

**RACC Meeting Minutes No. 205 (8/8/07)**

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, August 8, 2007, 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**: Joshua Watson, Cindy Scott; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach, Jim Totusek, Heather Galan; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White; **NCF**: Matt Kensey

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

a. Status of OB7.2.1.1, OB8.1 and OB8.1.0.1: We are in the second week of sites installing OB8.1/8.1.0.1. There are 10 sites on the schedule to install this week. We go to 8 sites per day (Monday through Thursday) beginning next week and hope to wrap up these installs by the end of September. The OB7.2.1.1 (SCAN emergency release) mod note was signed and we are moving forward with that release.

b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases: The FFMP emergency release has been installed at all sites except for a few sites that are waiting for OB8.1. Also, the CPSBN server upgrades have been completed by all sites.

*OB8.1.1 Maintenance Release*: There are 30 DRs in it and testing begins at Raytheon tomorrow. National deployment is scheduled to begin on October 8.

*OB8.2*: We are in the middle of the SwIT. We are on target for the SVR on September 14. National deployment is scheduled to begin on January 3, 2008.

*OB8.3*: The requirements have been finalized but more could be coming from the SREC.

c. GFE Suite Pre-Release Plan: There were 16 sites that participated in the OB8.1 trial of the ASM support for GFE Suite Pre-Releases. These Pre-Releases are used to assist sites in making changes to GFE Smart Tools and Local Formatters. GSD had provided these Pre-Release when GFE was in the RAP process. Below is the schedule for the OB8.2 Pre-Releases. The pre-alpha version will be available for download on the J Boss server on Monday, August 13. The pre-beta version will be available on Monday, September 10, and the pre-SVR version will be available on Monday, December 3.

There is no separate release plan and the same procedures will be followed as in the OB8.1 plan. Matt Kensey took the action item to send out the OB7.1 GFE suite Pre-Release Release Plan to the Regions. **[Editor's Note: Action completed.]** The information and procedures to follow in the OB7.1 plan is the same and an OB8.1 version will not be provided. The user documentation will be forthcoming with no exact dates for their release set.

d. Proposal to change the Storage of MOS and LAMP Text Products: The Model Output Statistic (MOS) and LAMP Guidance products include the following text product PIL categories: MAV, MET, MEX, FWC, and LAV. All of the MOS/LAMP text products store under the local AWIPS CCC node identifier. For example, the local CCC node identifier for the WFO Sterling AWIPS system is WBC so all 7,103 GFS MOS/LAMP Guidance products store under PILs that begin with WBC. For each unique product PIL, the database usually stores 12 or more versions of that product. Storage conflicts occur when CONUS and OCONUS locations have a similar identifier. Examples are shown in the attached Power Point file titled “MOS\_Storage\_Proposal”.

A proposal to avoid the storage conflicts of MOS and LAMP products is to change the storage of the MOS/LAMP products such that they store under the geographically appropriate CCC node identifier similar to the way that most products store. For example, the MTR product for KABR (Aberdeen, SD) stores under FSDMTRABR while the MTR product for PABR (Barrow, AK) stores under FAIMTRABR. The unanswered question that we have with this proposal is: Will the change in storage of the MOS and LAMP products cause problems with AWIPS software or SmartTools?

An alternative solution is an AWIPS site specific solution in which each AWIPS system where the MOS/LAMP storage conflicts create an operational problem implements a site specific filter to filter out the MOS/LAMP products that the AWIPS site does not want to store. For example, WFO ABR filters out the PABR products for the MAV, MET, MEX and FWC products. The problem with this solution is that each time the collective\_table.dat file is updated by WSH, each site would have to “fix” this file to filter the appropriate site specific products. See the attached Power Point file for more details.

Can the Regional AWIPS Focal Points discuss these solutions with their offices and respond back to Wayne Martin by September 7? Will the change in storage of the MOS and LAMP products to geographically appropriate PILs cause problems with AWIPS software or SmartTools?

e. Re-occurrence of Incorrectly Headed Severe Weather Messages: Ashley Kells reported that for this year, there have already been 2 instances of the wrong message headers sent out for a severe weather event. On July 17, WFO Boise, ID (BOI) had a Flash Flood Warning (FFW) issued under the Severe Thunderstorm Warning (SVR) header. On July 19, WFO Chicago, IL (LOT) had a Severe Weather Statement (SVS) issued under the Severe Thunderstorm Warning (SVR) header. Two trouble tickets have been opened up for these occurrences. Ashley and Brian Gockel of the SEC investigated these trouble tickets and escalated them to ASM who in turn will write up a DR.

One theory is that a site may have been looking up an old warning product on the same text workstation and then they issued a new product for a different severe weather event. Ashley asked the Regional Focal Points to emphasize that if a site sees this problem occur, to call the NCF and have them open up a trouble ticket. We are aware that things get hectic at an office during a severe weather event but it is important to open a trouble ticket so this situation can be

rectified.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: The Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) is now in place at Guam since the site upgraded to OB7.2.1 recently. We thank the folks at Raytheon for all their help in assisting Guam with this effort.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

James Washington (NCF): Concerning the E-AWIPS boxes that the Regions bought through Raytheon, the NCF cannot do any troubleshooting for these devices. However, if a site has a hardware issue with an E-AWIPS box, they should call the NCF and we can arrange either a replacement or a repair job. A set of procedures for the sites to follow with be coming out soon but in the meantime, the NCF will make the arrangements for a site's problem with this hardware.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22, 2007. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Frank Lucadamo. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.**