

LWG Meeting Notes
June 4, 2019
Ft. Indiantown Gap

Participants: Howard Hodder, Jeff Zimmerman, Joe Petroski, Scott Dane, Marcie Dunn, Scottie, Schaeffer (host), Eliza Gross, Matt Mercurio, Scott Drzyzga, Gale Blackmer, JD of DMVA, Eric Jespersen, Steve Kocsis (remote), Sandeep Chaudhary (remote), Jeanne Hickey (remote)

Maturing the Application Networks

For this meeting we decided to discuss applications over acquisition. The Network leaders met separately in April and discussed growth plans among themselves, but the meeting was lightly attended. Jeff has been managing the website and is agile in making changes and updates as needed,

With the entire working group, we asked the question of how to make the time to use the lidar data. Discussion centered around tools that we use and how that might provide useful avenues for promotion, tips and tricks, and small user groups for particular software packages. Those mentioned included:

- Fusion - from the Forest Service (USFS); *after the meeting Jeanne sent many useful links from USFS that Jeff was able to link from the website*
- LP360 - was mentioned. A few counties have been using it to identify structures. NRCS is an LP360 user and Marcie indicated that there are YouTube videos available and that the “Macro Builds” are good tools once a routine is proven.
- ArcGis/ArcPro – have many tools (they are different in ArcGIS and ArcPro) and even more YouTube videos are available and obvious

The group liked the idea of recorded webinars for PA applications. It was suggested that PaMAGIC and the County GIS Prose would be good outlets. First idea was to make a series that included the top 3 uses and ideas included:

1. Building extraction/3D feature extraction
2. Data management and utilities
3. Hydro/flow accumulation

There was active discussion about increasing involvement of surveyors and others with the requisite skills for surface and topo applications. If we find interested leaders then Matt will switch from Topo/Surfaces to Hydro. Action – Matt to recruit Topo Network leadership.

There was additional discussion about test beds and our lack of progress in establishing them. We agreed to investigate using Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County as a site for test beds of all types. It contains rural and urban areas, has changed significantly over the last 10 years, has QL2 data, possible university interest/partners. Action Drzyzga, Hodder, Mercurio, and Jespersen agreed to create a sketch plan to utilize the township as our premier test bed.

Data Acquisition Updates and Planning

Main news was that NRCS has allocated enough resources for 11 western PA counties- at least \$225/sq. mile for 8000 sq. miles; there was discussion about adding a few more counties from within the FEMA footprint of 9 counties already identified and thus completing the entire state with this QL2 acquisition round. Action – Jespersen or Blackmer follow up with NRCS and FEMA by the 6/14 decision date for NRCS final footprint.

We had a report that all the 16-County 2018 Deliverable have been received except a portion of Luzerne County. Action – Scott Dane to verify status of Luzerne data from WVSA; Hodder to assist. The discussion continued with the fact that the 2019 deliverables will include additional classes – buildings and vegetation classes – extracted in automated manner, which we had not collected in earlier acquisitions. That led to discussion regarding other deliverables we might consider, and we decided to investigate if there are any intermediate products we might request as deliverables and seek cost information for additional DEM derivatives of hydro. Action – Mercurio to describe useful levels of hydro by-products.

Scott Dane reported working with PASDA staff on an Elevation Navigator tool. Action – Scott will provide status report next meeting.

Calendar

The group decided that since federal partners seem likely to fund the remainder of data acquisition that we would meet next in September.

Application Network leaders will schedule their own meetings without consultation with the rest of the LWG.