

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday February 10, 2011

Attendees:

ABRFC – Eric Jones, Mike Pierce

CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Pete Fickenscher, Chris Mayo, Scott Staggs

NERFC – Alison MacNeil

NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill

NOHRSC – John Halquist

Deltares – Edwin Welles

OCWWS HSD HSB – Randy Rieman, Dave Riley

OHD – Jon Roe, Chris Brunner, Mark Fresch, Mike Smith, Wanru Wu, Ziya Zhang

Pre-reading:

- none

1. Gridded forcings

A forcings survey was distributed via the `chps_migration` list, but was then retracted. HSMB would like to know current status of the CAT RFC forcings.

NWRFC: we aren't using gridded forcings yet; we're using the OFS preprocessors until we come up with a final alternative. For precip we're looking to an AOR. Our goal is to address recalibrations with grids instead of doing conversions. We develop PE outside of CHPS, not real-time like ABRFC. Contact Harold with any questions.

CNRFC: we're still running off OFS preprocessors. We're resurrecting the forcings effort now. Our techniques require bias adjustment to precip and temperature to be consistent with the calibration process. We don't ingest grids into CHPS; we do work outside CHPS and provide time series that perform well with the calibrated parameters. We can't objectively use PE. We might re-consider in the future when we start re-calibrating.

ABRFC: the survey questions raised questions, so we're glad it was retracted. Different RFCs will give different results. We don't have long records for PE grids.

This survey seems to be circumventing the process – Don Cline has an action to form a team which will produce some results by the end of the calendar year. Why is HSMB doing this survey?

A previously formed forcings team under MarkG in 2008-2009 gathered this information; little has changed. Chris suggested Wanru contact Paul Tilles.

Action: none

2. Support Log

What is the status of issue #441? The suggested solution is to upgrade to a recent version of RedHat – RandyR began setting up a yum server before Cornelius left OHD, but has not resumed the work yet. He hopes to have it ready very soon.

Chris noted again that the list of Open items remains too long. We should be down to a single screen's worth, not pages and pages. How and when are we going to pare the list down? Some items

are High priority (fixed in 2-10 days) but they've been on the list much longer than 10 days. HSD is supposed to increase the priority once an item goes past its shelf life; this isn't happening. There are also some inconsistencies – how can something have High priority yet also have a note that the fix is targeted for the next build? Software items accepted for a future build should be moved out to a different worksheet.

HSD will add a Due Date column to the spreadsheet to help flag shelf life expiration. Agreement to change the procedures: when an item reaches the end of its Priority shelf life (e.g., 10 days for a High) HSD will contact the RFC directly to discuss how to proceed.

FogBugZ will help when we get it up and running (Status? Getting closer. Chris asked to have Alaska region removed from the paperwork so as not to hold up all the other RFCs access to FogBugZ via NOAA Net.)

Could we take a few examples from the spreadsheet to see why they're still in the Log?

Sample issue #434: Did NERFC try the PI-service? Is it an acceptable alternative or does HSD need to do more? Unknown.

Sample issue #355 is a High from last September Beta calls! This item is an entire project activity and should not clutter up the Support Log. It will be addressed for the CAT-II. NWRFC is experiencing performance problems related to backlogged approval of “jobs”; the COE is experiencing problems.

Sample issue #276 – needs to go to the IFD team. It's probably related to items 37-40 in the Dev Registry. The Support Log isn't the place for these items.

Other: the CAT was tasked with creating an assessment of CHPS Operational Support by April. The goal was to go to Gary with a recommendation regarding the state of support, and whether the CAT-II RFCs should go operational with CHPS. Does HSD plan to conduct a self-assessment? We don't believe so.

Chris's observation is that HSD is struggling to keep up with the quantity of work. Numerous things fall through the cracks. Issue #441 is just one example. Recent ramping up of the NWSTC hasn't been helping matters. CAT: the NWSTC must not be allowed to interfere with CAT and CAT-II operational support.

Some of the CAT-IIs are expecting to go operational quite soon – Alaska in May/June; MARFC is in good shape, CBRFC and SERFC are also close. It won't be long before HSD will be swamped.

One or two CAT RFCs will see if they can log into FogBugZ – the NOAA Net technician seemed to imply the ticket would be completed by now.

Action: HSD/DaveR to update the Support Log and the associated procedures as discussed during the meeting.

3. Calibration demo - review

Chris is concerned that the demo last week didn't work correctly. Deltares had trouble with the host machine, and with gaining access to the working configuration and having to resort to an older version.

The CAT felt we're on the right track, but there's clearly a fair amount of work to do. The parameter editor, for example, would need quite a bit of work. It has taken a lot of hard work to get ICP to the point of maturity – it's hard looking at something so immature. PeteF has lots of questions; e.g. he would like to know what the plans are for opt3.

CAT is expecting to receive a cleaned-up version of the demo configuration in about a month or so. They want a real working demo, not one they'll have lots of problems with. They understand it will be based on ABRFC.

Chris would like to have the HSEB developer learn and repeat the demo for a new Calibration team. The team must combine solid CHPS experience with calibration experience. Unfortunately those skills might not be found in the same person. Chris would like the team to be visionary; not focused on how things were done in the past. The team should include the CAT, HSMB (Mike Smith), and HSEB (Ai Vo). Some CAT-IIs are interested in participating – APRFC and CBRFC. However, smaller teams have proven to be the most effective so we should try to limit to 4 RFCs as usual – 5 is risky but Chris thinks it's important to include a CAT-II. Once the team has been formed the first task will be to agree on some data type naming conventions.

Action: none.

4. Dev Registry

Edwin received input from NWRFC, ABRFC, but not NERFC; CNRFC provided input, many of which overlap with existing items. Deltares suggests the requests for a read-only GUI could be largely met by enhancing the System Monitor and Forecast Management tabs in the OC; perhaps the RFCs could consider what's missing there?

Deltares has begun work on the “hot mods buttons”; but it requires extra testing and integration into the main build. Other clients are interested in this.

Some other loose ends: need to make sure bugs from Support Log are included in the build, such as #431 and #433. Yes these are competing against small enhancements. Edwin will do a ‘sweep’ of the Support Log today, and will identify items in the next build. He will also identify which things will not make the build.

As a rough estimate, the items submitted so far total approx 30 weeks of effort – this is 2/3 too high, we must reduce it to about 10 weeks. Reminder that we're just going operational, with the other offices coming along soon – we MUST focus on stability and limit change.

Summary of next build content so far:

- BOC-I, BOC-II, “unavoidables”
- Qc, qp shift for NCRFC (this is a big development item)
- ResSim adapter – done
- Performance improvements (another big development item)
- FFG for MARFC (PCRaster)
- Finish documentation
- The forecast length bug at NCRFC

Conclusion: there's only a little amount of space left for the build. For each CAT which is the number 1 item?

CN: top item is to fix ADJ-Q; or sacco improvements

AB: the ensembles member id issue [Peter will come up with a planned approach]

NW: a behavior change for the cursor readout. Edwin suggests removing the 'cushion' from the cursor hover function. JoeI will check to see if this would meet their needs. CN is also interested in this item. Some other display topics will require a steering committee.

NE: #65 (update start and end time for TS change mod) and #66 (change end time for UnitHG mod) would be the most useful.

The 'Edit' in the TS change function doesn't seem to work correctly; it has been a problem for a long time. It could be a bug.

Final list for the next build:

- BOC-I, BOC-II, "unavoidables"
- Qc, qp shift for NCRFC
- ResSim adapter – done
- Performance improvements
- FFG for MARFC (PCRaster)
- Finish documentation
- The forecast length bug at NCRFC
- Fix TS change mod bug (#65)
- Remove 'buffer' from cursor hover function
- Get the Edit in TS change to work
- Make end dates for UnitHG mod configurable
- Allow mods on single ensemble members
- Fix adj-Q
- A few bugs from the Support Log which are tagged as being in the next build
- <one other bug from PeteF that Chris didn't catch>

Regarding the sacco issues – they sound broad and potentially too much for this build. Deltares would like CNRFC to put together a concise summary of the changes requested; CNRFC can tier them in some way that some simple things might be done now.

Edwin will provide \$ estimates for this work to Chris. He will find out tomorrow who in NL is available and what can be included in the build. Edwin will distribute a final list of the proposed build content.

Deltares will no longer support this spreadsheet. NWS must take over management of the Development Registry, possibly using FogBugZ as the tool of choice.

Action: Edwin to distribute a final list of the proposed June build content.

5. Other

Chris wants to know when will CNRFC and NWRFC be able to run the MC-to-MC sync test for Backup? ChrisM reports he's ready and is waiting for NW. JoeI will find out what the plan is.

Support Log #426 (Res-J) – WGRFC would like the script fix. What is the timing for that from OHD? Chris will get info from Lee.

Action: NWRFC/CNRFc to organize a synchronization test and gather measurements for the CHPS backup project.

Action: Chris to find out when HSEB plans to get a script fix to WGRFC for issue #426.

Next meeting: Thursday February 17, 2011.