

Lidar Work Group
Notes from 3/28/2018 meeting

Attendees in person: Gale Blackmer, Scott Hoffman, Eric Jespersen, Mike Shillenn, Jeff Zimmerman, Joe Petroski, Sandeep Chaudry

Attendees by phone: Scott Dane, Scott Drzyzga, Jeanne Hickey, Jeff Boyle, Mark Niessner

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 so far to about 5%. The entire state will be attempted this year, despite the compressed flying season. Buy-ups have been discussed but are highly unlikely for this round. The contract is for 4 years with an option to extend.

Current lidar collection – The additional 3 counties (Sullivan, Schuylkill, Berks) plus the balance of Luzerne are in process. Ground control complete and about 50% of area collected; temporary halt given snow cover but flight crew is returning as soon as this week. Work is following Lidar Base Specification 1.3. For the initial 13 counties, collection is done; moving through calibration; post-processing to go. Products will be delivered to USGS for review and acceptance. Final deliverables are expected by the end of the year. **Post-meeting info:** 72% complete as of 4/9/18

Promotion opportunities – Jespersen reported he will present a session on the *Working Group Status and Plans* at EnerGIS Conference on April 26. Following up on discussions last month regarding possible requests to gas exploration companies or the MSC, it was determined that we will not solicit private firms due to likely objections to making the data freely available to all and the difficulty of coordinating lidar specifications and quality control in a fast-paced and price-sensitive natural gas development environment.

Ongoing Discussions

Potential Funding Partners Discussion – We discussed possibly orienting outreach to river basins, with different funders. Discussion came around to the fact that fewer and larger contributions would be preferable to many smaller donors. We agreed to very limited private donor outreach for the reasons listed above. Blackmer reported that DCNR Secretary Dunn is willing to ask other agencies for financial support; expected to happen in the next few weeks. We like the idea of framing our requests on the basis of a long-term plan including regular lidar updates out to the mid-2020's.

Group favored trying to cover the whole state in the 2018 BAA application. We liked the idea of a balanced set of contributions – e.g. - 1/3 state, 1/3 federal, 1/3 other. Our “Talking Points” document is updated for area still required and uses \$226/ sq. mi. production costs; includes standard deliverables. After discussion the group thought that any discussion of enhanced statewide deliverables is more suitable for Cycle 3 Lidar.

Specific **Actions** agreed upon include:

Delaware Basin

- Drzyzga will send lidar-knowledgeable contact from Wm. Penn Foundation to Blackmer
- Zimmerman will send contact information for leadership at DRBC to Blackmer
- Shillenn will ask if DVRPC plans include lidar in 2020 update or just imagery

Susquehanna Basin

- NRCS interests have been focused so far in the Chesapeake drainage, but other areas are of interest in statewide efforts
- Zimmerman will send contact information for leadership at the SRBC to Blackmer; has already mentioned the partnership campaign to SRBC leadership

Ohio Basin

- Potential for DCNR to ask Heinz Foundation given their mutual interest and work in riparian buffers
- Jespersen investigating potential for LWG informal meeting in Pittsburgh while at the EnerGIS workshop; SPC a solid partner for lidar awareness
- Hickey soliciting info on successful partnerships in Minnesota by USFS
- Someone from PEMA (?) to follow up on FEMA interest in this region

Statewide

- Secretary Dunn will include River Basin Commissions in her requests

State Plan Framework – Jespersen had drafted a framework for state planning for lidar collection; intent is to create longer-term basis and rationale for regular updates. Shillenn offered a draft state plan from Idaho for perspective. Group like the idea of a long perspective and stated that such a plan should be presented in draft form as soon as possible to the GeoBoard.

- Drzyzga and Jespersen to update the initial framework; Shillenn can provide technical review, Hoffman overall review.

New Business

Talking Points Update – Shillenn agreed to get a "dressed up" version of the Talking Points ready for review in about two weeks. Zimmerman and Hickey to review.

3D Nation Requirements and Benefits Study – Blackmer and Maurie Kelly of PASDA are local champions for the above named study, expected to take about two years. They will identify and encourage local responses to survey questions to ensure solid input from PA.

Western PA Working Group/Applications Divisions of LWG – After discussion, we all agreed that opening discussions with folks in western PA is good but we should meet as a whole and single group rather than splintering.

There was a short discussion (again) about creating Data Analysis Sections to complement the Data Acquisition Section that is currently active. We agreed that the focus on acquisition is good

now, but that we ought to identify potential leaders for the various application/analysis subgroups we have discussed in our overall planning:

- 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.

Some topics that could be covered by these or other subgroups include:

- Tool repository
- Derivative data sets
- Standards
- Education

LWG Calendar

- May 2** **Next Meeting** – SRBC Harrisburg Office, 4423 North Front Street; 10 – Noon;
Web access/Remote participation info TBD
- May 15-16** **PA GIS Conference**; prepare announcement of the various Analysis Teams

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