

Greetings

Introduction; introduce Lynn Usery, Morgan Bearden, Barbara Poore

Purpose of the Workshop:

The U.S. Geological Survey is seeking to understand how other organizations, both public and private, have implemented successful programs to gather geographic information.

As many of you know, for several years, the USGS mapping program made use of volunteer data to provide updates to its topographic mapping series.

Later this morning, Morgan Bearden will provide an overview and current status of the program called, *The National Map Corps*. That program has been in hiatus for many months pending a re-evaluation of its

implementation. Part of that re-evaluation is this workshop. To be honest with you, this program has been somewhat of a challenge for us (the USGS). While we know there is a great deal of energy, enthusiasm and skill out there, we have had and continue to have ambivalence about the return on investment of volunteered information. As a government agency who has a responsibility to stand behind its products and services and to be answerable to our stakeholders – taxpayers, map and data users – we are very concerned about data quality.

However, as we have seen in the last 2 years particularly, there are many organizations successfully collecting and using volunteer-derived data. We have invited as many as we could to this workshop so that we can learn from them – from you – and so that we can all share ideas on how to make collective use of volunteer resources.

What we hope to come out of the workshop with is a set of notes and as much background documentation as the organizations gathered here are willing to share. We are also particularly interested in looking at, studying and evaluating on-line working examples. We will share the information back to you via the website where you saw the agenda and logistical information, so that you too can gain from the benefit of this shared experience.

Introduce audience – A mix of both USGS and non-USGS staff.

Now – on to today's agenda:

This morning we will spend some time on developing some background for you on the USGS mapping program – particularly The National Map and The

National Map Corps. Prior to that, we will hear from Andrew McLaughlin, (title) from the White House Office on Science and Technology policy.

These presentations will provide context from the USGS perspective.

Later this morning, we will begin a series of presentations from representatives of organizations that have either implemented successful VGI programs OR that have studied some aspect of these types of programs in an in-depth way. We have given them a series of questions to answer specifically in their presentations. Note that each presenter only has 20 minutes. So, we will need to hold questions until the end of the session and then will only likely have a few minutes for questions.

This afternoon – we will break the group into three smaller, topical breakout groups. Facilitators and

recorders for each of these sessions have been identified. The intent of these sessions is not to continue prepared briefings or remarks, but, to get meaningful recommendations coming back to USGS/The National Map for each of these topics. So, we are hoping that we can not only glean information about what your organization is doing, but, also to ask you to spend some of your time both today and tomorrow thinking about the USGS/TNM situation specifically and giving us your feedback. We will wrap up the day by getting back together and getting a report out from each group.

Tomorrow will be similar in format, however, instead of the introductory material in the morning, we will just jump right into prepared presentations from invited speakers. In the early afternoon, we will again have breakout sessions and will wrap up at

approximately 3:30 p.m. as many of you likely have flights tomorrow evening.

Say something here about USGS session.

Just a word about lunch today – you will be on your own for lunch. We will conclude our session at 12:15 p.m. and plan to reconvene in just over an hour. Talk about restaurant choices close by.

Questions?

Get introductory material from Andrew McLaughlin.