

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 169 (3/1/06)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, March 1, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARRH**: Duane Carpenter; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards, Carl Bullock; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NEXRAD Hotline**: Mark Albertelly; **OCWWS**: Shannon White

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of OB6: We are proceeding this week to a 3 sites per phase per day schedule. To date, we have had 37 sites install phase 3 of OB6 and this includes 17 WFOs and 2 RFCs.

A critical DX1 failure occurred recently at site BOX. There was a failure for AWIPS to automatically swap over from DX1 to DX2. Kevin Johnson of the NCF worked this issue and he found the following. After OB6 (where the new Postgres disk partitioning is set up and volume groups created), the DX2 is unable to see the physical volume /dev/sdb1 (the first partition on the /dev/sdb device). While the device can see the device partition itself, it is unable to run a pvdisplay on /dev/sdb1 -or- import any logical volumes. This creates a problem when the dx1apps package fails to DX2 and attempts to run Postgres. Because the physical volume is not seen by the server, it can not import the logical volume for the volume group, and so Postgres will not run. Kevin Johnson found the solution and it's a one time event. The NCF will monitor the OB6 installs and will make the necessary adjustments to each site so the failover to DX1 will result in an automatic switchover to DX2.

b. Product Maker Support: Jamie Vavra read a recent awipsinfo listserver message from a field site stating that the NCF informed them that the Product Maker functionality is no longer supported by GSD. Since then there have been a few follow up messages expressing dismay and regret that operational staff don't have enough input on the AWIPS priorities. We here in the AWIPS Support Branch were not aware of the decision not to continue to support the Product Maker.

Carl Bullock of GSD responded that this was part of the original AWIPS eight years ago but we haven't done anything on the software for many years now. It was based on CONUS 211 grids which are now being replaced by higher resolution grids. Carl's impression was that it really wasn't being used since the volume browser has been updated for some of the newer derived fields. If the focal points need any follow up on this issue, please contact Jamie Vavra.

c. Latest status on NMAP: The latest status on NMAP is that they completed testing at Silver Spring and verified that the fixes worked. They will submit an ATAN sometime this week to test at site VRH (Alaska Regional Headquarters). So, if all goes well, they would have a new

version later next week. It is important functionality for the OCONUS sites and some RFCs and the functionality is required to be fixed for their installation of OB6 Phase 2. Edwin reported that NMAP will be fixed by the time the OCONUS sites are scheduled to install Phase 2 of OB6.

d. Tracking Trouble Tickets When Assigned to Development Organization: In tracking trouble tickets (TT), the NCF puts them into a queue of the appropriate developer's organization. The TT can sit in this queue for quite a while. In the meantime, a site might want to know the status of a particular TT. Edwin Welles has discussed having a point of contact (POC) at each developer's organization for this purpose. After some discussion, the consensus was for the regional focal points to inquire about a TT instead of the sites calling a developer's POC. Edwin took the action item to put together a list of development organization focal points so the regional focal points can solicit feedback from them on the status of a TT.

Action Item Min169-1: Edwin Welles to put together a list of contacts at the developers organization for the purpose of the regional focal points contacting finding the status of a trouble ticket.

Bill Ward of the Pacific Region complained that his sites were not aware of the transfer of some maintenance software support from the MDL/SEC developers to Raytheon/Keene. Edwin Welles took the action to present at the next RACC a list of who is responsible for what software maintenance support so the field will be more fully informed. Edwin Welles also took the action to improve the process of communication to the regional focal points on AWIPS decisions.

Action Item Min 169-2: Edwin Welles to put together a briefing package detailing the organizations responsible for their software maintenance support. Edwin Welles also took the action to improve the process of communication to the regional focal points on AWIPS decisions.

e. Bi-annual NCF Points of Contact: Wayne Martin distributed today an updated version of the NCF Points of Contact (POC) document. He asked the regional focal points to please review the information about the AWIPS POC which pertains to their AWIPS systems. If any of the POC information needs to be updated, email the updated information to ncf@noaa.gov. During the week of April 3, Wayne Martin will provide an updated AWIPS_Sites.txt file to the Regional AWIPS Focal Points.

f. Severe Weather Checklist: Wayne Martin will be distributing the severe weather checklist to the regional focal points for review by the end of this week. This checklist is a list of actions that the site system administrator can perform to see that AWIPS is performing adequately. Wayne has updated it for items pertaining to OB6 such as cleaning up the Postgres data base to make sure it is running efficiently and prior to severe weather, testing WarnGen in the practice mode. Wayne would like to finalize the checklist by the end of this month.

g. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: A heads up in that there will be a critical DR coming out for NWRWAVES in the near future. There is a requirement that a product be sent separately to each transmitter. This process can take extra time if a site has too many transmitters. A DR will be written soon that may have to be patched into OB6 and be included in OB7.1, which will allow NWRWAVES to write only one message to CRS for short duration warnings and let CRS split it up to the appropriate transmitters.

Eastern Region: What is the status of the firewall replacement since site LWX installed it a few weeks ago and it is working okay. Sanford Garrard replied that it has been approved and that Andy Nappi of Raytheon is working on the deployment issues.

The climate program in the F6 formatted product is missing several items and the WSH response is that this is a known DR that will be fixed in OB7.1.

The OB6 WarnGen has a new test and practice mode. What is the policy on sites using this mode? The WSH response is that the NWS Director issued just recently to the Regional Directors the policy on its use and it should be coming your way anytime now.

Two of our sites have reported missing title bars on D2D when a user logs into the system. A trouble ticket has been opened up and we're wondering about the status of the trouble ticket. James Washington of the NCF will look into the status of this particular trouble ticket.

Action Item Min 169-3: James Washington of the NCF will look into the trouble ticket involving missing title bars when user logs into D2D. [Editor's note: James Washington looked into the matter and the solution was e-mailed to the Regional focal points.]

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: The weekly workstation performance report is still not being sent to the Western Region Headquarters and it had been in the past from the previous contractor.

Action Item Min 169-4: Jim Stenpeck to contact Dave Maxey of Raytheon/Keene to add the Regional focal points to the distribution of the weekly workstation performance reports. [Editor's note: Jim contacted Dave Maxey who replied that anyone who wants these reports to e-mail Dave at david.maxey@noaa.gov]

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: The FFMP problem in the WES 6.0 has been solved. We are almost ready to go except we can't get a flash flood warning to display as we don't seem to have the right templates. The final beta version of the WES 6.0 should be ready to go out next week.

Nexrad Hotline: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2006. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.