

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday July 24, 2008

Attendees:

ABRFC - Billy Olsen
CNRFC – Rob Hartman
NERFC – Rob Shedd
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill, Don Laurine
NOHRSC – on leave
Deltares – Micha Werner, Peter Gijbbers
OCWWS – Mary Mullusky
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Chris Dietz, Joe Gofus

Pre-reading:

- Thin_Client_Conops_v1.5.doc, distributed with today's meeting agenda

1. OFSDE Status Update.

NWRFC has begun testing the modified version of OFSDE, which ultimately replaces the original Pilot db_exporter (“Danny’s program”) and generates fs5files. The new OFSDE appears to work as intended: preliminary comparisons between operational files and the new CHPS ‘special’ files show that the only difference is the Type Source information. NWRFC has not noticed any performance problems; however note that the program accesses NW’s standalone database, not their production version. NW will continue to monitor and compare files.

OHD can now provide some sample data to Deltares (Micha and Stephan) for the parser Deltares will write to ingest data into FEWS. JoeG will provide samples of the files via Deltares’ ftp site.

The data feeds currently flowing from each RFC to Deltares (and also to OHD) will need to be changed to accommodate the new paradigm. Deltares will provide a location on their ftp server where data should be routinely placed – this will require a change to the CAT RFC scripts.

Action: NWRFC continue to monitor the performance and behaviour of the modified OFSDE and report any problems.

Action: JoeG to provide sample data to Deltares (Micha, Stephan).

Action: Deltares to provide location for routine data flowing into their ftp server.

Action: CAT RFCs to modify the script that delivers data to Deltares and OHD so that it delivers the new fs5files to the given ftp location.

2. Thin Client OSIP project 08-012

Billy will introduce the topic of RFC backup at the HIC meeting on Thursday am. His presentation will focus on a brief status of RFC backup efforts, including the national backup team (OSIP 07-056), the link with CHPS (MC-FSS synchronization), the Thin Client team, and other relevant efforts. The CAT should not be made responsible for defining RFC backup requirements. The CHPS (FEWS) MC-FSS synchronization will be just one aspect of a complete solution.

On a side note, the CONOPS for project 08-012 made no mention of RFCs....

Billy is willing to provide an early copy of his presentation upon request.

Action: None

3a. Hardware procurement status

There is no new information from OHD's PPC or NOAA's procurement office. We are not yet in crisis mode. OHD experience with contracting activities at this stage in the fiscal year is that Procurement always somehow manages to pull through at the 11th hour.

RobH noted that there are 3 additional servers being purchased for (and by) CNRFC, to test an Online-Standby configuration.

Action: None

3b. Need for OHD/OCWWS travel to NERFC on Aug 14-15?

The trip to NERFC on Aug 14-15 will involve a demo/series of presentations given by Deltares (Karel Heynert and Mattijs). By then Deltares expects to have a good grip on what the sample segments for NERFC will be, so they can return to Holland and configure a sample basin for NERFC.

The goal was originally to install NERFC's configuration on the new hardware before the Sept/Oct workshop but it now looks unlikely that the new hardware will be in place before the end of September. Suggest we get RandyR and/or RandyB to walk the NERFC AWIPS focal point and ESA through the "Halquist" instructions prior to the end of September, so NERFC will be compatible with the other CAT sites.

The workshop will go forward at the end of Sept/early October at NERFC. The hardware upgrade will occur in October, in time to set up the data ingest prior to the software installations.

Action: Chris to find out from RandyR and RandyB how they want to handle NERFC setup.

4. IFP Meeting

Almost all RFCs have responded to Harold's IFP email concerning use of IFP/companions – Harold will try again to get a response from Alaska. Some RFCs appear to be doing a lot in this area. Harold has noticed some commonalities; he'll distribute a summary to the RFCs in the next few days for one final review before forwarding to Deltares.

NWRFC plans to set up 2 AWIPS workstations in their conference room; this will allow the other RFCs to access their systems remotely. An agenda will be prepared but the group should remain as flexible as possible. Representatives from the RFCs should be prepared to go into real detail on usage of their applications.

Micha will attend Monday through Wednesday; Erik will stay all week through Friday. Erik expects to prepare some screen mock-ups to show the participants and solicit feedback.

RobS mentioned that NERFC is scheduled to upgrade to AWIPS OB8.3 on Weds 8/6.

Action: Harold to issue summary of IFP findings to RFCs; also send final version to Deltares in time for the IFP meeting.

5. NERFC setup

RobS has had some discussions with ABRFC for his FFG setup. ABRFC gave an initial presentation, and John Schmidt at AB is developing some initial grids for NE. RobS will wait until later to seek help from NCRFC for snow.

Action: None.

6. DOH discussion on forcings, pre-processing, data

An earlier action item said we would discuss this topic at the DOH workshop, and address in more detail via a GoTo meeting. It wasn't discussed in any detail at the DOH workshop, although we did mention it at a high level, and Jon reiterated it at a later point. No one seemed too alarmed –the DOHs seemed to understand the implications. Joe Ostrowski appeared a little concerned by the decision.

DonL would like to see a description of the full process and impacts. RobH agreed that his office could pull something together – perhaps Art Henkel and Pete. It doesn't need to be done before the Fall – sometime after Labor Day is fine. Perhaps by the next workshop.

As a side issue, OHD confirmed that it would tackle the API as one of its operations to migrate to CHPS.

Need to add API (and others) to a post-BOC document, to be referred to as BOC-II. This document would either cut 'n paste from the BOC or refer to the BOC and then add the delta items for follow-on RFCs. The main differences between BOC and BOC II are operations and MODs used. Suggest we post to the BOC to the wiki, and send the link to

the wiki to the follow-on RFCs for review, asking them to identify what's missing. Added advantage is that we get them familiar with finding and using the wiki.

Action: RobH to put together a draft document describing gridded inputs for CHPS. Due 9/26/08.

Action: Chris to upload BOC doc to wiki site (if not already there); issue wiki instructions to follow-on RFCs and request they provide feedback.

7. Other items

Will the next workshop (w/c Sept 29) be a Tuesday – Thursday? Deltares not sure yet, the nature of the meeting might be different from previous meetings. One day definitely too short; 4 days too long. Suggest we settle on 3 days.

Status on Gantt chart? Chris still has not completed one – the one provided by Karel is still Excel worksheet format.

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: There will be no meeting on Thursday 7/31/08 because most CAT members will be at the HIC meeting. Next meeting will be Thursday 8/7/08.