

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 172 (4/12/06)

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, April 12, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter; **PRH**: Alan Samori; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **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: We are more than halfway complete with installing OB6 at all sites. As of this morning (April 12), a total of 91 sites have installed OB6. Out of that total, there are 68 WFOs and 4 RFCs.

The OB7.1 release continues software integration testing through the end of April. A group of forecasters and other field representatives found about 30 DRs last week while they were evaluating the 7.1 release on the TBW3 platform. The first full alpha install is planned for TBDW around May 9.

Revision A of the LDAD Firewall Replacement procedures was posted on March 15. There are 28 sites that have installed it. The installation rate is currently 2 per install day. The rate increases to 3 per day starting May 8.

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

Shannon White: Concerning the recent flooding in the Sacramento, California area, the problem was due to the overlapping in time relative to two different events. Since, GHG won't allow more than one watch of a specific weather type per county at a time. Shannon had sent out this past winter the instructions and a video showing sites how to allow their files to set up two different flood watches to be set up in the same county at the same time. Shannon will send to the RACC moderator this same information so it can be forwarded again to the regions.

ACTION Minute 172-1: Jim Stenpeck will forward to the regional focal points the multi hazard configuration information. [Editor's note: Action completed.]

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: The Indiana time zone change that affected the software at several of our regional field sites went very well and we thank everybody involved in the work to make this happen.

Eastern Region: There is a new Revision A to Mod Note #26, the LDAD Firewall Replacement Procedures. Is there much change to the original Mod Note #26? The WSH response is that the original mod note was completely re-written and is now clearer and easier for sites to follow. Joe Palko asked if the RFCs can begin installing the firewall and the answer was not at this time.

Joe also stated that site BOX had a problem recently with the VTEC numbers in GHG. A VTEC number was accidentally bumped up to an incorrect large number. Mark Mathewson worked on the problem and it took several days to solve it. It seems that the RPP boxes are occasionally not set up correctly and the settings can be wrong, which in turn can mess up the GHG VTEC numbering sequence. Mark put the information concerning this situation on the appropriate list server.

Pacific Region: We just finished the firewall upgrade to our sites in the region. Also, we have some inter-site ssh access questions and wonder if we need to file a Request for Change (RC)? Wayne Martin replied that these are not part of the baseline so no RC is required. However, one should get permission through John R. Gordon in the OCIO office at NOAA.

Southern Region: Eric brought up several WarnGen/Watch product issues from last weekends events in his region. The problem occurs when several watches are included at the bottom of warning product. The problem occurs because the software is still using legacy SAW watch instead of the appropriate Watch by County era product. To implement these changes, OS will need to provide requirements through the OSIP process to the development organizations.

Also concerning WarnGen, is there a way for the SVSs to use portions of counties to do proper follow ups? The response was that in cancellation (CAN) and expiration (EXP) follow up messages, a section of a county can not be used. WarnGen needs to use portions of the county in all VTEC action codes used in WarnGen not just the CON and COR messages. This will become a bigger problem as we transition into the Warning by Polygon era, as multiple warnings for one county will be common place. Ashley Kells will check to see if a DR has been written and if not, he will write one up.

ACTION Minute 172-2: Ashley Kells will write a new DR for PVCS. [Editor's note: Action completed.]

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We found a few more bugs in the WES 6.0 and will send a patch to the beta testers today. Baring no more problems, we expect to send the final WES 6.0 to all WFOs soon. Later this Spring, we will send out the WES to go with the winter weather AWIPS Operations Course (AWOC) that will have GFE capability. We also plan on sending the WES out for national deployment when OB7.1 is distributed.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 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.