

Minutes from CHPS Forcing Team Call
Wednesday November 19, 2008
Mark Glaudemans, OHD

Participants:

ABRFC – Mike Pierce, Mike Boehmke
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Art Henkel
NERFC – Ron Horwood, Jeff Ouellett
NWRFC – Don Laurine, Harold Opitz, Ray Fukunaga, Brad Gillies
OHD – Mark Glaudemans, Dave Kitzmiller, Jingtao Deng, Dave Miller, Paul Tilles

Reference Documents:

“CHPS Forcing Data Team Working Notes”, dated 11/18/2008

1. Introductions and attendance. Includes representatives from CAT RFCs, OHD HSEB (Software Engineering), OHD HSMB (Science and Modeling), and OCWWS/HSD (Services).
 - 1.1. It was suggested to include DJ Seo based on XEFS involvement. It was clarified that XEFS is not part of the BOC (baseline operating capability), but ESP (extended streamflow prediction) is included. After post-call discussion, decided that DaveK will be a liason to any XEFS issues related to the Forcings team and learned that ESP does not currently use any forcings data.
2. Background
 - 2.1. Discussed background of team formation – i.e. CAT decided to have forcings for FEWS come from external grids.
 - 2.2. Folks noted that this team should consider freezing level grids. It was explained that these grids are not used just in developing the precip grids; they are also used in certain operations, including the RAIN-SNOW operation and in plotting routines. CNRFC uses local app Specify to handle this requirement. NWRFC mentioned usage of HPC data; with future prospects in GFE and MPE. Anyway, it was decided that obs and fcst freezing level will be added to the suite of grids being considered by this team – raising the total number of grids from 6 to 8.
3. Goals. Discussed stated immediate goal and future goal.
 - 3.1. Rob mentioned intermediate goal to consider non-CAT RFCs. These are part of BOC-II (BOC is for the 4 CAT RFCs). Support for BOC-II RFCs is important and will be considered by this team. In fact, everyone on this team, including RFC members, needs to factor this reality of eventual support for all RFCs into our decisions. So the immediate goal is four CAT RFCs, followed closely by this intermediate goal of the BOC-II (non-CAT) RFCs. Given the short time involved, perpetuation of existing approaches and quick solutions must be emphasized. The subsequent goal is to then provide a unified, best practice solution.
4. Approach. Discussed need for CAT RFCs to be actively engaged in identifying needs and implementing solutions. This can begin immediately in an ad-hoc fashion, although there will

be formal coordination coming from the team leader (me). NWRFC noted that they were already injecting some grids into FEWS

5. Steps. Discussed general steps this activity will take.
 - 5.1. Even though steps are listed in linear fashion, in reality they will be somewhat spiral-like and somewhat asynchronous. Specifically, RFCs are encouraged to start adopting methods to generate grids, before a final grid form is agreed upon, in order to understand the pros and cons. Also, we should use grid forms that we feel are best and we will work with Deltares (CHPS contractor) to ensure their usability – i.e. we will state our desires and tell them what we want and see if they are acceptable to Deltares; we should not ask Deltares what they can handle and limit ourselves to only that. I imagine the grid form may need to be negotiated a bit with them, or not, as they apparently do have experience with grid forms such as GRIB, netCDF and others...
 - 5.2. Evaluation of the generated grid quality is given short billing in step h, which includes reference to the test step. There must be an evaluation period to compare the quality of the “new” forcings input with the existing forcings data. This evaluation is distinct from the comparison of the river model simulations, which in part will be affected by the quality of the forcings.
6. Tracking
 - 6.1. It was decided to use the existing private-access chps_migration listserve forum that is currently used by the CAT. This is separate from the chps_info forum that is public. Sharing this will mean the CAT members will easily be able to follow the activities of the Forcings team. However it will add extra clutter to this forum.
 - 6.2. Minutes from calls will be posted by me. Team members are expected to review the minutes and offer corrections/suggestions/etc.
 - 6.3. Action Items. No formal action item tracking system/document is in place (yet) although one may be needed and will probably be implemented later. For now I am listing the one action item inline using bold red text (in the next section).
7. Precip Survey. Briefly discussed survey Mary conducted earlier this year regarding precip usage. An expansion of this survey is the next activity for this team, as noted below. This survey will be distributed in a separate correspondence.

ACTION: Mark will prepare a survey on the current method used for forcings and thoughts on proposed methods for the CHPS input. This will be posted by COB Thursday 11/20/2008. Each RFC is expected to respond by COB Tuesday 11/25/2008

8. Evaluation.
 - 8.1. RFCs will identify and share information on any tools to compare the old and new forcing data.
 - 8.2. I will coordinate with Deltares to identify the tools they have available for comparison.

Next Call: Wednesday 11/26/2008 12:00 Eastern
number: 866-614-2988
participant passcode: 7565560