

Lidar Work Group
Notes from 8/1/2018 meeting

Attendees in person: Gale Blackmer, Scott Drzyzga, Eric Jespersen, Joe Petroski, Mike Shillenn, Jeff Zimmerman, Marcie Dunn, Chris Evans

Attendees by phone: Maggie Dunn, Scott Hoffman, Steve Kocsis, Carrie Tropasso

Quick Information Updates

2018-2019 State Funding Updates – DCNR and PEMA have pledged \$500,000 each. Sean Crager is still working on DEP. Jeff Thomas working with DOT. Carrie Tropasso offered to get updates from PSP and DCED. Scott Drzyzga offered to get update from Wm. Penn Foundation.

2018-2019 Federal Funding Updates

- FEMA Region 3 (Maggie Dunn, Mike McGeehan) – Maggie emailed Paul Rooney, national coordinator; passed along pledges, new website. PA is informally part of the agreement. Maggie will continue to push.
- NRCS (Marcie Dunn) - PA NRCS has committed \$207,000; potential for \$400,000 more. This will likely go in on the state BAA proposal.
- Allegheny National Forest – Allegheny National Forest has posted an Area of Interest on 600 mi² in Clearfield, Clinton, Cambria, and Centre counties, but there is probably no money.

Special Topics

BAA Application Development (Mike Shillenn)

Federal agencies with headquarters/national money usually partner with 3DEP through an Interagency Agreement (IA)

Federal dollars from state offices and non-federal agencies typically use the BAA (Broad Agency Announcement)

- Informational Webinar: August 22, 2:00
- BAA Release: August 31, 2018
- Proposals due October 26, 2018
- Awards issued November 2018 to March 2019, based on availability of funding.

Scott Hoffman has made Diane Eldridge aware that PA intends to submit a BAA proposal.

Selection Criteria

- 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 – shapefiles from SeaSketch will be available for download from 3DEP website.

- Maturity of proposal and funding sources – is funding committed? How well-formed is proposal?
- Bad news is that no portion of PA qualifies for 3DEEP minerals advantage
- Technical approach – use GPSC and there is no need to complete the Technical approach since they are already approved USGS methods and experience. OK to provide your own contractors inside the BAA proposal but requires additional descriptions and justification in the application. USGS charges an extra 5% for GPSC to perform complete QC of products. A state-selected contractor that is not a GPSC would likely require a QC component.
- We had some discussions about USGS support for longer-term state lidar plans; there are 6 states that are piloting a planning program through NSGIC.

Proceeding with the application

- Basic drafting team identified:
 - Gale Blackmer
 - Mike Shillenn
 - Chris Evans
 - Drzyzga/Jespersen on Project narrative(s)
- Need a geographic strategy; plan projects to support the strategy. Our discussion showed *overall preference for completing the entire QL2 lidar right away rather than projecting a multi-year approach.*
 - Requires FEMA assistance in Western PA
 - Need more state agency commitments
 - Might best prepare a couple narratives for next meeting
 - *Best case – FEMA commitment and some national NRCS assistance*
 - *Worst case – no additional resources beyond existing state and NRCS commitments*
- Contiguous areas are preferable, filling in around existing QL2.
- Enter guaranteed funds; 3DEP contribution gets calculated. At present our “guaranteed” funds include the \$1M from PEMA and DCNR as well as the \$207K from NRCS PA office.
- Quantum has worked with BAA applicants to develop a cost model and is interested in working up cost estimates for a couple PA scenarios. We also discussed getting an Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE) from USGS – *best to ask early.*
- Additional deliverables should be discussed next meeting. Can add one additional tiling scheme without much effect on total cost; USGS will contract for their national tiling scheme by default.

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

Jeff Zimmerman demonstrated the website created by SRBC. Besides a few minor tweaks the entire group was pleased with the effort. Jeff wove the materials we had already developed into basic site content as well as an interesting StoryMap at:

<https://srbc4423.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=7337587945e742bd9ec346fe522ff8b0>

Application Networks Update

Jespersen and Petroski discussed the possibility of creating a few test sites around the state where interested parties could readily find data and ground truth to test or demonstrate applications; the idea needs additional development. Possible locations include:

- Lancaster County
- Fort Indiantown Gap
- Sullivan County QL1 site
- PSU Ag sites

Zimmerman indicated that there is sufficient room on the SRBC website for initial activities of the groups/networks. No additional outreach to SSHE schools during the summer.

Action Items

- Shillenn to forward some PA lidar-generated images for use in state plan document covers
- Shillenn to forward USGS 1km grid to Drzyzga (and Zimmerman?)
- Blackmer to send slide decks from January 2018 promo workshop to Zimmerman for website
- All are authorized to promote the LWG website on their organizations' social media
- Shillenn, Jespersen, Drzyzga to investigate past BAA narratives for perspective on new one
- Hoffman to ask Diane Eldridge whether NRCS overall direction should focus on BAA or nationwide Interagency Agreement (IA)
- Hoffman to ask Diane Eldridge whether there are state planning grants in the works.
- Jespersen to add Chris Evans to mailing list

LWG Calendar

September 5 **Next Meeting** – SRBC Harrisburg Office, 4423 North Front Street; 10 – Noon; Web access/Remote participation info TBD

October 11 PA Geological Survey office, 3240 Schoolhouse Road, Middletown.