

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 161 (11/2/05)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, November 2, 2005, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Neal DiPasquale, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sean Wink; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD** (old **FSL**): Johanna Edwards; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB6: No sites have installed OB6 in several weeks. A few ATANs were written to test potential fixes that might make it into the final cut. Sanford sent out last week a list of pending DR/TTs that are yet to be corrected in OB6. Of the 100 DR/TTs that are listed, we are only considering the 32 'Patch Level' 6 items (Operationally Critical Items) for the Raytheon/Keane version of OB6 (OB6 final, formerly referred to as 6.0.1). The reason we are not considering all of the DRs is because OS&T believes that including all of the DRs will take too long to integrate/test/verify and are anxious to field OB6 as soon as possible.

Therefore, the plan is to only accept items that are considered to be operationally critical for OB6. This list was originally prioritized by Sanford and sent to the developers for resolution. Frank and Sanford have coordinated some of these items with the focal points already. However, the regions are invited to provide additional feedback if they believe an item needs to be upgraded or downgraded from consideration. The final code check in for the DRs is November 21. After Raytheon/Keane has installed the software, testing and integration will take place here at WSH. The beta testing will then resume at some regional headquarters systems and at the current beta sites. This process can begin in 1-2 weeks. The regional focal points should look this list over and if they need to have more items to be included into the final cut of OB6, let us here at WSH know. Sanford will send out an updated list in a day or two.

The planned OB6 release date is January 31.

- b. Local Apps and OB6: This is a reminder that there are problems as beta sites switch from Informix to Postgres in OB6 with local applications. The sites need to be aware that their databases are changing. Also, any local scripts that use “triggers” will move from DS1 to DX1. Some local applications will not work properly as they’re changed from the HP environment to the Linux environment. Frank Lucadamo is working with the Local Applications Working Group to identify these affected changes so the local developers can make the required changes.

We are making sites aware of the possible changes but the Informix and Postgres transition for WFOs will be fairly transparent if they typically use textdb.

- c. OB6 Beta sites and Use of segmented Areal Flood Products: There is a pre-install step for

OB6 that keeps the legacy templates active. Because there are no baseline legacy templates for the Areal Flood Products (FLWs, FLSs), the pre-install step does not for these products. As a result, when a OB6 beta site issues an Areal Flood Product, it will go out in a segmented format. The current Café formatters do not run properly with these products in a segmented format. Therefore, the beta sites need to customize NWRWAVES for these products, which can handle the segmented formats. The regional focal points should prepare their beta sites for this change

d. Contract Transition item: The WFO personnel should not be contacting the local USSI satellite ground station maintenance personnel since the contract expired with Northrop-Grumman. If a site needs maintenance on an antenna or de-mods, they should go through the NCF. Many times, a site would go directly to the local subcontractor under CSC rather than the normal channels of contacting the NCF. The company Globecomm has taken over the duties from CSC. Andy Nappi of Raytheon stated that they would like to continue keeping the local subcontractors if at all possible and are working on this issue. Also, a fall maintenance schedule is being worked out by Globecomm.

e. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: Are the problems in the LSR and HWR programs being corrected in OB6? The WSH response was in the affirmative. Also, we've noticed that the spell checker is missing in RiverPro and we had a trouble ticket written for this problem.

Pacific Region: We pointed out that the WarnGen and VTEC ETN's are still not incrementing at Guam. WSH personnel are aware of this and will be working on the problem.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

Global Systems Division (formerly FSL): nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We are still working on the WES6.0 version. We are still experiencing FFMP slowdowns and have narrowed it to the IGC process changes between OB6, alpha 7 and OB6, beta 10. We are working with Tom Filliaggi on this problem.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2005. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.