

PA Lidar Working Group Conference Call
PEMA Conference Bridge
Meeting Notes
September 6 2017

Participants:

PEMA – Sandeep Chaudhary
DCNR TopoGeo – Gale Blackmer
DOT Photogrammetry – Mike Loos
Shippensburg Univ. – Scott Drzyzga
USDA/NRCS – Marcie Dunn
USGS/Water Science – Scott Hoffman
Pa-MAPPS – Howard Hodder
PSU/PASDA – Scott Dane
PaMAGIC – Eric Jespersen (notes)

Immediate lidar Procurement Update

Marcie Dunn reports that since interagency agreements for the immediate procurement are already executed, it is too late to add any additional NRCS/PA funds to augment the project area. There is a slight chance to augment the project area if some NRCS/National funds become allocated for PA lidar, but time is short. Scott Hoffman reports that contract documents are proceeding as noted in mid-August, and that no change to the 13-County Area of Interest (AOI) has been reported since that time.

Longer term Procurement Update

Sandeep Chaudhary reported that he is working closely with DGS on completion of the PEMA Remote Sensing RFP. He had no definitive date for release but stated that all parties are sensitive to releasing the RFP in accordance with larger GIS Strategic Plans – i.e. – still hopeful for Q3 2017 release.

August 17 BAA Webinar included a mention of possible FEMA interest in W. PA lidar acquisition. Recent flooding events in Southeast Texas made it impossible to track the status of that potential acquisition, but it is clear that any immediate commitment of federal funds is not necessary nor likely. There are no other funds clearly identified for BAA application by Pennsylvania this round.

There is much useful information in the August 16 Meeting Notes on applications of new lidar, and for consolidating demand and justifying statewide lidar update. We agreed that:

Howard Hodder and Scott Hoffman will collaborate to provide reasonable costs estimates for use in soliciting agency, industry, and local government support and resources. They will estimate the expected data acquisition costs for QL2 lidar for those portions of PA not already having QL2 or within the footprint for expected acquisition (13-County AOI). They will enhance

the estimate with perspectives on the advantages/costs of either a single-year versus multi-year acquisition, as well as relative cost to upgrade to QL1 lidar acquisition.

Gale Blackmer agreed to draft an executive summary of the applications and benefits of updated lidar, drawing upon the information from the August 16 Meeting Notes. She did or will request additional information on user cases from Scott Drzyzga, Tom Hughes and Steve Bekanich, and from Joe Petroski. Carrie Tropasso has created a survey for DEP program folks to report lidar applications and needs; survey link to Gale.

Forward Planning

Regarding additional participants for the Lidar Working Group, this will be discussed at the next meeting as part of the long-range planning. County GIS Pros are already interested.

Eric Jespersen offered to draft some long-range purpose, goals, and plans for the Working Group. He will draw upon work being done by the GeoBoard Data Program Task Force that is drafting the Elevation Theme; Brett Schmid of PA Dept. of Agriculture is drafting the theme.

Scott Dane offered to see whether the upcoming visioning workshop for PASDA can include topics related to lidar data access, storage, and application.

Next meeting

TBD but tentatively scheduled for week of October 10, 2017 at TopoGeo HQ, Middletown, PA. Gale will advise exact date and time.

Report drafts by Hodder/Hoffman, Blackmer, and Jespersen as described above are expected for discussion during the October meeting.