

Lidar Work Group Notes from 9/5/2018 meeting

Attendees in person: Gale Blackmer, Eric Jespersen, Joe Petroski Jeff Zimmerman, Marcie Dunn, Scott Hoffman,

Attendees by phone: Scott Dane, Craig Neidig, Jeanne Hickey, Mike Shillenn,

Quick Information Updates

2018-2019 State Funding Updates – Confirmed commitments remain - DCNR and PEMA pledged \$500,000 each. Sean Crager is still working on DEP. DCNR Secretary Dunn will make an additional email appeal to other state agencies.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission has committed \$50,000 to the state lidar via the BAA.

2018-2019 Federal Funding Updates

- FEMA Region 3 (Maggie Dunn, Mike McGeehan are contacts) – Western PA PAMAP Lidar Replacement is current on SeaSketch site and seems part of the ongoing national FEMA lidar planning through interagency agreement with USGS. Nothing final.
- NRCS (Marcie Dunn) - PA NRCS's \$207,000 may be needed for updated lidar in Lancaster County. Final decisions will be made late September
- Allegheny National Forest – Forest Service budgets are up in the air given the severity of fire season in western US. Still in the conversation for dollars into state BAA.
- Army Corps of Engineers – working contacts but unlikely partner this year.

BAA Application Development

Updates from August 22 USGS Webinar

Mostly recapping criteria notes we emphasized last meeting and avoiding surprises:

- *Project location – QL3 data older than 8 years; significant changes to landscape*
- *Areal Extent – big is better (over 1,500 mi²), but mega is not so good (sucks up too much of the budget)*
- *Geographic overlap with federal areas of interest.*
- *Maturity of proposal and funding sources – is funding committed? How well-formed is proposal?*
- *No portion of PA qualifies for 3DEEP minerals advantage*
- *Technical approach – use USGS GPSC vendor and there is no need to complete the Technical approach since they use approved USGS methods and experience*

Average award from 2018 was \$400k, largest about \$1M; average award was about 39% of project costs.

There will be no published price per square mile this year, given the experience in prior years. Strong recommendation to ask for Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) by October 1 to ensure that numbers we use in the final BAA are realistic.

Note – The release of the BAA package scheduled for August 30 was delayed and neither the maps of federal agency priorities nor final application documents were available for discussion. New scheduled release date is on or about September 15, 2018 and final submission date is expected to drift into November.

Narrative Review

Jespersen and Drzyzga offered to write a couple alternative narratives – one for just the PA agency and federal partner funded region as a BAA, and another showing the relationship with the FEMA interest area in Western PA and their Interagency Agreement (IA). We ended up with only the narrative that describes a strategy that results in total state coverage with integrated interests satisfied by a combination of BAA and IA mechanisms

Range of Estimated Costs

We discussed how variable costs are depending on region, overall project size, and terrain. We reviewed rough order of magnitude estimates from Quantum Spatial for various scenarios which illustrated that we need to be clear and thoughtful in selecting the area of interest for the BAA. Those estimates include USGS management/QC fee of 5% on the state share. Examples included:

- \$229/ sq. mi. for an isolated county 950 sq. mi. in size
- \$188/ sq. mi. for a large contiguous area in western PA about 22,000 sq. mi. in size
- \$199/ sq. mi. for a complex geography of about 9300 sq. mi. in size

We agreed that we definitely want the IGCE once we know near the end of September what our area of interest, partnerships, and total confirmed funding are.

Timeline/Critical Paths

9/14 Federal priorities map expected
9/20 Approximate decision dates for federal partners
9/25 Deadline (?) for state agency commitments
10/1 IGCE optimal application date
10/11 *Next LWG meeting; drafting work session for BAA*

- Additional deliverables should be discussed next meeting. Tiling schemes, coordinate systems, derivatives like contours

LWG Website <https://www.srbc.net/pennsylvania-lidar-working-group/index.html>

Jeff Zimmerman showed updates he had made. We discussed changes to the landing pages if we are ready for more hits and activity related to the application networks. No need to host data at SRBC if it is already published elsewhere.

Action Item Updates

- *Shillenn to forward some PA lidar-generated images for use in state plan document covers. Gale has Gettysburg, State Capitol, Philadelphia images.*
- *Blackmer to send slide decks from January 2018 promo workshop to Zimmerman for website. Pending*
- *Hoffman to ask Diane Eldridge whether there are state planning grants in the works. None planned outside the NSGIC grant already in place.*
- *Jespersen to add Chris Evans to mailing list -done*

New Action Items

Hoffman to forward USGS 1km grid to all.

Gale to circle back with federal partners end of September for funding updates.

Gale to verify additional DCNR funding email is ready

Eric to verify DEP request is active, check on PTC request.

Gale add Karen Reavy to mailing list karen.reavy@drbc.gov

Eric add DMVA to LWG membership davmcnaugh@pa.gov

Petroski to investigate publishing some DCNR applications to illustrate the network concept

Jespersen to contact John Richendrfer at PSU OPP about using their QL1 areas as application testbeds.

LWG Calendar

October 11

Next Meeting PA Geological Survey office, 3240 Schoolhouse Road, Middletown.