

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL  
DATA COMMITTEE – NATURAL RESOURCES WORK GROUP**

**DRAFT**

A public meeting of the Arizona Geographic Information Council was convened Aug 19, 2020 at 11:30 AM on Webex. Present at the meeting were the following members or designees of the AGIC Data Committee-Natural Resources Work Group – NHD Pilot Team:

**Table 1: Work Group Voting Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Agency/Company</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>
Glen Buettner, Co-chair	AZ Dept of Water Resources	Yes, phone
Jeremy Johnson, Co-chair	Matrix New World	Yes, phone
Robert Davis	Quiet Creek	Yes, phone
Ben Hickson	PAG	Yes, phone
Jenna Leveille	AZ State Land Department	Yes, phone

**Table 2: Public At-Large**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Company</b>	<b>In Attendance</b>
Jacob Czawlytko	Chesapeake Conservancy	Yes
Drew Decker	USGS	Yes
Doug McCarty	ADEQ	Yes
Tanya Owens	Westland Resources	Yes
Cody Maynard	ADEQ	Yes
Joel Skalet	USGS	Yes
Drew Lane	USGS	Yes
Julia Fonseca	Pima County	Yes
Alene McCracken	ADWR	Yes

- I. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 11:33 am; Introductions were made by the committee; ensuring attendance list was managed and quorum established.
- II. **Approval of the July Meeting Minutes:** July meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting via email. Glen asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jeremy motioned and Robert Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously without discussion.
- III. **AZ Summary of interest in updating NHD for pilot regions (15050301 & 15050202):** Glen and Doug provided an overview of the workgroup activities to date and the community needs that spurred the formation of the group.

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Overall, the Arizona has been relying on existing NHD data and other disparate datasets for hydrologic data needs. The data has not been coordinated and an NHD steward does not currently exist for AZ. The goal of this group is to develop a standardized stewardship model to develop an authoritative data set encompassing the primary community business needs. This includes improved linework and designation of flow regimes. The work has been driven in part by the new WOTUS rules. AZ does not currently have a good map delineating ephemeral streams. The proposed pilot areas were identified to work through a proof of concept process/workflow for updating the NHD. The group is seeking feedback from the technical partners at USGS on recommendations/best practices.

- IV. **USGS presentation on NHD Stewardship role and processes**: Drew Decker introduced USGS technical team for NHD: Drew Lane leads the technical operations center. His team coordinates and manages all partnerships associated to NHD. Joel Skalet is the national point of contact for NHD. Goal today to cover what the USGS NHD Stewardship program entails; maintenance and responsibilities. (please see supplemental slide deck for graphics)

Typical Stewardship Model: model varies by state. USGS has a web-based tool – hydrographic data community (HDC) that provides the communication platform for stewards; sharing website that includes training. Joel provided an overview of editing tools available.

Hydro Maintenance Portal (HMP) – this is where stewards access data/request training.

Mark-up Application: provides a space to suggest edits that then reviewed/validated prior to implementation.

Geo-conflation – USGS geo-conflation expert – David Anderson (nhd-gct@usgs)

V. **Workgroup Pilot Team Questions**

- Would geo-conflation tool be appropriate for attributes only? Depends on data volume/amount; this is a question for David Anderson. Attribution is relatively limited; classification may be the one attribute to update in batch.
- How is stewardship done in other states? Typical set-up is a principal steward per state (one-person). This is the only individual to check out and edit data; sub-stewards can be assigned. The principal can direct who is a

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sub-steward; this is designated in an MOU with USGS. There are exceptions and sometimes sub-stewards can be identified after MOU. Tool requires that the data be clean.

- Can the principal use contractors as sub-stewards? Yes – temporary stewards can be assigned. Training is required (provided via webinar).
- Training: NHD basics 2.5hr; NHD Updates & Editing. NHD Quality Control (each 5hrs). Overall, about a month to get through all training. Mark up tool training is less extensive (a few hours). Refresher? Offered regularly via USGS with regular meetings that cover individual use cases.
- Have other states taken a pilot area approach? Not uncommon. LA is going through similar conversation. Suggestions? stick to HUC8/10 size areas
- How long would it take to integrate data for one of the identified HUCs? Difficult to determine. Can take several years. Processing varies and depends on volume of data.
- Is the size of identified areas reasonable? Yes, generally HUC8 is a good size for geo-conflation
- What is the best approach for updating artificial path and turning it into a defined flow regime? (the issue is that the current NHD is losing information through artificial paths and connectors (proper stream classification)); can this be accommodated within NHD or should we develop some product outside of NHD and linking instead? Which path is more viable? Likely going to have external data regardless. There may be opportunity to do both.
- Are there example states to look toward for an approach? Alaska is working on elevation derived hydro. California may be a good advisor for a collaborative approach.

VI. **Next Steps**: Pilot group needs to have additional conversations regarding resources and technical details/internal group meeting and then follow-up with NHD team; will coordinate with Drew Decker.

Next scheduled training is in November (does not require an MOU); Individuals need to be identified by Oct; more than one is okay and encouraged.

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- VII. **Information or topics for future meetings:** Need a follow-up meeting of workgroup.
  
- VIII. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm