

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 188 (11/29/06)

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, November 8, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations outside of Silver Spring) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson, Craig Schmidt; **CRH**: Greg Noonan, Brian Walawender; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter, Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **Raytheon**: Karen Tepera; **site BYZ**: Jamie Vavra

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

a. Status of OB7.1 and OB7.2: The first beta installation of the OB7.2 software at an operational site began today at WFO Billings (BYZ). Minor issues were encountered with shapefiles and the climate program software, which were resolved shortly after the installation was completed. Site VUY installed OB7.2 yesterday and NHOR is going today. Sites LUB and CAR are scheduled to install next week.

Frank Lucadamo reminded the regions that the SMM pilot project for OB7.1 ends on December 15.

Many of the regional focal points asked for the latest status of the GFE slowdowns in OB7.1. Edwin Welles read a report from Russ Ingraham of Raytheon which stated the issue is related to a Kernel #37 on the LX machines. Three of the four sites experiencing the slowdowns have reported no slowdown when reverting to the use of Kernel #22. We are awaiting confirmation from the fourth site. Edwin stated that it is risky to change the kernels at all sites at this time. We do not know if it's just the kernel problem by itself or a combination of weather elements which can cause the particular kernel to behave badly. A decision will need to be made soon. Edwin took the action item to ask Russ Ingraham to post the latest status of the GFE slowdowns to the list server and to send the information to the regional focal points.

ACTION ITEM 188-1: Edwin Welles to ask Raytheon to post latest information on the GFE slowdowns to the list server and to send to the regional focal points. [Editor's note: action completed.]

b. HazCollect CRS Formatter Transition from CAFÉ NWEM to NWRWAVES: Tim Hopkins discussed the pros and cons of the HazCollect dedicated formatter versus using NWRWAVES. These talking points are listed in the attached Word document titled "HC dedicated formatter vs. nwrwaves." Tim wanted to open this up for discussion to get feedback to help arrive at a decision at a later date. The regions are pushing to go with NWRWAVES. The cons with this approach are that every change to NWRWAVES could require regression testing of the Hazcollect software, which is difficult and risky. Also, the Hazcollect system is not entirely within NWS control (i.e. it has a DHS component). Minimizing changes to the NWS piece

reduces upstream/downstream coordination and testing requirements. If NWRWAVES was chosen then there would be a need to do an extensive amount of end-to-end testing, which is a difficult and time consuming task. If this path is taken, a champion for OSIP Project 06-017 “HazCollect NWR Message Formatting Using NWRWAVES” will need to be found to shepherd this project through the OSIP Process.

There needs to be more discussion on whether to continue to have Hazcollect stay with the CAFE or move it on into NWRWAVES.

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

Mary Buckingham: I am looking for CP and LX replacement test sites. So far, only the Southern and Eastern Regions have responded. I would like to have these sites firmed up by tomorrow.

Alaska Region: The GFS40 model data was supposed to be turned on last Friday. However, the day came and went and no data came into our sites. After much scrambling around, we were saved as one of the Regional ITOs at noticed a baseline file problem and he proposed a fix which subsequently solved the problem.

The Anchorage office is planning on installing OB7.1 tomorrow. We are concerned that the ISC grids are not being received at the Fairbanks and Juneau offices and several forecasters are scheduled to fly to those sites in order to perform service backup. James Washington of the NCF took the action item to assist those sites as he thinks the problem is solved by a post OB7.1 install step.

Central Region: We received at BCQ the delta upgrade of OB7.2 yesterday. There was no updating of the radar displays off the SBN and we are missing several model runs. We are in touch with the NCF and they are assisting us.

Eastern Region: We installed OB7.2 on our Regional Headquarters system yesterday. The Message Handling System was supposed to move to the DXs and did not. Several sites installing OB7.1 had shape file issues with getting the shape files off the NOAA1 server because of a corrupted set of c11-zones shape files. Ira Graffman has corrected the shape files and uploaded them to the NOAA1 Server.

Pacific Region: We installed the upgrade of the CP_SBN at site GUM and HFO and had huge issues at both sites. We hope to get one of the sites done before HFO install OB7.1 on Thursday. Again, James Washington of the NCF offered to assist.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report

Western Region: Per Mary Buckingham’s request (see above), we are volunteering our regional system (site VHW) to test the replacement of the CP and LX.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 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.