Facilitated Discussion

The Next Generation of ORM

National Wetlands Maps (Geospatial jurisdictional determinations online)

- Ann Redmond, WilsonMiller, Inc.: <u>Supports submitting wetlands delineations to the National Wetlands Inventory for planning activities</u>– *many clients request wetlands estimate on a piece of land, so they do a wetland pre-delineation as a planning tool; many want to use NWI for planning, but NWI is not good enough because it is a computer exercise and not a field exercise, so she has to use several databases with limited fieldwork to get land use data, soils data, NWI data in order to get at an estimate of wetland locations; supports having improved delineations in one place and in NWI, this could validate NWI data for a landscape*
    - o Susan- Marie Stedman, NOAA NMFS: Response: The distinction between jurisdictional and cowardin wetlands should be considered when combining the two
        - ▪ Rich Mogensen, EarthMark's MidAtlantic Mitigation, LLC: There is a real distinction between levels of doing delineation; <u>need standard protocols for what a JD (jurisdictional determination) to make an online tool useful</u>, which would include GPS and having an accurate survey line so people can rely on this information
        - ▪ Mike Rolband, Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.: ORM has approved JDs on it so <u>Suggest that ORM have standard requirement when approve JD to have a survey in a certain datum with certain accuracy</u>, then data could go into WORM/ORM and then automatically to NWI to update their maps, then would have ground truthed data to help when they update their maps
    - o Jeanne Christie, ASWM: <u>There is a national effort to update wetlands maps nationally, ASWM is working on making sure that wetlands are a critical component in a national geospatial mapping effort</u>, *There is a USGS effort to put geospatial data on its national map with nationwide topographic data layers (10 elements), ASWM is suggesting NWI data be incorporated into this effort to update wetlands maps nationally* **to make planning much easier**, *also working on new protocols to add delineation data, mitigation data and others because in order to upload this type of information on regular basis and add it to a national map you need agreed upon protocols to address all variation in data, this type of geospatial data is necessary for a watershed approach.*

Related to information to be included in the databases

- George Kelly, Environmental Bank and Exchange: <u>Suggests interrelationship between web based platform Ecosystem Marketplace, from market site of equation, with the efforts of RIBITS and ORM</u> (Ecosystem Marketplace is an informational based service identifying markets related to biodiversity, carbon, and water; it has

basic information on those markets, very little cost or tracking information, but still evolving as the place for finding out market information (e.g. pricing, indexing, general information about the market itself); www.ecosystemmarketplace.com

- Jessica Wilkinson, ELI: Has Corps/EPA coordination with other groups, i.e. nonprofits (NatureServe)?
    - o Palmer Hough, EPA: many EPA programs want that information from those programs for various reasons; have been negotiating an agreement with NatureServe, but have security and access issues to deal with.

- George Howard, Restoration Systems: Suggest that cost data developed by state agencies for mitigation purposes (e.g. EEP) should be included in one of these forums (ORM, WORM).
    - o Suzanne Klimek: NC EEP, will report on their current detailed cost analysis, some of that information is available already;
    - o Suzanne Klimek: NC EEP, why won't RIBITs have cost data?
        - ▪ Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: costs are negotiated between bankers and clients, so can't really include it; but ILF costs are different and can be made public
        - ▪ George Howard: Restoration Systems, but, NC state information on banks is particularly interesting because it is public and it reflects bargaining pressures etc., this information would be interesting for bankers and regulators as a public service.
        - ▪ Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: Focus for RIBITS right now is on GIS heavy districts, not NC, but these will be incorporated.

- Sue Elston, EPA: have you taken into account states that have 404 programs for these databases? Could be a problem if these are left out.
    - o Palmer Hough, EPA: that is why EPA was involved in the process early so the Corps can design the program to take into account the state programs and those states that have assumed 404 programs.
    - o Sue Elston, EPA: will Michigan's program be compatible?
        - ▪ Ellen Gilinsky: VA DEQ, many states have their own databases, (e.g. VA doesn't want to enter data into two places, or change its system), which may be a problem for these databases; support RIBITS because tracks banks, which VA doesn't do

Related to procedures

- Don Ewoldt, National Mitigation Banking Association: Concerned that businesses might be reluctant to provide delineation information that they have paid to generate free of charge to these databases and their competitors?
    - o Mike Rolband, Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc.: This information is already available from the Corps, if a JD has already been issued (unless there is a reason to change it).

- - Steve Martin, Corps: JDs are FOIAable, but rather than going through FOIA the Corps would rather just provide them to requesters.

- Jessica Wilkinson, ELI: Can you clarify what you meant by MOA's will be finished by September?
  - Bob Brumbaugh: Corps, Arrangements with the other agencies involved, talking about what data will be shared, coordinated, collaborated because each agency might have different data
  - Palmer Hough: EPA, There is a draft EPA, Corps MOA for data sharing to facilitate permit decisions for Corps and 404 program for EPA for example; Corps would like similar exchanges with states and other federal agencies

- Bill Ainslie, EPA: For database data test, will you roll out other agency access at same time? (Question Burks-Copes)
  - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: Yes; Will have security based password system set-up so bankers can access their ledgers (not manipulate others); agencies/MBRT team can access information and upload data like monitoring data (access will be determined by the district); will all happen simultaneously during testing phase.
    - Bill Ainslie, EPA, so spatial data will reside in GORM?
      - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: Yes, in one database. RIBITS will be in that database.

- Ken Murin, PA DEP: Since there are multiple agencies involved, will there be an opportunity to ensure there won't be double counting/overlapping of data?
  - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: It will basically be Corps permit data.
  - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: tracking banks based on permit number issued, tracking state permits in RIBITs not necessarily in ORM;
  - Palmer Hough, EPA: one challenge is to make sure that the banking ledgers reflect all transactions and credits (including state, federal, local, county, etc)
  - Ken Murin, PA DEP: the database will track only permits, not tracking all wetland restoration projects?
  - Kelly Burks-Copes, Corps: In RIBITS anything outside of banking will not be tracked,
  - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: ORM will not track anything outside of Corps permits.
    - Steve Martin, Corps: but as far as banks are concerned the ledgers reflect all transactions of banks, including state and federal; but not activities outside, i.e. with WRP, or partners is not tracked
  - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: in the future, this database will hopefully account for where all Corps projects are taking place in order to implement a watershed approach, for example, what the projects are and where compensation and impacts are, the goal is for this database to be a basis for the inclusion of other types of Corps data (overarching goals)

- Jan Goldman-Carter, NWF/CWN Wetlands Group: Will regular citizens be able to go onto WORM and see spatially where all of the mitigation sites are (banks, ILF, etc) so they can see/police what is happening in their watershed?
    - Bob Brumbaugh, Corps: yes, this should also cut down on FOIA requests to the Corps; and this transparency will also improve data entry error rate by having public coming in to point out errors in data entry.