

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 171 (3/29/06)

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 29, 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**: Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson, Sean Wink; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards, Rich Jesuroga; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Shannon white;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB6: There are currently 52 WFOs and 3 RFCs at OB6. There are a total of 75 sites that have installed OB6. We are moving along okay without any problems.
 - b. Development Process Reviews: The information provided in this discussion is the way the contract works and the two tools to manage the contract. The Service Level Agreement (SLA) is the services that Raytheon has contracted to provide to the NWS. A QASP is a Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan which is a plan to ensure that the NWS is receiving the services we need. The QASP metric is a verification metric. The initial award of the contract is for 5 years with options to renew for years 6-10. The award term points are the points that Raytheon earns toward being awarded those option years.

The reward for the contractor is having a high QASP Metrics whereby Raytheon earns award dollars. The High Award Term Points is where Raytheon earns option years. The QASP Metrics and the High Award Term Points are the means we have to ensure that we receive quality services.

The basic step in the process will have a semi-annual self assessment. This is where Raytheon says how they are doing. They provide the NWS with their computed QASP metrics and they suggest Award Term Points. The Government team reviews the contractor's self assessment, provides a government estimate of the QASP metrics, and assigns award term points.

The QASP metric related to trouble tickets (TT) and DRs is not the NCF response times SLA (which is measured in minutes). The software problem resolution times are for those issues raised to the Raytheon developers. The level 1 will be resolved within 4 hours if in critical weather status and the problem is mission critical. The level 2 will be resolved within 8 hours if mission critical but with no critical weather. The level 3 will be resolved within 24 hours if it is only a routine item. Raytheon may resolve level 3 by opening a DR.

Concerning field input, the NWS needs data for the government review. We need to know if the field problems are being resolved promptly. We need specific TT numbers with specific dates and times. We need to know the severity of the weather situation. Some suggestions for how

the focal points can help are to keep track themselves so they can respond to data calls and also to keep the software maintenance support ACOTR (Kevin Kay) informed.

OB7.2 Reviews: The exit criteria for these build reviews in the past were loose. Did all the reviews occur and did the developers follow up on action items? Edwin Welles wanted to know from the regions if we should make the required reviews stricter, beginning with OB7.2? Should there be formalized acceptance from the regions, for just some of the regions, or for just some of the reviews? After some discussion, the general consensus at this point was to maintain the present status quo. Edwin will bring the subject up again in the future to see if there is a change to the region's thinking on this process.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: What is the status of the final version of the severe weather checklist? Wayne Martin responded that the final would be placed as a living document on the SST web page in a few days.

Eastern Region: Can we have an update on the notification server overload problem? Joanne Edwards of GSD stated that they are working on a possible solution to the problem.

What is the status of the NWRWAVES emergency release? Raytheon reported that they just received the final piece of information from Pete Browning and will be ready to go out with an emergency release in the next 2-3 weeks.

When will the LX1, LX2, and printers be replaced at our sites? Sanford Garrard responded that the printers may be replaced sometime this year but the workstation replacement probably won't occur until the next calendar year.

Pacific Region: We are moving ahead with installing phase 1 of OB6 here at site HFO.

Southern Region: What is the latest on the regional firewall configuration workstation installation mod note? Jim Stenpeck took the action item to find out the status of this mod note.

ACTION MIN 171-1: Jim Stenpeck to inquire about the status of the regional firewall configuration workstation installation mod note. [Editor's note: A mod note is in the works and pending more information. An issue date is a TBD.]

What is the latest on the IFPS service backup problems in OB6? An NCF spokesperson stated that a fix has been put in place at the NCF.

Is there any national plan to dispose of surplus AWIPS hardware at all field sites or is it strictly a local issue? Jim Stenpeck took the action item to find out more information on this matter.

ACTION MIN 171-2: Jim Stenpeck to inquire with the Engineering Division in Silver Spring to ask if there is a national plan in the works to dispose of all surplus AWIPS hardware.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We had hoped to issue the WES 6.0 this coming Friday but we ran into some problems from the beta testing. We hope to issue it in the next 2-3 weeks. When this occurs, we will send notices to the various list serves.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 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.