Attendees

ABRFC: Billy Olsen, Bill Lawrence
CNRFC: Rob Hartman, Pete Fickenscher
NCRFC: John Halquist
NWRFC: Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
OCWWS: Mary Mullusky
OHD: Jon Roe, Joe Gofus, Chris Dietz

1. Status of OHD development tasks

  - OHD has begun to tackle Res-Sngl, expect it to take a good 4-6 months. That estimate
includes: removing original model engine, wrapping, adapting (if needed), testing
(integration on NHDR, alpha on NHOR, beta at a CAT site), documentation. Confirmed
that OHD will do field testing using a CAT site.
  - It was noted that Res-Sngl would be of no use unless some other operations were
completed - OHD confirmed that the plan is to have all associated functionality ready to
support Res-Sngl. [Author's note: I'm assuming we're talking about the 'Tier 1'
operations, which were identified in various email exchanges entitled "Re: operations
conversions FEWS". Specifically, the superset which includes: unit-hg, add/sub, adjust-q,
lag/k, mean-q, chanloss, tatum, sarroute, lookup, lookup3, res-sngl, ssarresv, cons_use,
stage-q, rsnwelev, merge-ts, snow-17, sac-sma, clear-ts, weigh-ts, change-ts. If this
assumption is incorrect, let me know.]
  - OHD has also begun to tackle SSARRESV in parallel rather than in sequence after
Res-Sngl. NWRFC said Joe Intermill and/or Ray Fukunada could be contacted for
support if needed.
  - News from the AWIPS world: Jason Tuell is now in charge of "AWIPS II Extended"
which includes CHPS. Jason announced at AELC meeting that Steve Schotz from NCEP
is moving to Silver Spring campus to lead the planning effort for AWIPS II Extended;
Steve may ultimately join OCWWS.
  - Contracts update: OHD is now working with OS&T to investigate access to Delft
through Raytheon, who have indicated that they would be willing to act as a pass-
through, and impose a very small or no overhead. RTi contract has a bigger overhead.
BPA with OHD (another potential way to access Delft) expected to be awarded April 1.
None of these contracts require OHD to go through a bidding process. We're probably
looking at getting official tasking for Delft in place at the end of April/early May.
Meanwhile, Delft has the latitude to begin work on the project with other funding for
now.

2. Brainstorming for all-RFC meeting/presentation

  - On the agenda but deferred due to discussion on other topics.

3. Gap Analysis update

  - This topic prompted a lively discussion on the purpose of the "Gap Analysis", the

scope of an operationally acceptable system at the CAT sites, and the vision for CHPS.
  - OHD met with Apex on Tuesday 3/4 to review a draft of the "Gap Analysis" document; OHD found the cosmetic aspects of the document to be surprisingly poor. Apex plans to distribute the document to the CAT on Friday; Chris will pressure Apex to deliver on time. [Author's note: report was NOT distributed on Friday. Have received assurance it will go out today (Mon). Jon/Joe/I will be meeting Manuel on Thurs morning to address growing concerns about Apex performance; delay on this report is another example.]
  - What will the document contain? When will it be released? The title of the document is actually "CHPS Migration: Results from Initial Pilot and Realization Planning", and is a deliverable under RSIS Task L036; task L036 was the original "Pilot Evaluation" task, re-negotiated with Apex to focus instead on an analysis of the gaps between FEWS and a basic CHPS operational capability at all RFCs. Due to the small amount of funds left on L036, the scope of the "Gap Analysis" document must be fairly limited. However, based on a discussion between Manuel and Chris on December 20 2007, Apex will work closely with Delft to identify the next steps beyond L036 for the much bigger CHPS analysis/implementation. For example, Manuel suggested that one of the first things we do is a usability analysis; this is where we look at the end-to-end forecasting process at individual RFCs by watching forecasters at work and capturing (perhaps by video) everything they do, soliciting information, then rationalizing the process and translating into CHPS.
  - The CAT members unanimously agreed that a usability analysis of this nature would be a waste of time and money. The CAT doesn't want to transfer the old NWSRFS paradigm into a CHPS environment as-is, because this conflicts with the vision of doing things "differently".
  - Chris asked whether everyone is in agreement on the vision? The CAT believes so. John said he envisioned a scenario where a forecaster clicks a button on the main CHPS user interface to generate the necessary products. Billy reminded us that XSETS - a local application added to the NWSRFS baseline - does this today. But some sites won't enter this new world of CHPS eagerly; they may want to replicate what they have now. We should think in terms of getting the very basics of CHPS out to the CAT RFCs, and then let the CATs discover new ways of conducting operations, subsequently mentoring the remaining less-than-eager RFCs.
  - A complete "gap analysis" should include how to address local applications, rationalizing them to reduce redundant efforts. Maybe start with a clean sheet, with few/no local applications at all?
  - There was a suggestion that we develop our gap analysis using the process model on the "XEFS Design and Gap Analysis"; however this process model hasn't yet been shown to be successful. [Author's note: recall that the xefs gap analysis process took 3+ months.]
  - On the XEFS front, Hank is working on wrapping the EPP2 and getting it running in a FEWS environment. Regarding a question on linkage between EPP2 and fs5files, Chris suggested Rob contact Hank directly.
  - There was general agreement that no new hardware is likely to be added for the initial CHPS.

Next Meeting: Thursday March 13.