Federal/State Technical Work Collaboration Group Conference Call

December 14, 2020

Cloud modeling and data solutions discussion

Attendees:

GA-James Boylan, Beyeong Kim, Xiangyu Jiang, Hang Qu

TX-Javier Galvan, Bob Gifford, Beata Czader, Danielle Nesvacil, Shantha Daniel, Doug Boyer, Stephanie Shirley, Guy Hoffman, Jill Dickey-Hull, Jocelyn Mellburg, Chuhua Tian

EPA-Jennifer Huser, Norm Possiel, Steve Fine, Kristen Foley, Ben Murphy, Dayana Medina, Chris Misenis, Alison Eyth, Lance Avey, Erik Snyder, Jed Wolkins, Kayin Serpil, Chet Wayland

MARAMA-Susan McCusker

CO-Raphael Wait, Andrew Putnam

LA-John Babin, Vivian Johnson, Vennetta Hayes

MO-Adel Alsharafi, Nathan O’Neil, Mark Leath, Erin Henry

NESCAUM-Alexandra Karambelas

LADCO-Zac Adelman

WESTAR-Tom Moore, Mary Uhl

IA-Jessica Reese McIntyre, Matthew Johnson

AR-Iqbal Hossan

NC-Bradley McLamb, Todd Pasley

MN-Margaret McCourtney, Tad Schindler

MD-Michael Woodman

ECOS-Kurt Rakouskas

NH-Jeff Underhill

AAPCA-Jason Sloan

OK-Tom Richardson

CENSARA-Michael Vince

NE-Tracy Wharton

SESARM-Chad LaFontaine

David Clark – University ALR

The meeting began with Zac Adelman’s presentation.

Questions:

Did the states pay for usage? Not at this point, LADCO is funding all usage. If costs rise, LADCO may consider other alternatives.

What were the set-up costs? Staff time was significant, but LADCO did not quantify hours worked.

Steve Fine presented for EPA.

Questions/comments:

GA would be interested in participating in an EPA workshop.

How will agencies provide funds for the cloud service? EPA would not provide cloud computing or storage to agencies. Instead, each state that wanted to use the cloud would have their own cloud account.

Is there compatibility between Azure and AWS? AWS functions will not work in Azure, but general approaches used on one may be applicable to the other. Zac noted that Azure uses VM and does not use Linux directly.

Zac noted that much of LADCO’s effort went to parallel processing.

Steve noted that Azure does support Linux directly.

Are states on their own to install and support Linux? Zac said state IT staff cannot support Linux in some states; when a state uses AWS, they might be on their own to maintain a cloud Linux system.

Steve said for AWS, a state can likely get a Linux system fully updated if desired.

How would EPA transfer data to agencies? LADCO would create an image of modeling files and make public, then copy over to an agency account. EPA envisions a similar process.

Would EPA provide training into accessing and using AWS? LADCO could provide some guidance and EPA would like to create documentation.

Is there a critical mass threshold that EPA envisions for the cloud project to be efficient? EPA feels the initiative is scalable and would like to work with one or two states to explore feasibility. There would be different types of users. EPA could develop guidance.

Norm said that interested states should contact Mary Uhl or himself.

Zac asked for next steps. EPA will develop a needs/requirements document and follow up with more details soon.