

Alaska Mapping Executive Committee

09 February 2016

Meeting Minutes

The Alaska Mapping Executive Committee (AMEC) meeting was held on 09 February 2016, in the North Penthouse of the Main Interior Building in Washington, DC. The meeting was called to order, and opening remarks were given by AMEC co-chair Ms. Jennifer Gimbel, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, US Department of the Interior (DOI), and co-chair Mr. Michael Aimone, Chief, Business Systems & Information, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Energy, Installations and Environment (DoD). Both Ms. Gimbel and Mr. Aimone reiterated the important work done with respect to Alaska mapping, and Ms. Gimbel briefly walked through the meeting agenda. Meeting participants in the room, as well as those on the phone introduced themselves, and the meeting proceeded according to the agenda.

Special Presentation

Mr. Kevin Gallagher, Associate Director for Core Science Systems, USGS, provided a brief background of USGS mapping history, to include the work done by John Wesley Powell and Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer of the USGS from 1882-1914. USGS has presented the Henry Gannett Award bi-annually since 2009 to recognize distinguished contributions to the topographic mapping effort in the United States. Mr. Gallagher then turned over the floor to Dr. Suzette Kimball, Director, USGS, who presented the 2016 Henry Gannett Award to Mr. Nick Mastrodicasa, Alaska Department of Transportation, and co-chair of the Alaska Geospatial Council Elevation Working Group. Mr. Mastrodicasa has been instrumental in coordinating ifsar elevation data acquisition on behalf of the State of Alaska, and has played a lead role in securing state funding to contribute to Alaska mapping.

Alaska Mapping Status and Strategy Meeting Actions

Mr. Gallagher briefly highlighted recent Alaska mapping success stories to include the following:

- High-visibility resulting from the August 2015 “Skybreaking II” event in Anchorage Alaska
- 2015 contributions to ifsar acquisition totaled over \$7.6M, with \$2.8M coming from end-of-year agency funds
- Statewide ifsar coverage increased by 12% in 2015
- USGS FY 2016 budget appropriation includes an increase of \$1.3M for Alaska mapping support

Mr. Gallagher provided an update on the status of Alaska mapping activities, as well as a report on action items from the August 2015 strategy meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. Specifically, the following information was reported for the key data themes in the Alaska mapping effort:

Theme	Metric	Spring 2016 Status
Elevation (ifsar)	% ifsar acquired	62% complete
Hydrography	% NHD updated	11% complete
Transportation	% of State complete and publicly available	Baseline road coverage complete and delivered to the public by AK DOT; enhancements on-going
GRAV-D	% GRAV-D acquired	50% complete
Coastal Mapping	% AK shoreline updated	43% complete

Mr. Gallagher also provided status update information on the US Topo production effort in Alaska:

- 1,756 maps completed thus far out of 11,275 required for statewide coverage
- 1,965 maps planned for completion in FY 2016
- Total available coverage will exceed 33% in FY 2016

The following status of actions from the August 2015 Strategy meeting was reported:

- Actions Completed:
 - State of Alaska’s strategy meeting presentation was sent to AMEC members and meeting attendees
 - Alaska mapping information paper was written and submitted to Senator Murkowski’s office
 - Draft 18-month Alaska Mapping Tactical Plan released for review by AMEC members
- Actions in Progress:
 - The USGS Alaska Regional Office is considering options for standing up an Alaska Federal Mapping Coordination Group
 - National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) is working with the Polar Geospatial Center (PGC) at the University of Minnesota to develop an elevation data solution for the Aleutian Islands

Mr. Gallagher highlighted the following key objectives of the draft 18-month Alaska Mapping Tactical Plan:

- Accelerate ifsar acquisition:
 - Acquire as much ifsar as possible in FY 2016 over NE Alaska
 - Surpass 70% ifsar statewide coverage in FY 2016
 - Update the Idealized three-year ifsar acquisition plan and corresponding budget cross cut document
- Accelerate Base Mapping
 - Increase US Topo production to 1900+ maps per year

- Support hydrography improvements
- Continue enhancements of the statewide Alaska DOT roads dataset
- Organize priority thematic working groups as part of the Alaska Geospatial Council
- Implement an appropriate coordination mechanism between Alaska Federal Executives and the AMEC
- Evaluate and report options for Aleutian elevation coverage
- Establish a State lidar priority plan
- Evaluate and report options for next-generation Alaska statewide imagery coverage
- Communicate Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Map activities across the AMEC, Arctic Council and the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Prepare materials for future Alaska mapping outreach activities

Alaska Geospatial Council Update

Dr. Mark Myers, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, provided a status update on activities of the Alaska Geospatial Council (AGC). Specifically, Dr. Myers described the structure of the Council, which is made up of various state agencies and the University of Alaska, as well as annexed members to include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), DOI and the Alaska Native Board of Executives. Dr. Myers reported that Alaska will be contributing \$1.3M for ifsar acquisition and processing during the FY 2016-2018 time frame, as well as \$525K for imagery refresh associated with the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

Dr. Myers provided a detailed status of activities related to Alaska primary and secondary roads update, to include coordination activities with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). Current tasks include restructuring the route ID model, implementation of Environmental Systems and Research Institute (ESRI) capabilities in support of linear referencing and route management, transition to enterprise GIS infrastructure, and clean up of secondary road network data.

Finally, Dr. Myers provided a status of the geodetic control network in Alaska, specifically pointing out the challenges associated with the decommissioning of several Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) in FY 2016. Ms. Juliana Blackwell, Director, NOAA National Geodetic Survey, stated that NOAA is aware of impacts and considering associated mitigation strategies, but that no definite course of action has yet been identified.

Alaska National Hydrography Dataset Update

Mr. Kacy Krieger, Alaska Hydrography Coordinator, provided an update and status of National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) activities in Alaska. Mr. Krieger highlighted the accomplishments to date and presented examples showing the difference in data resolution pre- and post-NHD updates. The

funding for NHD update (not including in-kind program contributions) from 2010-2016 has totaled \$1.6M and can be broken out as follows:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service: \$755K; 44% of total
- US Geological Survey: \$550K; 32% of total
- US Forest Service: \$285K; 17% of total
- Other agencies: \$130K; 7% of total

In FY 2017, Alaska NHD baseline program support will total \$440k and consist of the following components:

- Personnel: \$400K
- Data Model Support: \$15K
- IT Infrastructure: \$25K

Mr. Krieger asked that the AMEC consider options for continuing funding for the Alaska NHD baseline activities, as well as options for identifying project-specific funding in priority regions, such as the Copper River Basin.

Alaska IFSAR Status and 2016 Planning

Mr. David Saghy, USGS National Geospatial Program, provided a status update on ifsar acquisition and planning for 2016. Mr. Saghy highlighted the FY 2015 ifsar acquisition contributions by AMEC agencies, and presented priority areas for consideration for FY 2016 funding. These areas include 34 one-degree cells in NE Alaska, where new acquisition (flight and processing) is required; 10 “overcollect” cells in the Kenai Peninsula region, where data exists and can be purchased directly from the vendor; and 7 cells in SW Alaska, where the flight and initial processing has been completed, and minimal funding is needed to complete final processing.

Mr. Saghy then presented the following Idealized Three-Year IFSAR Acquisition Plan for consideration by the AMEC:



The AMEC members discussed specific priorities related to elevation data coverage on Kodiak Island, and the timing associated with data acquisition; however, it was decided to endorse the plan as presented. The plan will form the basis for a revised Alaska Mapping Budget Cross Cut, to be completed in Spring, 2016.

NOAA GRAV-D and Shoreline Mapping Updates

Ms. Juliana Blackwell provided an update on the status of GRAV-D data collection and shoreline mapping activities. To date, approximately 50% of Alaska has been covered with new gravity model data. The goal is for 56% coverage by the end of FY 2016. Specific FY 2016 target areas are SE Alaska and Western Alaska. NOAA has completed updated shoreline data acquisition for approximately 43% of Alaska. Target acquisition areas in FY 2016 primarily focus on the Aleutians, St. Lawrence Island, and the Kenai Peninsula.

Meeting Adjournment and Action Items

Ms. Gimbel and Mr. Aimone provided brief closing remarks and tentatively scheduled the next AMEC meeting for 21-June-2016 in Anchorage, Alaska. The following actions were identified:

1. AMEC endorsement of the Idealized Three-year Ifsar Acquisition Plan (Complete)
2. AMEC members to identify participants in the update of the Alaska Mapping Budget Cross Cut; USGS staff to send email soliciting budget and technical point-of-contact, and provide previous budget cross cut for reference (Spring 2016)
3. AMEC members to review and provide comments/additions/edits to 18-Month Alaska Mapping Tactical Plan; input due to USGS staff by COB 26-February-2016
4. AMEC members to consider funding opportunities in support of Alaska NHD activities; report findings and recommendations at upcoming June 2016 AMEC meeting
5. AMEC members to identify potential funding to ensure attainment of 70% ifsar coverage goal by end of FY 2016
6. AMEC members to consider attendance at 21-June-2016 AMEC meeting in Anchorage, Alaska; USGS Alaska Regional Office to host
7. AMEC to work with Alaska Geospatial Council to identify additional Federal members to participate in AGC
8. Alaska Mapping Technical Subcommittee to address geodetic control issue associated with decommissioning of CORS sites; include University of Alaska and other stakeholders in discussion as necessary
9. USGS staff to schedule follow on discussion with US Forest Service (Carl Zulick) to address NHD in Tongass and Chugach National Forests
10. USGS staff to research availability of USGS boundary data information related to DoD land ownership in Alaska

11. USGS staff to identify opportunities for lidar acquisition over Kodiak Island as part of the 3D Elevation Program Broad Agency Announcement process