

Lidar Work Group
Notes from 5/2/2018 meeting
SRBC, Harrisburg

Attendees in person: Gale Blackmer, Scott Hoffman, Eric Jespersen, Jeff Zimmerman, Joe Petroski, Howard Hodder **Attendees by phone:** Scott Dane, Scott Drzyzga, Mark Niessner, Autumn Anderson, Steve Kocsis

Quick Information Updates

PEMA Imagery contract – Jeff Boyle reported that all contracts are in place and air operations commenced. Difficult flying and ground conditions have limited collection to about 30% of the state, with perhaps 1-2 weeks additional flying season in northern counties (optimistically).

Current lidar collection – Collection for the additional 3 counties (Sullivan, Schuylkill, Berks) plus the balance of Luzerne are completed.

Promotion opportunities – Jespersen reported he presented a session on the *Working Group Status and Plans* at EnerGIS Conference on April 26. Suggested that we engage the Energy-oriented community in application-sharing and also make it simple that topo surfaces they collect enter the public domain when any advantage to maintaining competitive secrecy wanes. Met individuals who are promoting Geiger-mode lidar to electric utilities in PA; this supports view of Jeff Thomas that utilities may be potential partners.

Ongoing Discussions

Potential Funding Partners Discussion – DCNR Secretary Dunn has an email solicitation ready for use with agencies and select foundation partners; awaiting a budget number for DCNR's contribution to start the state fund collection. The revised and jazzy Talking Points document prepared by Daron McCauley of Quantum should be ready before the GIS Conference as well if needed there. DOT present interest perhaps increased due to western PA landslides this Spring.

Actions items:

- Final cleanup on improved Talking Points – Shillenn, Hoffman, Blackmer, Jespersen
 - Make sure it includes reference to Riparian Buffers; image by Zimmerman
 - Landslide images by Blackmer
- Blackmer support to Secretary Dunn as needed
- Jespersen query ANF about expected support
- Solicit steady DEP rep for LWG
- Solicit steady DOT rep for LWG
- Make a distribution Plan for jazzed up Talking Points
 - EnerGIS community
 - Potential Funders
 - Legislative Committee members/staff
 - LWG website (?)

State Plan Framework – Group reviewed draft plan as refined by Drzyzga. All agreed that future funders are an important audience, and this document should reflect continuity of funding whereas the Talking Points is related to present need. Should be informative to the GeoBoard as well as improve general advocacy for regular lidar updates. Should emphasize the trend of *increasing density/decreasing price* which we expect to continue.

Should have graphics to support the value of continuous data for change detection and uses cases for high-density lidar as it becomes more affordable. Target is to have a base plan ready for presentation at August GeoBoard, which means that a draft needs to be ready for July 11 Joint Task Force meeting.

Action items – Jespersen/Drzyzga update plan based on discussion

New Business

3D Nation Requirements and Benefits Study – release of this study temporarily on hold

Data Analysis Sections to complement the Data Acquisition Section that is currently active. Finally had substantive discussions about creating some application groups:

- Hydrography
- Vegetation
- Infrastructure
- Topography/Surfaces

This could be an effective way to get more people engaged and to build longer term support for additional data update cycles, but it is more than anyone wants to take on right now. Agreed that one group is enough to start with (pilot the idea). Joe Petroski agreed to take on the vegetation team as our first one. All agreed that a website and management is time-consuming.

Additional discussion included creating peer-to-peer network of application sharing and mutual expertise and application development. ESRI GeoNet was mentioned as a useful asset and perhaps model. Seems like it would have some of the following characteristics:

- Grass-roots rather than fully funded
- University involvement for tech backbone and for youthful members
- Wide-ranging apps may be available from disparate disciplines
- Commercial involvement welcome
- Limited role for “manager”

Action items

Jespersen to create conceptual outline of “application networks; Petroski review/comment
Zimmerman to investigate use of SRBC website for LWG needs

LWG Calendar

June 13 **Next Meeting** – TopoGeo Office, Middletown PA; 10 – Noon;
August 1 **Summer Meeting**; prepare presentation/report for GeoBoard meeting of 8/20