnson (USFS): The Tongass National Forest has contracted with NetMap and will receive delivery of hydrography features/ fish habitat models (generated from SPOT 20m DEM data) the week of November 4.

Cliff Jones (ADEC): No new updates.
Sheryl Boyack (USGS): Continuing the work mentioned in last month’s minutes.

J Johnson (ADFG): No new updates.

Carol Barnhill (ADFG): No new updates.

Kim Homan (UAS): Jason Seifert has taken a job at ADEC in Juneau. Kim recently attended an all-hands GINA meeting at UAF to discuss updating hardware and server infrastructure across nodes. Getting close – hope to see improvements soon. UAS involved in EPSCoR and leading Southeast Test Case (Berners Bay). UAF leading Northern Test Case (Interior/ N Slope); UAA leading Southcentral Test Case (Kenai Peninsula). EPSCoR would like to prioritize AK Hydro/NHD updates for the three areas.

Mike Plivelich (UAS): Updating schema for SC hydro database (traditional and GNIS names). Updating channel type documentation. Mentioned USGS has released a new tool specific to 32 bit operating systems for NHD updates – Mike currently testing the new tool.

General Updates (Becci Anderson)

Future Meetings (Becci Anderson): AHTWG will meet on November 25 to solidify the AK Hydro data model in preparation for the February workshop. There will not be a meeting in December. The January 27 meeting will be focused on the February workshop as well. From that point forward, AHTWG meetings will be held quarterly beginning April 2014. Becci asked to send Focus Group meeting invites and reminders to the entire AHTWG membership so everyone has the opportunity to participate.

AHTWG myUSGS Website (Becci Anderson): Becci demonstrated recent updates to the AHTWG myUSGS website including new pages for the Focus Groups and a new Meeting Documents page. Becci added items to the calendar including meetings times where she will present information on AHTWG/hydrography as well as future AHTWG meetings. She encourages all AHTWG members to update the calendar with Focus Group meeting information and/or dates & times of relevant workshops, conferences, meetings, presentations, etc.

NHD Issues in Alaska (Jeff Simley): Jeff thanked AHTWG for feedback on mapping complex deltas. He’s looking for additional advice from AHTWG on similar issues as they arise. He also mentioned he’d be willing to look at implementing a ‘complex lake’ solution for areas with high densities of small lakes, such as the North Slope, where it is impracticable to delineate every single feature (the complex lake solution would be analogous to the NHDArea complex channel feature type for braided streams).

AK Hydro February Training (Becci Anderson): ADNR training room has been reserved for the week of February 4, 2014. Wendy still hasn’t heard back from IT on our requirements. Mike mentioned it shouldn’t be a problem. Mike is putting together a list of training items. Becci asked the group to please help out in any way with any part of the training. Becci will market the training to the Alaska Arc User Group at their November meeting. The group brainstormed additional groups to market the training and compiled the following list: IHCA, Kodiak Arc User Group (contact Paul VanDyke), Geospatial Council people, AGDC Hydro Subcommittee mailing list, UAS GIS Library Steering Committee, UAS Spatial Discussion Group, Kenai Arc User Group, AWRA list serve, LCCs, Watershed Councils, Native Corporations, and GINA mailing list. The group also discussed providing a ½ day training session for managers in conjunction with the training – Wendy to look into larger room to accommodate bigger audience.

Focus Group Discussions

Communications Focus Group (Becci Anderson) – AHTWG will have a public-facing website hosted by the UAS GIS Library allowing public access to our meeting minutes and other useful material. Plan is
also to link AHTWG page visitors to ArcGIS Online web maps including content from the RGI dataset, AK Hydro Intertidal and streams feature classes, NHD, GINA BDL, and AK Hydro/NHD editing extents. The AK Hydro/NHD editing extents web map will display locations where hydrographic editing is or has been occurring along with who is or has been doing the editing.

**Data Standards Focus Group (Erik Johnson)** – Erik summarized 9/30/13 discussion with Jeff Simley and Mike Tinker on modeling deltas in NHD, minimum mapping standards for islands and lakes, and modeling areas containing a high-density small lakes. Notes of the meeting have been posted on the Data Standards Focus Group page. Erik reminded all AHTWG members to review the Draft *Common elements of the Alaska Hydrography Database* document and companion Requirements spreadsheet prior to the November meeting. Both files are on AHTWG Documents page.

**Editing Standards Focus Group (Bill Rice)**– Bill mentioned the Editing Standards Focus Group had its kick-off meeting on 10/28 where operational procedures were discussed. The group also brainstormed topics and items to make decisions on. The group will meet again in early December to discuss these topics.

Next Meeting November 25.