

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 222 (April 16, 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, April 16, 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, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach, Heather Galan; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of Beta Testing of OB8.3: (Frank Lucadamo) We have 5 WFOs and one RFC at OB8.3. Sites WFO Taunton, MA (BOX) and Pacific Region Headquarters (PBP) are scheduled today to install the beta version. We have scheduled for tomorrow sites WFO Gray, ME (GYX) and Alaska Region Headquarters (VRH). We will send out later today to the Regional Focal Points and existing beta sites some select field test DRs that should be tested.

b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases: (Karen Tepera)

OB8.2.1: There are 106 sites that have installed it and the installation takes a little over 2 hours.

OB8.2.1.1: Several GFE issues have recently been discovered which will require an emergency release for OB8.2.1 sites. The fixes will also be included in OB8.3.

OB8.3: This release takes just over 3 hours to install and we expect that by full deployment, the install should take just under 3 hours.

OB9: The Pre-Integration Test (PIT) phase is scheduled to begin around May 20. Forecaster testing during the PIT phase is planned for June 24-27. Regular deployment is expected to begin around January 19, 2009.

LDAD Server Replacement: There are 111 sites at mode B and 38 sites are now at phase 3.

c. Status of AWIPS II: (Ronla Henry) TO8 is in testing and we completed the primary report from the IV&V activity. We are reviewing and collecting the TTRs and passing them on to Raytheon. TO9 is proceeding and we received the draft test plan and it will be under review for the next few weeks. The test plan will give general guidelines on how to accept TO9 and its delivery contents. The hydro part will be delivered the end of this month. We will have a teleconference call for the IFPS and GFE portion in early May. We will get a proposal for the deployment and transition planning (DTP) which will help fill in the planning gaps for TO11.

We are also establishing a high level governance vision team with people from OS&T and Raytheon. This team will determine what needs to be done in the various areas of the governance such as local applications, baseline software, hardware, release practices, etc. We will kick off smaller teams containing specific experts.

d. Status of FFMPA: The regions have confirmed the number of sites completing the FFMP small basin processing through Tier 1:

AR: 3

CR: 6

ER: 9

PR: 2

SR: 4

WR: 7

Ami Arthur has indicated that 43 WFOs have begun the process.

e. Latest Draft of New Firewall Policy: (John England-Gordon) The second draft of the new firewall policy was distributed before this call. It is attached to these minutes and is titled “20080414 Draft2 AWIPS FW Policy”. John stressed to the group that this is only a draft plan and has not been implemented, so the current policy is still in effect and will be for a while. The first draft was written very strictly in order to get feedback from the Regions. If the Regional Focal Points have any comments to the second draft, please e-mail the comments to John.England-Gordon@noaa.gov.

Several comments were made at this RACC call. Bill Gery commented that he felt any requests for emergency changes to the firewall should be routed through the Regions before going to the NCF. The Western Region complained about not seeing the rules sets and John reiterated that the new policy will be to view the logs only with no access to the rules sets. Much discussion resulted on this topic and John will consider all comments that are sent to him.

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

Alaska Region: Our Regional Headquarters will be installing beta OB8.3 tomorrow. We have the TO8 software installed for the UFE and the local apps migration. All of our sites are on mode B with the new LDAD replacement server.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: Two members at our headquarters are on the national local apps team for AWIPS II and they have installed it. We are trying to get all sites in the Region onto mode B with the new LDAD replacement server.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: We have 2 sites that have installed AWIPS II. One site had TO6 and recently installed the TO8 software and found an issue with the grid decoder and will report a trouble ticket.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Shannon White: A site should configure their ISC grids when they install OB8.2.1 and it won't have to be done again. Shannon will update the web page with this information and will let the focal points know when the web page has been updated.

Ashley Kells: Concerning AWIPS II, the SST is looking at WarnGen and the new Velocity template structure. We have come up with several TTRs. Soon, we will form a team of Regional and Headquarters people to thoroughly examine the customization requirements of the WarnGen templates.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 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.