
Chairman Fleming began the meeting by welcoming everyone and briefly explaining the concept behind having the Liaison meeting. It is our intent to discuss issues relating to the USDA and the membership whereby both group can benefit.

Mr. Bethel started his presentation by reviewing recurring and nonrecurring programs – such as NAIP, Resource photography, and NRI while non-recurring included CLU and MDOQs.

Currently, there are 28 digitizing centers which is up for last year from 22. Mr. Bethel anticipates that no more will be opened and reiterated that these centers will come to a conclusion at the end of 2004. He said that since the employees of these centers are county employees they do not come under A-76. The service center will provide QA/QC of the CLU/contractor production. It was asked that if the maintenance of the tracts will be fulfilled by the service center when a change in crops occur and they will be.

Some FAS AP funds come from commodity credit corporation funds – appropriated by OMB.

FSA – NAIP, CLU, MDOQ, NAPP, DOQ NCRS – NRI, NAPP, DOQ Commodity Credit Corp approves funding and OMB appropriates.

Mr. Bethel realizes that using the existing contract and only inviting two other firms was not well received by many others. Going through a full procurement which would take 90 days would put completing the project in jeopardy. Hence, the contract was awarded on March 19th for CLU digitizing to 4 firms: 1) TITAN 2) G&O 3) RSI (8a) 4) S&K Technologies

CLU becomes basis for interaction with individual farmers. FSA strongly behind keeping centers. Important to keep historical records of CLU’s because occasionally need to go back and look at historical record. Each farmer signs a yearly contract that defines their acreage

Discussion was had about the “cost per polygon” of digitizing the CLU’s. CLU progress can be monitored via the website.
FSA internal review found that it cost $0.53 per polygon vs $0.68 for contracting out. There was some vigorous debate about how these numbers were derived, and obviously some great difference of opinion. Tim Rogan of Titan Corp (Portland OR) commented “There is nothing to gain in trying to compare apples to oranges”.

NAIP – will be posted in the next couple of weeks for flying 900 counties in 26 states from June through August 2003. Starting in 2003 FSA and USDA funds to support USDA/OCIO.

NAIP budgets call from $7.5 million to cover the program this year with a plus up to $15.3 million in 2004 and a possibility of $24 million in 2005. The NCRS program will hold steady for this year and next year at $5.8 million. The MDOQ program is funded at $1.6 million for 2003 and $8.2 million for 2004. The CLU has been allotted $7.5 million for 2003 and $13.3 million for 2004.

2002 - $6m 2003 - $24.156m 2004 - $43m Estimate of 2005 is under $30m

USDA contracting history: 1994 1.3 million to 2004 – 43 million

For NAIP, it is expected that about 12 contractors will be awarded contracts for this year

Resource AP (Forest Service) – multiple contract awards annually – doesn’t know how many.

National Resource Inventory (NRI) - 6 firms have 3 year contract, quantities allocated according to capacity, past performance, and budget.

For the NAIP, there are four potential choices:

1) Ortho - Ortho using ABGPS, Control DOQ and DEM 2) “Ortho-light” – ABGPS and DEM only 3) Geo-rectified – ABGPS and control DOQ 4) Geo-referenced – 1 point only

NAIP – Digitize all farm fields, assign farm, farm tract, field numbers This data used at the FSA offices – farmers report what is grown and become eligible for programs. Used for planting/production history and planting planning.

Formerly used 35mm 1-2 section slides. That program is greatly diminished.

Now the program include:

“Best value” 2 meter geo-referenced images or 1 meter orthos 1:40000 color 30-40 day flying season one month delivery time.

A change that they are seeing in proposed production methods that is significant:
OLD – Fit new imagery to existing ortho
NEW – Use airborne GPS and IMU and
existing DEM – produces a pretty good product

Deliveries now include a single county-wide compressed MrSID image as an
initial delivery, and later deliveries of quarter-quad TIFFs

CLU’s are added at the quad level.

Awards for all contracts based on the following evaluation criteria: 75%
technical and 25% price. USDA wants flexibility of best technical application
with price consideration given this is a new product. QBS was discussed and
strides will be made to achieve a true QBS procurement for this program.

2001 NAIP: 400K – Some Kansas counties only 2002: - 5 states, 121 counties
(split between 1m and 2m counties) 2003 - 36 states, 900 counties 2004 –
1338 counties, 1,4 million square miles

Additional info on program available at [www.apfo.usda.gov](http://www.apfo.usda.gov)

NAPP funding

Maine $580,000 natural color/leaf on MT $881,000 CIR OK $454,000 B/W leaf
on AZ $471,000 B/W