RACC Meeting Minutes No. 251 (June 24, 2009)

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, June 24, 2009, 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; **WRH**: Mark Mollner; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **PRH**: Eric Lau; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NCEP**: Joe Byerly; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White;

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

a. Status of Upcoming Software Releases:

OB9.0.1.1: Full deployment is complete as all sites have installed it. The NCF implemented a post install step at all sites to correct the issue identified in DR 20877 where the header time in the in-house WRK products was incorrect.

OB9.0.2: This is a special RFC release whereby several issues related to the recompiling of the FORTRAN code and hydro software have been observed at various RFC sites since the OB9 install. ATAN 983 is being updated (now is #988) to include the remaining content for OB9.0.2 and will be evaluated by sites MSR, STR and TIR over the next few weeks. The regular beta period is planned to begin on July 13. The readiness review is currently scheduled for July 20 with deployment on July 21.

OB9.1: The release will update the operating system from RedHat Enterprise Linux 4 (RHEL4.2) to RHEL5.2. The AWIPS Support Branch (OPS21) is coordinating beta sites and installation dates. Beta is planned to begin around July 20 and regular deployment is scheduled to begin August 31.

OB9.2: Three candidate DRs (20532, 20850, 20857) are being considered for the release. Acceptance of these DRs in the release will extend the SWIT testing schedule and subsequent deployment dates by three weeks. SWIT is currently scheduled to begin on August 31 and beta on October 12. Regular deployment is currently scheduled to begin November 9.

OB9.3: This release is the final planned maintenance release prior to the release of the AWIPS migration software. The AWIPS Support Branch is collecting candidates for this release. Regular deployment is projected to begin around January 19, 2010.

b. AWIPS Radar Ingest and Dissemination Changes: The Severe Weather Probability (SWP) radar product 47 is no longer generated on the RPG when the RPG Build 11 software is installed. The SWP product 47 is one of the radar products that AWIPS requests from the RPG and then disseminates to the NCF for distribution to NOAAPort/SBN and the Central Radar Server. Since

the SWP product is no longer generated, it has been removed from: a) the AWIPS rps-RPGOP-tcp.storm file so that AWIPS will no longer request this product from the RPG; b) the AWIPS prodList.txt file so that AWIPS will no longer disseminate this product to the NCF. Frances Curnow and Zihou Wang removed the SWP product from these files in May and placed the updated files on NOAA1. The SST will start installing and activating these files on an AWIPS system when all of the WSR-88D radars associated with that AWIPS system have upgraded to RPG Build 11. RPG Build 11 is in deployment. As of June 23, RPG Build 11 has been installed on 76 RPGs and there are 83 RPGs running RPG Build 10.

The Combined Shear (CS) radar product 87 is no longer generated on the RPG when the RPG Build 11 software is installed. The Combined Shear (CS) product 87 is not centrally collected so this product is not included in the "national" RPS lists or the prodList.txt file. If AWIPS systems have the Combined Shear (CS) product included in their local RPS lists, the product should be removed from the local RPS list in order to make room in the RPS list for other products that are produced by the RPG.

Kristen Delack of the NCF reported that when a radar is in clear air mode, not all levels of the Storm Relative Mean (SRM) Radial Velocity product 56 are transmitted to the NCF and Central Radar Server. When a radar is in clear air mode VCP 31 or VCP 32, AWIPS requests the SRM product 56 for the 0.5, 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5 elevations but AWIPS only transmits the two lower elevations (0.5 and 1.5) to the NCF. When a radar is in one of the storm VCP modes, AWIPS requests the SRM product 56 for the 0.5, 1.5, 2.4 and 3.4 elevations and transmits all 4 elevations to the NCF for distribution on NOAAPort/SBN and the Central Radar Server. Zihou Wang determined that the prodList.txt file did not correctly identify all of the SRM product 56 clear air elevations that should be transmitted to the NCF. The prodList.txt file has been updated on NOAA1 and when the SST installs the prodList.txt file for the removal of the SWP product, this will also add the 2 missing clear air SRM elevations. The SST has not yet determined a schedule for updating the rps-RPGOP-tcp.storm and prodList.txt files at each WFO but the installations will begin on June 25.

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

Alaska Region: We will install the software on the SCAT next week. We have completed the PX upgrade on our headquarters system but had a hardware failure on the PowerVault.

Central Region: We are installing the PX on the SCAT tomorrow.

Eastern Region: We have the hardware for our SCAT and will soon install it. Concerning the A2A file, we may run into issues this summer with the HLS ATAN going out and the backup sites are not the normal backup sites. We need to get all the A2A files into a subversion database so all can access it outside the normal realm of backup.

Pacific Region: We installed the SCAT on our headquarters system here and will continue testing.

Western Region: We had a site that recently had a PX failure shortly after installing a replacement PX. The site (GGW) called the NLSC to get a replacement but were told that they did not have any in stock yet. This was due to an incorrectly assigned ASN number. The site was bailed out by calling the NCF who in turn shipped them a spare that they had in stock. Our question is, should the new hardware be "on the ready line" before the deployment? Jim Lane responded that the preferred procedure in this case is for the site to first contact the NCF and they will in turn make arrangements for GTSI to ship the site a replacement and for the site to ship back the defective hardware. Until new hardware is fully deployed at all sites, a site should not contact the NLSC but the NCF instead. After all sites have received their new hardware, then a site can contact the NLSC for a replacement.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: We installed the SCAT on our NTCB system and one issue is that the AWIPS shutdown procedures can hang the SCAT system if not unmounted. We are making a list of these issues and sending them to Jim Williams and Bob Rood. Also, we are looking at AWIPS II TO11 slice 2 and an approach to training for the field forecasters.

NCEP: nothing significant to report.

Shannon White: There are so many changes discussed with the upcoming AWIPS II and there are a number of teams working the issues. We all need to know the development process and get the information down to the level of the field forecasters. Kevin Woodworth took the action to pass any new information to the regional focal points that he comes across. Kevin noted that Olga Brown-Leigh (OS&T) issues a weekly “AWIPS II Topic of the Week” informational e-mail that is distributed to the awipsinfo list server.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2009. 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.