

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 152 (6/29/05)

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, June 29, 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, Joe Palko (from PBZ); **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Andy Edman; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Angel Corona; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo; **FSL**: Carl Bullock; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
  - a. Status of OB5 and Other Software Issues: There are currently 108 sites at OB4.2 and OB4.3. There are a total of 32 sites running OB5.0 (12 WFOs) and this total includes all the test systems at WSH and NGIT. The mod note for OB5.0.1 was signed last week and it fixes the problem with RiverPro.

We are testing OB4.3 (formerly known as 4.2.a) and this maintenance release fixes performance problems but these fixes are included in OB5.0. Sites can get an early jump on these fixes by installing OB4.3 but if a site is scheduled for their OB5.0 installation soon, it might be better for the site to wait since the fixes are all in 5.0. The mod note for OB4.3 should be signed and posted by the end of this week or the beginning of next week at the latest.

- b. New NWRWAVES Software to Replace CAFÉ CRS Formatters: Pete Browning at Central Region headquarters distributed to the RACC mailing list a Power Point briefing on the new NWRWAVES software to replace the CAFÉ CRS formatters. It is an excellent briefing package and Pete went over it thoroughly in case some members on the call had not yet seen it. (It is attached to these minutes.)

A question was asked can NWRWAVES support the HazCollect products? The response was we will leave HazCollect with CAFÉ during this transition to NWRWAVES. The Southern Region offered up site HUN as a beta test site and the Western Region volunteered to find a coastal WFO as a beta test site.

Pete asked if he could use this forum to brief the regions on further updates to this project and the answer was in the affirmative.

- c. Status on Update to the LDAD Firewall Rules Set: We are planning on installing a DMZ to the firewall and this action will require an additional switch added to the FMK and the mod note will need some changing. The contractor sent us new instructions to reconfigure the firewall and the NWS OCIO office will need to look them over to see if acceptable. We are behind the OAT schedule which is supposed to begin July 12 at site CTP. Our policy continues to be that all sites will look at the rules set, understand them and certify to their regional focal points that they can comply.

d. Update on Performance Issues: Mike Moss recently sent out to the regional focal points a document on ways to improve DS performance and the reasons why there are problems with distributing warnings due to poor DS performance. Mike hopes that the focal points distribute this document to all their sites. Mike found that sites that had high CPU usage who took these suggestions to heart subsequently had fewer problems with performance issues.

e. Informix Data Base Drop/Restore Procedures: Randy Schupbach at the NWSTC pointed out that the OB5 System Manager=s Manual (SMM) contained an incorrect procedure for dropping and recreating the Informix fxatext database. The OB5 SMM procedure drops the database which deletes all products from the database. This procedure is incorrect because WarnGen replies upon previously issued warning products in order to determine what the Event Tracking Number will be for the next warning product. Because of WarnGen=s reliance on previously issued warning products, the warning products must be preserved in the database even when the database is dropped.

In March 2005, Mike Moss wrote a script which preserves the warning products when the database is dropped. Randy Schupbach was aware of Mike Moss= script because Randy helped test the script. Randy was asking why this information never made it into the OB5 SMM. The bottom line is that we not allowed to update the online version of the OB5 SMM. As Bruno points out, our current SMM documentation protocol is too inflexible to accommodate timely corrections to the online SMM. Bruno mentioned that the CDRL delivery schedule requires that the SMM be delivered at SyAT Dry Run + 30 days.

We have discussed this database drop problem at previous RACC meetings but this is just a reminder that the database drop procedure as described in the OB5 SMM is wrong. The NCF has the correct procedure and if an office determines that their database should be dropped, the office should contact the NCF in order to receive the correct database drop procedure which will preserve the warning products.

NWSTG training material will become even more critical in OB6 when the fxatext database is migrated from Informix to Postgres. Given the contractual restrictions on updating the online SMM, it looks like we will be unable to update the online OB6 SMM with all of the things we will learn about Postgres once OB6 is deployed. Andy Edman of the Western Region asked if the RFCs will migrate to Postgres with OB6? The answer is yes but nobody is sure that the hydro people are tracking the RFCs for upcoming Postgres in OB6. Jim Stenpeck took the action item to contact the appropriate people in OHD to verify that the RFCs will be ready for Postgres as part of OB6. [**Editor=s note**: Jim Stenpeck contacted the appropriate OHD personnel and they answered that the RFCs are well aware of the situation and the actions that need to be taken.]

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Central Region: What is the status with OB6 next week as it impacts the testing with our

regional folks on the second week in July? The response was that this matter will be determined in a meeting right after this RACC call and the results will be forwarded right away to Greg Noonan.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

FSL: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We are working on the latest simulator for OB5.0 and should be ready for beta testing by the end of the week.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

Wayne Martin: The mod note for CWSUs to update from RedHat 6.2 to Enterprise 3.0 has been signed. WSH will Fed Ex the signed mod note and the appropriate software to the sites that support the CWSUs.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 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.**