

USDA Imagery Planning and Coordination Meeting

December 4 - 6, 2012

Room 4220
Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

Tuesday, December 4, 2012		
Time	NAIP 2012 Contract Post Mortem	Discussion Leader
8:00 – 11:30	Contractor Presentations/Discussions	Mootz

Notes from the morning session were captured by John Mootz and are presented in a separate document. No webinar was established for this session.

Resounding theme for the Planning Meeting was “DOUGHNUTS”, except in New Mexico.

Important event: Mootzy wore a tie! 21 APFO members present, 11 others from various organizations

Tuesday, December 4, 2012				
Time	Agenda Items	Topics	Discussion Leader	
1:00 – 2:30	USDA Activities and Planning	Welcome and Introductions	Nicholls	
		Action Item Review Meeting outline	Williams	Action items.ppt
	Budgeting/Fiscal Issues	Administrative Fees	Clifford	Resource Amin Fee.ppt
		Cost Share Agreements	Barlow	Agreements (Barlow).ppt
		FSA Budget Reimbursable	Skiles	USDA Planning Meeting 2012 - Denny
2:45 – 4:30	FSA Activities and Planning	USDA APFO Contracting Review	Mootz	APFO Contracting Activities Report.ppt
	NAIP	2012 NAIP Contract Review	Mootz	2012 NAIP Contract Review.ppt
		Preliminary 2012 QA results	Wheeler	NAIP 2012 inspection brief.ppt
		2012 NAIP distribution report	Lohry	NAIP End User Distribution FY2012
		2012 RFI -Purpose/results	Williams	2012 NAIP RFI.ppt
		2013 NAIP planning and potential changes	Williams	2013 NAIP Planning.ppt
4:30 Adjourn				

Afternoon session was directed towards agencies. Prime Contractors were not present. Ron Nicholls welcomed the audience and started introductions. Ron made a special thanks to John Mootz for conducting the morning session and all the work put into coordinating the 2012 Planning Meeting.

Kent presented the revised agenda for the rest of the Planning Meeting highlighting program discussions surrounding imagery planning, the DCCI and future imagery issues. Kent went over the action items from last year; all items appear to have been addressed during the year.

Tuesday, December 4, 2012 (Cont.)

Denny Skiles briefed the background information on why APFO asks for reimbursement of non-FSA projects. Based on 2011 analysis APFO needs to adjust the billing philosophy to better recoup resources used in support Non-FSA activities. Several initiatives will be initiated in FY 13 starting with the new (FMS 7600 A) form which is currently being used by the federal government, he explained the new process for FY 13 and the tie to FMMI and MIDAS while achieving a higher degree of cost accounting.

Michelle Clifford presented information on reimbursable agreements, how APFO gets the fee and what it is used for. Big difference between the “photo” processes we previously used and the digital process we use today. This drives costs up and must be passed on to the customer. In FY 13 customers will get a “cost estimate” of their project and APFO will track the project through the process. At the end APFO can look back to compare the estimate and actual costs, and adjust accordingly for the next time. Michelle took the task of generating another project to compare the costs of percentages vs. actual cost estimations.

Brian Dixon gave information on NITC starting to look at the potential circuitry for imagery projects and what the implications on storage costs could be.

Glen Bethel suggested that NITC visit with NASA DAS and the EROS Data Center for ideas on bulk storage for GIS data. Brian rebutted with an idea that a group be established to talk about potential solutions for long term storage requirements across GIS agencies.

Bridget Barlow presented information on the new agreements process in using the FMS 7600. NRCS does have some concern with doing the first one. APFO agreed to walk NRCS through the first one with FSA guidance and review to ensure everyone understands the process.

John Mootz gave a presentation recapping the NAIP 2012 contracting activities and highlighted the NAIP 2013 and beyond IDIQ Contract .One point John made was in allowing the vendors to use a different elevation model other than the National Elevation Database (NED), if they chose this route APFO must be offered the ability to purchase that model by the acquisition years end.

David Wheeler followed with a report on the NAIP 2012 Inspection Progress. David stated that significant progress has been made over the last 5 years, imagery was flown at the right time and delivered on time. Highlighted to the group was the new approach to inspection assurance, which is based today on a degree of probability instead of a percentage of control points.

Jerry Lohry presented information on who APFO customers are and where our imagery is downloaded to. A point in this presentation is that customers continue to request CCMs (data) long after the acquisition year as orders in FY 12 requested NAIP 03 data.

Kent delivered a briefing that spoke to why APFO issued an RFI in 2012 looking at how FSA would get imagery and services in the event that the current NAIP process was held up. Deeper investigation was deferred due to the NAIP 2012 Task Order being issued.

Kent further explained some activity in how APFO evaluating its pricing model. In updating the method in which we compute our costs, APFO believes that we can reduce our replication costs to customers. New pricing should be released sooner

Wednesday, December 5, 2012				
Time	Agenda Items	Topics	Discussion Leader	
8:00 – 8:15	APFO/Agencies Activities and Planning	2012 Small Area Contract - NRI/SLI	La Croix	2012 SAC APFO Report.ppt
8:15 – 8:45		NRCS 2012 NRI/SLI	Plunk	USDA 2012 NRI SLI.ppt
8:45 – 9:15		NRCS Agency Activities and forecast	Kimmet	USDA NRCS Agency Report.ppt
9:15 – 9:30		USFS Resource Contracts Review	Clifford	USDA Resource Contracts 2013 planning meeting.ppt
9:30 – 10:00		USFS Agency Activities and Forecast WDC	Hinckley	Imagery Planning Meeting Hinkley Notes.ppt
Break 10:00 – 10:15				
10:15 – 11:30	APFO/Agencies Activities and Planning	USFS Region Activities and Forecast	Regions	
Lunch 11:30 – 12:30				
12:30 – 1:30	Remote Sensing	Remote Sensing Report	Bethel	
1:30 – 1:50		Remote Sensing for FSA CRP program	Adkins	
1:50 -2:15		Imagery for Disaster	Bethel	
Break 2:15 – 2:30				
2:30– 2:50	Remote Sensing	UAS/UAV – Potential applications	Davis	USDA UAS Potential.ppt
2:50-3:10	Privacy Issues	Privacy Issues relating to Aerial Imagery	Plunk/Kimmet	USDA NRCS Privacy dec 2012.ppt
3:10-3:30	Elevation	DSM from stereo imagery	Plunk/Kimmet	USDA NRCS Stereo and Image Derived.ppt
3:30-4:00	COTS imagery/services	COTS imagery evaluation	Pugh	
4:00 - 4:30	Value of “custom” imagery	Discussion	Williams	Value of Contracting for Custom Imagery.ppt
4:30 Adjourn				

Jacque LaCroix started the morning session with a briefing on the Small Area Contracts (SAC), highlighting the history of the NRI, SLI and HEL projects. He also described the proposed 2013 process for SACs and the timeline for executing these awards. As the Contracting Officer for FSA AgSat activities, Jacque discussed the Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) and the method agencies would use to make purchases with this vehicle. An Important note here is that as long as APFO is not the contracting office for your purchase, there is no administrative fee.

Dorsey Plunk gave a presentation via telephone on the NRCS NRI/SLI efforts for 2012. Of interest here was that NRCS did not experience any restricted airspace issues as in years past. All imagery areas of interest were acquired through either air or spacecraft processes. NRCS uses a “peer to peer” electronic delivery method with APFO called *OnCourse*, this has proven to be very effective. Dorsey reported that NRCS conducted a digital stereo project in North Carolina, results identified several glitches in processing stereo imagery with the final analysis revealing that mono-lithic was preferred and more cost effective.

Tony Kimmet continued the NRCS portion with information on the NRSC funding efforts. Of interest is the FMMI impact on NRCS funding practices. Tony suggests that the NRI and NAIP

funding from NRCS will come through as one financial activity. Currently NRCS dedicates about \$8.3M to NRI and \$1.9 to NAIP separately. In a separate issue Tony presented information on GAOs effort to identify who in the federal system was purchasing satellite imagery. GAOs efforts were to identify possible duplication or unnecessary purchases. After considerable conversation it was discovered that the actual products were not duplicated. Of special note is the type of license purchased in satellite agreements, Enterprise Premium Level allows distribution to the general private public.

Michelle Clifford presented a review of the 2012 FS Resource Contract efforts. This year marks the first year of an all-digital acquisition. A present day cost comparison revealed that digital acquisition and processing is becoming much more cost effective than film with scanning. Michelle would like to issue an IDIQ for acquisition in 2013; further discussion is needed with the stakeholders. The issue of committed funding remains a stumbling point with the FS. The GTSC had their imagery contract expire this year and no other vehicle is in place for the Regions to use.

Everett Hinckley and Dave Vanderzandm discussed the FS priorities for the future, while geospatial information has a high priority in the FS several competing priorities are emerging in how this information is maintained and distributed. The FS has established a Mobile Geospatial Technology group to design the pathway for getting imagery to the field. The FS is advocating for Regions to use the USGS GYPSY LiDAR contract to acquire needed data. Everett would also like to publish a user's guide for the field users to direct them in the use of free satellite imagery before they purchase imagery on their own.

FS Regions gave information on 2013 activities with R2, R3, R4 planning some forest and a grassland projects. FS is acquiring more and more LiDAR data in their regions, QA/QC work is being handled internally with Fusion packages. Imagery data is being served through the FS Imagery Server as is NAIP data. Renee (R8) reported that her region does not execute additional imagery acquisitions but in fact advocates for the use of NAIP. Dave volunteered to be the POC for the use of MATLAB software in automating the detection of cloud cover. R 10 reported that they are in the midst of collecting 2m imagery of the entire state in cooperation with the State of Alaska and being hosted through an imagery service with the University of Alaska. The FS has purchased their own equipment and contracts the plane to obtain 10cm imagery near real time turn around for use and distribution to their end users. This has been very resourceful for small areas.

Break to afternoon sessions:

For *Remote Sensing* the afternoon started off with information about the Earth Observation Study with Glenn Bethel as the FSA POC. Additional information was presented regarding satellite statuses and future plans for LandSat 8. Glenn gave a presentation highlighting the FEMA GIS response regarding Superstorm Sandy and the service offered by Eagle Vision in Fire disasters. Glenn also recommends that USDA send a letter of thanks for all the help DoD and USGS gives us in these regards. USDA puts together a data source list and distributes that directory, contact Glenn if you want on that list.

Zack Atkins presented information on how FSA/APFO is assisting solving field problems for FSA offices across the nation. In this particular model evaluation Zack formulated model that detected potential CRP violations using NAIP as the base imagery. This was a great effort by the APFO GSB folks in providing potential automated services to save personnel hours and other resources.

Dave Davis gave an informational presentation on some efforts in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and potential applications in the FSA mission. The conversation continued to the possibility of putting together an inter-departmental group to explore continued possibilities.

Regarding aerial sensing and being able to use those images for enforcement actions, Dorsey Plunk presented case law references supporting the use of images obtained through agricultural channels. (New slides coming)

Thursday, December 6, 2012				
Time	Agenda Items	Topics	Discussion Leader	
8:00 – 8:20	NAIP Planning	FSA Web Services	Vanderbilt	APFO Web Services Imagery.ppt
8:20 – 9:00		Brainstorming session for lowering costs and increasing value		
9:00 – 9:45	USDA Geospatial	ESRI Enterprise License and ArcGIS OnLine for Organizations	Stretch/Biediger	Enterprise Licensing 2012.ppt
		ArcGIS Online for Organizations/USDA Portal Applications		ArcGIS Online Compressed.ppt
Break 9:45 – 10:00				
10:00 – 10:45	Imagery Distribution/Access	Discussion: Agency Applications/Services for Imagery Distribution	FSA NRCS USFS	
10:45 – 11:30		GXP Explorer evaluation	Uhlhorn	
11:30 – 12:00		USDA Data Center Consolidation Update	Dixon/Clements	Federal Data Center Initiative.ppt
Lunch 12:00 – 1:00				
1:00 – 1:15	Historical Imagery	USDA Digital File Format Specifications (proposed)	Vanderbilt	CHP Brief USDA Planning.ppt
1:15 – 3:00		APFO Historical Aerial Photography Project USFS R3 plans/requests for historical imagery	APFO/USFS R3	
Break 3:00 – 3:15				
3:15 – 3:45	Wrap Up	Summarize Meeting and review Action Items	Williams	2012 Action Items.ppt
Adjourn 3:15				

Kent opened the morning session with a discussion on COTS imagery and the need for FSA contracted acquisitions. Kent gave a history of decisions on establishing the acquisition program and how we meet the FSA requirements for public consumption.

Brian followed with a presentation on an RFI effort APFO went through earlier in the year to figure out if we could better serve the imagery community with commercial services. While imagery had slight differences a real draw back noted in the evaluation was that the metadata was lacking.

Laura Stretch presented information on the Esri Enterprise License Agreement; about \$200K annually is available for professional services from Esri. Proposed projects need to come up to Laura in a timely fashion. A USDA Connect website is being designed to better distribute this type of information. The current ELA expires at the end of FY 13 so Laura will be looking for

agency participants to assist in developing the next version as well as possibly exploring a Remote Sensing Software Enterprise License.

In a follow-on to Laura's information Joan further defined the ArcGIS Online testing efforts. Several maps were developed in hopes of providing a more central location for imagery, updates and further collaboration with governmental agencies as well as the general public. The information was received very well with significant energy to try to further develop these efforts.

BREAK

Brian led off a discussion on Imagery Services highlighting internal and external services that APFO is involved in. Of particular note is the difference in requirements for historical images in cache between the MIDAS and Thin Client applications. Tony continued on with a brief presentation on NRCS efforts in ortho imagery distribution. Interestingly, NRCS does distribute some data sets to agencies outside the USDA and thus has to rely on physically transferring hard disks to make this happen. Additionally, NRCS has developed 2 complete US seamless cache tile databases which serves NRCS missions that stretch across County and State boundaries.

Lori explained the provisioning of the imagery and the possible paths forward. A presentation on GXP Explorer was given highlighting the trails that APFO TSB has been conducting. One valuable aspect of this application is the search capability to multiple libraries/catalogs. In this particular application, several additional missions could be met with some of the internal capabilities such as field reps being able to take a GPS enabled photo and attaching it to a cataloged image. Kent Becker continued the discussion by presenting information on how NRCS provisions their data. NAIP 2009-2012 is the most popular download the Gateway has facilitated with over 65% of those going to commercial email accounts. Of the NAIP 2012 itself, 77% of Gateway downloads were to .com accounts.

Bryan Dixon dodged bullets and tomatoes to talk about the FDCCI, talking about the history of the FDCCI and how NITC plays a role in today's plan. As expected, this generated significant and energetic conversation from the various agencies. Lori made the point that while NITC has started to develop a solution, we as an organization have not submitted any requirements for what that solution needs to provide. Several attendees suggested formulating a working group to further discuss these issues.

Brian Vanderbilt quickly switched gears and brought us to a discussion on the Federal Data Specifications Requirements. A revision has been completed that speaks to GIS specifications that can be inserted into contracts for acquiring data. Brian then led into a presentation on efforts by APFO on consolidated historical imagery, which included starting a pilot project by scanning film depicting the State of Utah.

Group conversation generated around developing a research and delivery tool that could touch various agency libraries for any particular area of interest and display all data that pertains to that site.

Potential Action Items:

Develop Tri-Agency Working Group to establish IT requirements for NITC process -

Sample CIR products to Feds, then get comments back to primes

Query fed partners on where and what sample additional products we would like to see.

Review Digital File Format Specifications

2012 USDA Imagery Planning Meeting Action Items

Action Item	Details	Responsibility	Status
Develop working group to identify long term storage requirements	Identify common requirements including access to historical imagery. Group to include Dave Vanderzandan, Lisa McBride, Paul Fukuhara, Steve Nechero, Tony Kimmet, Lori Uhlhorn, Kent Williams, Brian Dixon, Chris Clements, Laura Chris	Kent Williams	
Forward USFS draft	(Dave, need help here)	Dave Vandervandan	
Forward GAO report on USFS Centralization		Bart Matthews	complete
Engage USFS working group for UAS	Follow up with Brad Quayle	David Davis	
Request 2012 state(s) for DSM from Premier Geo	NRCS wants to evaluate DSM produced by auto-correlation to ortho-rectify NAIP.	Dorsey Plunck	
Research policy for retaining historical documents	relating to historical Aerial Photography	Brian Vanderbilt	in work
Review draft digital file format specifications	review and send comments/suggestions to Brian Vanderbilt	all	in work
Provide AgSat Licensing Information	Provide licensing details from all 3 vendors on the BPA. Send to group and post on APFO web site	Jacque LaCroix	
Provide update on Sigma Space proposal	Proposal is to acquire LIDAR and imagery on a single NAIP-like platform	Everett Hinckley	in work
Provide information on USFS software to detect clouds	email information to group	Dave Vandervandan	
Evaluate ENVI enterprise licensing	Follow up with Laura Stretch	Dave Vandervandan	
Post NAIP planned acquisition on ArcGIS Online	Hugh McGirt forward shape files to Joan	Joan Biedeger	
Post planned USFS resource projects on ArcGIS Online	Michelle Clifford forward shape files to Joan	Joan Biedeger	

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