

Alaska Mapping Executive Committee
August 14, 2012
Meeting Highlights

Background: The Deputy Secretary of Department of the Interior established an interagency Alaska Mapping Executive (Committee) to coordinate among the Federal agencies and with the Alaska State Government and oversee the Federal role in completing mapping of Alaska. The Committee's first meeting took place on August 15, 2012 at the Department of the Interior and was presided over by the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.

Attendees: 24 executives from 15 Federal Departments and Agencies, one Alaska State Agency, and the Alaska Governor's D.C. office participated in the inaugural meeting of the Alaska Mapping Executive Committee. The list is included at the end of these meeting notes.

TOPICS of DISCUSSION

Establish Committee Processes

- Committee logistics were addressed, including Charter, search for a Vice Chair in DOD, FGDC representation, schedule, notes, member delegation, decision-making and a website that has been made available to provide access to Committee materials.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 28.

Define the Existing Mapping Baseline – To address concerns voiced at the Alaska Mapping Roundtable that collectively we do not have a good understanding of the existing and planned elevation data in Alaska.

- The USGS provided an overview of the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment inventory of 2011, and the status and progress of data collection since that time.
- Prior to the meeting, member agencies were provided a report of the inventory and asked for information on any data collections or plans not reflected in the inventory. 8 of 13 agencies have responded. A couple of small areas of data were discovered for addition to the inventory.
- Follow up will continue with the remaining 5 agencies to finalize the inventory.
- Ongoing status information will be provided to the Committee.

Ensure a Robust Enterprise Architecture for Alaska Mapping - To address concerns voiced at the Alaska Mapping Roundtable that data collected be consistent, discoverable and widely accessible.

- The USGS provided an overview of the Federal enterprise coordination activities of the FGDC and the application of its best practices and standards in The National Map, including the Geospatial Platform, collaborative standards, national databases, the Geospatial Products and Services Contract (GPSC).
- The State received an FGDC grant to develop its geospatial strategic and business plan that reflects community consensus and aligns with national goals. The plan is beginning to be implemented but needs to be further formalized and funded. The State requested affirmation of the plan from the Committee. The following statement of support for the State Strategic and Business Plan will be circulated to the members for comment or approval: "The Alaska Mapping Executive Committee will effectively interface with the State through the organizational

structure outlined in the Alaska Strategic Plan, when established. Existing field relationships will continue and are not modified through this statement of support.”

- No additional concerns were raised about the Enterprise Architecture available to continue supporting the Alaska Mapping initiative.

Define Data Acquisition Goals and Metrics – Agree to Committee mapping goals and metrics by which to measure success.

- The USGS provided an overview of the needs reported by Federal agencies for elevation data in Alaska, and presented a “heat map” of all needs (Federal, State, local, Tribal, private) documented in the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment by one degree cell, depicted together with the current acquisition status.
- The USGS and State provided an overview of their joint mapping goals and funding gaps: 1. completion of statewide IfSAR elevation (\$37.3 M), 2. development of statewide hydrography data (\$20 M), and 3. compilation of a publicly available statewide transportation dataset (cost TBD). Geodetic control is also important to this effort. Other layers are also being planned for but rank lower in funding priority.
- A statewide elevation dataset would grow in value over time because it serves as a baseline from which change can be measured. There will need to be new collections in the future, particularly for higher resolution data, and the baseline will be a foundation for planning that.
- Geodetic control is an important ingredient in topographic mapping. When we have a better datum the data being collected now can be reprocessed and improved. NGS is looking for and appreciate any support the Committee and its members could give to this effort.
- The Committee members generally expressed that the proposed goals and metrics are reasonable and achievable.
- Members will be asked for their priority areas for the next meeting, and goals and metrics will be finalized.

Funding Strategy Brainstorming - To discuss ideas for potential funding strategies to meet the proposed goals and metrics.

- Prioritization of data acquisition should be driven by relative needs, but meeting the specific needs of agencies providing funding will also play a role. The approach will be a compromise. Flight logistics and other considerations will also impact planning.
- USGS funding can be used to fill out funded agency needs that are smaller than the 1-degree collection unit, to continue to achieve an economy of scale.
- USGS contracting and coordination is an attractive way to get more value sooner than later.
- The majority of the cost is on fuel consumption, and the cost of getting fuel to remote areas. Changes in technology could bring higher resolutions but the NEEA study did not project big changes in the next 3-5 years in commercial acquisition.
- At the Roundtable, OMB stated that joint agency requests are more favorable. A plus-up seems unlikely in this budget climate, however, as there is no earmarking permitted, and requests need to be made through the established budget process. A single-agency request would likely mean the requesting agency would need to fund the amount entirely out of their base budget. Also there is little time remaining to affect FY14 budgets, and action needs to be taken now.
- If FY12 end-of-year funding is available from any member agencies, we need to identify that right away. Multiyear funding can easily be applied in FY13.
- If an agency has end-of-year funding there may be agreements in place that can be used. The Committee will look at vehicles to facilitate efficient transfer of funds.

- OMB suggests having the agencies work through their budget systems, find funding in the existing FY13 and 14 budgets to reprioritize, and bring in a budget cross-cut. As the effort matures, OMB will continue discussion with the Committee and individual agencies.
- Prior to the next meeting, members will be asked to identify potential FY12, 13 and 14 funding sources to advance the discussion towards action.
- Members will also be polled for agency preferences for an agreement or other vehicle for transferring funding.

Other Topics - Discuss other ideas or concerns of the Committee members.

- Relationship to other Alaska activities – The Chair presented a list of some of the other significant Federal coordination activities in Alaska, including the Alaska Interagency Working Group (Executive Order 13580), Alaska Data Integration Working Group, Artic Research Commission and US Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee. These and other efforts will rely upon this committee to plan for, acquire, and make accessible, digital topographic information for the State which will serve as a base Geospatial layer, underpinning a variety of applications and supporting the integration of place-based data in AK.
- At the next meeting the Committee will consider establishing a technical sub-committee.

ACTION ITEMS

- Comments to Charter due by August 31 to Tracy Fuller: 303-202-4532, tfuller@usgs.gov.
- The statement of support for the State Strategic and Business Plan will be circulated to the members for comment or approval by August 31 – contact Tracy Fuller: 303-202-4532, tfuller@usgs.gov.
- Members will be contacted to provide the following information by September 14 to Tracy Fuller: 303-202-4532, tfuller@usgs.gov:
 - Current priority areas for IfSAR, hydrography and transportation data
 - Suggested funding sources
 - Any known agency preferences for an agreement or other vehicle for transferring funding

Attendees (in order of seating)

Anne Castle, Department of the Interior
 Marcia McNutt, U.S. Geological Survey
 Jime Pena, U.S. Forest Service
 Dan Cotter, Department of Homeland Security
 Jered Brandwein, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Arty Simon – Environmental Protection Agency
 Mary Pat Santoro, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Bob Lewis, Federal Aviation Association
 Melanie Stansbury, Office of Management and Budget
 Nick Mastrodicasa, Alaska Department of Transportation
 Marc Luiken, Alaska Department of Transportation
 Julianna Blackwell, National Geodetic Survey representing NOAA
 Michael Golden, Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Kip Knutson, Alaska Governor’s DC Office
 Mark Bradford, Department of Transportation

Mark DeMulder, U.S. Geological Survey
Vicki Lukas, U.S. Geological Survey
Ron Bowers, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Todd Johannesen, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Dr. Bob Czincila, U.S. Department of Transportation
Dr. Bert Frost, U.S. National Park Service
Lori Caramanian, Department of the Interior
Kevin Gallagher, U.S. Geological Survey
Everett Hinkley, U.S. Forest Service