

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday December 18, 2008

Attendees:

ABRFC – Mike Pierce, Jeff McMurphy
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Alan Haynes
NERFC – Rob Shedd, Ed Capone, Ron Horwood
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC –
Deltares – Karel Heynert
OCWWS – Mary Mullusky, Randy Rieman
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- none

1. HEC-RAS training for week of March 9

Note on terminology for HEC-RAS training:

Basic training addresses “steady state” aspects of HEC-RAS.

Advanced training addresses “dynamic (aka transient, or unsteady)” aspects of HEC-RAS.

There is some question about the nature of the training class being planned for the week of March 9. NSTEP will be paying for the class; RandyR wants to know what to arrange. Jon is waiting to add a new work order to the MOA between HEC and OHD.

Chris’s main concern is that, with HEC-RAS now on the critical path for CHPS BOC, training for NWRFC be done as soon as possible so they can proceed with converting their FldWav/DWOPER basins to HEC-RAS by the end of 2009.

RandyR suggested that we focus on advanced training for March, as experience with FldWav/DWOPER should meet the prerequisites.

NERFC: Ed Capone reported success by working directly with Fekadu (Hydraulics Group) - NERFC now has unsteady HEC-RAS already running on the Connecticut River.

NWRFC: Harold has 2 people who need to attend training; he can make sure they have the necessary prerequisite knowledge/skills.

CNRFC: does not currently use dynamic models, so HEC-RAS training isn’t an issue for their migration to CHPS BOC. They do, however, want to look into HEC-RAS in the future.

ABRFC: has one person with good experience, who could attend advanced training.

Ed Capone pointed out that the people on the Hydraulics Team originally formed by Reggina already received the necessary prerequisite (basic) training.

The group suggested we should decouple the training course arrangements from the CAT migration needs. Perhaps we should make the Mar 9 training a basic training course for as many RFCs that can attend; then handle the advanced training directly via some other means.

However NWRFC held an earlier discussion w/Brunner about holding advanced training, but was told that HEC can't fit anything on their plate until later in the year and too late for NWRFC. Classes given by other sources also aren't available until later in the year - May/early Summer - again too late for NWRFC. To date OHD HSMB Hydraulics Group has been helping NWRFC with the Columbia River.

We agreed to take this discussion offline. Pedro will discuss further with Seann and will call a meeting next week (before Christmas) to discuss with the CAT.

Action: Pedro to arrange a meeting during the week of December 22.

2. Feedback from Software Acceptance Testing

In general: level 3 testing (individual model and transformation tests) has gone well. With help from OHD, Deltares is aiming for a near 100% pass rate by the end of this week. As the original goal of this week's activities, this has met all expectations. Any final unresolved issues will be investigated over the course of the coming weeks.

However results from Level 4 testing (aka end-to-end testing, where entire basin workflows were tested) are disappointing. Very few tests have passed. JoeI noted that the main issues appear to be in the data sets used for the control tests (NWSRFS - aka the benchmark), coupled with some differences in the way transformations are done (e.g. the blending in adjust-Q). Consequently the Level 4 testing has not been a true comparison of apples and pears (inside joke). HSEB and Deltares have now begun to generate new benchmark time series, by stripping out the MODs. ABRFC wants to know if they should send any different data. [Jeff: I don't recall if this was answered?] JoeI also noted that although the Level 4 tests haven't been very successful the power of the migration scripts (conversions between NWSRFS and FEWS work flows) have exceeded his expectations.

In light of the Level 4 results, should we consider delaying the Migration training? Cancelling will be easy; rescheduling will be more difficult. When should we make the go/no-go decision? RobH asked what is the link between the training and the migration script testing? Karel explained it's extremely important that users are 99% comfortable with the tools before embarking on their migration – forecasters will have to repeat conversions each time the scripts are changed, which becomes more and more painful each time. Of course we can expect some problems to be found and fixed. What about the Deltares team – will there be enough time to make corrections and also prepare for the workshop if we don't reschedule? Karel agreed it will be tight, but not impossible.

The group agreed to stick with the Migration Training dates for now, but make a final go/no-go decision during the CHPS Preparation Workshop (w/c Jan 26). Karel agreed to provide routine progress updates via the CAT calls.

Action: none

3. Other

Chris has issued an invitation to the first planned “status briefing” on Jan 8. We aim to provide briefings once a month to the HIC/DOH/SCH/Region community. OHD (Jon) will conduct the first one, based on Harold’s presentation to the SCHs. Deltares (Karel) will also participate.

Action: none

Note: Action items from this and all previous meetings are contained in the “ActionItems” document maintained and distributed by Chris Dietz, OHD.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12/23/08 at 11:00 am EST.