

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 219 (March 5, 2008)

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 5, 2008, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Mark Mollner; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NWSTC**: Dave Cokely; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Kevin Woodworth; **NCF**: Kevin Johnson, John Seeger;

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

a. Status of Field Installs of OB8.2: There are approximately 150 sites that have installed OB8.2. We have 9 sites performing beta testing of OB8.2.1 and WFO Cleveland, OH (CLE) is expected to install tomorrow. The Beta Readiness Review is slated for next Thursday, March 13. The Southern Region Headquarters is installing an alpha version of OB8.3 today and they are the third alpha site after BCQ and NMTR.

b. Status of AWIPS II: The TO8 delivery has occurred and Raytheon did the out briefing on it and gave the government the documentation. The government is in the process of wrapping up phase 1. They are also working on getting it to the regions and to selected field personnel for additional evaluation. In the next few weeks we will open up the ability to install and test TO8 in an operational setting and in the local apps area. We are drafting a document on the local apps migration and should be done by the end of this month. Raytheon is currently working on migrating TO9 which deals mainly with GFE and IFPS.

c. Status of Upcoming Software Releases:

OB9: The reviews are continuing. OCWWS has been very helpful with getting the requirements in place. The next stage will be the PIT in early June.

LDAD Server Replacement: There are 32 sites that have switched over to Mode B and 16 sites are completely off the HP LDAD.

d. Status of FFMP Advanced (FFMPA): Mary Mullusky gave a briefing about the critical update of the small basin files needed for the OB8.3 FFMPA. Mary stressed that all WFOs must update their small basin files through 'Tier 1' before they install OB8.3. There was a major re-design of FFMP and the motivation was a change from radar centric FFMP to a gridded precipitation input model. This required a major re-design of it and the need for new basin files to be on the gridded model instead of the radar centric FFMP.

For WFOs to begin this process, a white paper (available at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/mdl/ffmp/Critical_UpdateOB83.pdf) was distributed this past fall

over the FFMP list server. This paper describes some background information and gives instructions on how to get to the NSSL National FFMP Basin Repository website. For security reasons you must provide your IP address to Ami Arthur to access this site.

Additionally, on February 5, 2008 we had 129 offices participate in a GoTo meeting training where Ami Arthur described the process the WFOs will need to go through. A recording of this training is available <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/906548374> (you will need to register first and then it will give you access to the recording).

The specific instructions for the small basin download, merging and updating for both ArcView 3.x and ArcGIS 9.2 are available from the NSSL National FFMP Basin Repository Website. The Central Region voiced concerns about the lack of licenses in the regions as these are required to edit the shapefiles. The response was there is time for the sites to accomplish this action. Another concern brought up was the OB8.3 beta sites will need the new shapefiles. Ami Arthur can assist these sites between now and early April to get ready for the test. Sanford Garrard stated that his weekly summaries can detect which sites have the new shapefiles.

We recognized that WFOs were confusing the work load that they needed to do for the install of FFMPA in OB8.3 and the additional workload required to use stream names in warnings through WarnGen. To address this we have adopted Central Regions 3-tiered approach. Ami Arthur described this approach in an e-mail sent to the FFMP list server. Only 'Tier 1' must be complete before the install of OB8.3. The regions had no objects to this approach.

For support, Ami Arthur is funded to support this update through the OB8.3 install. She is committed to helping each WFO complete Tier 1 before they install OB8.3. If there are any issues, problems or concerns, contact her.

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

John Seeger (NCF): The following sites have done the DS Decommissioning but they have their DS's turned on: BTV, CAR, EAX, NHCW, OSFW, PBZ, WNAW. As part of the decommissioning process they should be shutdown. Additionally, the following sites can turn their DS's off if they wish to do so as they are not running ArcView or the NetMetrix software: NHCR, WNAR, WNOR.

All sites will be getting further information about their DS's when rack consolidation occurs.

Kevin Johnson (NCF): Occasionally, the new LDAD servers are hanging but a fix to the LDAD xyplex was put into place the other day by the NCF. It requires some site assistance to be permanent and I'd like the regions to coordinate in getting their sites to perform the needed steps. The steps will be placed on the LDAD list server.

Alaska Region: Our regional system is a beta site for OB8.2.1 and the LDAD server is in mode B. Since the last RACC meeting, we solved our LDM issues with getting the LDM to work and to communicate between sites.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: We noticed that for the new LDM on the LDAD server replacements, one should kill it on the non active LS and any CRON jobs must be shut off.

Pacific Region: We are volunteering to install OB8.2.1. When we received the AX shipment recently, we noticed that we were missing a packet. After some discussion, Karen Tepera of Raytheon took the action to find out more information. [**Editor's note**: Karen Tepera replied back to the region to contact Duane (David) Culmore at Raytheon since he is the project manager for this project.]

Southern Region: We installed alpha OB8.3 this morning but we were unable to get FFMPA to work and opened up a trouble ticket with the NCF. Also, the AX testing on our headquarters' system uncovered some missing files on the disk image and problems with the configurations.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: We installed AWIPS II into the NTCC workstations and CAVE is up and running and ingesting data.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We recently received the alpha 3 version of OB8.3 and put it into the WES. We had trouble getting the FFMPA to work.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2008. 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.