

Lidar Working Group Meeting Notes: 10/11/2017

News from the members (which became tangled with the discussion of the “talking points” document):

- Scott Hoffman reported that the federal govt is operating on a Continuing Resolution until December 8.
- Marcie Dunn reported that NRCS has ~\$500,000 for next year (3 counties).
- Jeanne Hickey reported that Allegheny National Forest has some money at the end of the year.
- Steve Bekanich reported that Jeff Thomas attended a meeting with the All Hazards Consortium (based out of Baltimore, government and industry working together for emergency preparedness and disaster management). They were interested in our lidar “initiative;” private sector money might be possible.
- **Action item:** Scott Hoffman will look into the potential to “bank” funds to be used in BAA in subsequent years.
- **Action item:** Scott Hoffman will look into logistics of combining public and private funds in BAA.
- Sandeep Chaudhary reported that the PEMA Remote Sensing RFP is out and is having good response. Lidar would be a buy-up option in that contract.
- General consensus was reached that a refresh cycle of 5-10 years is too long. Given rapid technology changes, as well as land use changes, the group agreed on 3-7 years.
 - A suggestion was made to think about dividing the state by north and south, rather than the traditional east-central-west swaths, for multi-year data collection.
 - The need was recognized to keep our options open for “specialty regions” that might require more frequent updates or an emergency update. An example cited was the serious flood events in Sullivan County.
 - PEMA’s planned imagery cycle: 2018 – whole state; 2019, 2020, 2021 – one-third of the state each year; 2022, 2023, 2024 – contract will likely renew for another 3-year collection cycle. Would be good to be able to match this with lidar schedule.
- Someone in attendance stated that Army Corps of Engineers does not have cash now, but they have volunteered to provide technical expertise to help with converting data to useful products.

Specific to the Talking Points document:

- **Action item:** Scott Dane will provide statistics for use of lidar products from PASDA.
- **Action item:** Howard Hodder will provide verbiage on uses and return on investment for QL1.
- **Action item:** Gale Blackmer will modify the lidar availability map to reflect that Allegheny County’s data did not follow USGS standards.
- **Action item for everyone:** Consider supplying additional use cases to fill out the document (ASAP).
- **Action item:** Gale Blackmer will modify the document as discussed (refresh cycle, QL1 discussion, any other additions/changes supplied by members) and distribute.

Review of Lidar Working Group Purpose, Goals and Plans

- General approval of Purpose section and Goals section
 - Some discussion about the long-term sponsors in Goal 3 (archiving and management) – maybe PASDA? or the National Map (USGS)?
- Noted that there is no focus on educating governor on value of lidar for the economy. Need to include some advocacy, education, promotion...
- A story map was suggested as an educational tool. Jeff Zimmerman volunteered to create one, potentially based on the completed Talking Points document.
- Operations section: Discussion of what is meant by “work products.” Planning for products that users need? Keeping products useable through changing technologies?
- Funding section: Should there be a task force group to focus on this? Can we find a place to park money?
- **Action item:** Howard Hodder will look into banks/loans/PPP.
- Meeting frequency: For the time being, we will stick to monthly. Will become less frequent in the future.
- Membership: Game Commission has joined. Discussed that NASA Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) is exploring lidar. Gale Blackmer has urged them to join the group but they seem intent on going their own way.
- Communications: Eventually we will need report-outs from work teams/task forces. Platform is uncertain, due to restrictions on access from the Commonwealth network. Sharepoint is a possibility, although pretty everyone groaned.
- At some point during this discussion, it was mentioned that PEMA imagery will use the PAMAP tile system, although it will use quarter tiles.
- **Action item for everyone:** Send comments to Eric Jespersen.

Elevation Theme Concepts for Discussion

- Suggestion to add wildlife habitat analysis (e.g., rattlesnake den locations; marten habitat) under “applications still gaining acceptance.”
- Under Stage Two: revisit the time interval for data capture; 10 years is likely too long. We settled on 3-7 in discussion of the Talking Points.
- Add the Lidar Working Group, probably under Stage One.
- Not specifically related to this document, but a comment for the GeoBoard: As we talked about funding, it was strongly suggested that recommendations from the GeoBoard to the governor should include encumbering funds for elevation data capture and management going forward.