

The Network *Hub*

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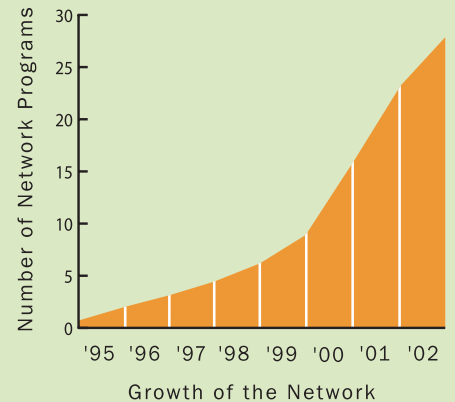
Coordinating the Network

A primary role of the Network Hub is to help states interested in starting programs take the first few steps in getting organized. To date, the Hub has conducted nearly 100 scoping workshops, facilitating the creation of 27 funded NEMO programs in 26 states and territories, and underwriting a steady growth in the size of the Network (*figure*). The Hub also provides developing programs a NEMO startup kit that contains all the materials necessary to get a NEMO program up and running, including PowerPoint™ presentations, publications and tips for setting up a program.

The role of the Network Hub has expanded considerably since late 1999, when funding for Network coordination was first procured. The brisk expansion

of the Network underlined the importance of keeping both existing and new programs abreast of new advancements in land use practices and educational outreach. Developing communication links between Network programs has been a key responsibility of the Network Hub. A list of these services includes:

- **Workshops** - As noted, one of the most important Hub functions is conducting on-site workshops in other states. Scoping workshops are conducted in states considering adopting a NEMO program.
- **Partnerships** - The Network Hub builds partnerships with other organizations and federal agencies to bring additional expertise to the Network. These partners give technical, topical and financial assistance to Network programs.



Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between NEMO and the Center for Watershed Protection.

Network Hub Support *Fiscal Year 2002*

- Funding for Network coordination varies from year to year, and is grant-driven.
- Network coordination and activities are supported by grants from three federal agencies.
- Funding comes from grants from the Water Quality Program of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), EPA's Nonpoint Source Control Branch (Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds) and NOAA's National Ocean Service in collaboration with the National Sea Grant Program.
- This support has allowed the Hub, in 2002, to expand to two full time staff positions, a Coordinator and a Communications officer.



Funding for Fiscal Year 2002 totalled \$190,000.

(from top) Network services in action: training workshops, publications, internet services, geospatial resources.



- **Communication** - The biannual Network newsletter, a Network-wide List-Serv and the National Network website are the main forms of regular communication.
- **Networking** - The Hub organizes a yearly Network conference, NEMO University (NEMO U). NEMO U2, held January 2002 in Charleston, South Carolina, was attended by 65 network participants from 19 programs.
- **Tracking Impacts** - NEMO measures its success in real, on-the-ground changes to land use policies and practices. This requires programs to remain in contact with municipalities long after the workshop has ended. The Hub assists Network programs by tracking changes resulting from national NEMO efforts.
- **Geospatial Resources** - NEMO programs are in the vanguard of utilizing geospatial technologies. The National NEMO Hub, together with the University of Connecticut Geospatial Technology Program, are working to make connections and create new tools for the use of Network programs. These include the National Geospatial Dataset website and the Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (described on page

33). The Network is connected to other agencies and networks that are working on cutting-edge geospatial information and technology, such as the NASA Earth Science Enterprise's Regional Earth Sciences Application Center (RESAC) network, the NOAA Coastal Services Center and the NASA Space Grant Geospatial Technology Extension Program.

- **Training** - The Network Hub holds training sessions for Network projects to help them expand programming in their states. Three such training sessions have been held, (see *Network Initiatives*, page 32) with several more planned for 2003-2004.

As the Network matures, the Hub has moved from the start up phase to the development phase, and has shifted emphasis to helping existing programs develop new educational modules and strengthen their technical base. The Hub will continue to respond to the needs of Network programs, helping them hone and expand their services to local land use decision makers.

