

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 153 (7/13/05)

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, July 13, 2005, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) called into the conference call: **ERH**: Neal DiPasquale; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sean Wink, Craig Schmidt; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo; **FSL**: Rich Jesuroga; **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 18 sites at OB5 and 101 sites running OB4.2. Maintenance Release 4.3 is still in testing since one patch has not worked out and it may be pulled from the release in order to get it out early next week. We will be testing OB6 in the near future. Frank Lucadamo pointed out that since OB6 will be using Postgres, the WFOs need to be aware that they will have to convert all their local applications over from Informix to Postgres. The RFCs are aware of this and are already taking action since they have many more local applications to convert over to Postgres.

The last OB4.2 post install step has a site turning off the AS servers. There have been to date 146 sites that have installed OB4.2 and only 111 sites have turned off the AS servers. There are approximately 35 sites that still need to do so. The NCF will turn off the ITO monitoring on the AS servers once they see that a site has deactivated their AS servers. Also, the servers need to be de-activated before a site does its rack consolidation.

There has been a few instances of the region=s scheduling on the Oracle calendar more than the maximum number of sites to install software on any given day. It can be difficult to track who is late and needs to be asked to re-schedule. Sanford Garrard asked that the regions use the e-mail notification when using the Oracle calendar to schedule site installs. If a region does not like to use that feature, please notify Sanford via regular e-mail. This will assist the install manager in keeping the installs per day limited to the maximum number.

- b. Status of NWRWAVES Software to Replace CAFÉ CRS Formatters: Mike Hudson and Joe Palko are two field site personnel who have come to WSH this week to test the NWRWAVES software to replace the CAFÉ CRS formatters. Joe and Mike are 2 2 days into testing and things are going well. One notable problem that arose is the issue of a county having one FIPS code number but being in several zones. This is especially a problem in the Western region where large counties can encompass several zones. This and other problems that have been discovered are clearly fixable. We are looking for several alpha sites to continue the testing before proceeding with a formal beta testing.

- c. Proposal for Development of a Short Fuse Warning Working Group: Since the Tiger Team dealt with warning mode performance issues this past Spring, we realized that there might be a

need for a short fuse warning working group. This idea was discussed with Brian Gockel who agreed. A draft charter was written as a framework to start with. OS&T and OPS management levels here at WSH have looked favorably upon this undertaking. We are now looking for at least one representative from each region to sit on the working group. These individuals should be a mixture of personnel from the regional headquarters and field offices. The consensus of the regional focal points was favorable. After the draft charter is firmed up some more, the draft will be sent to the regions for their review and comments.

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

Alaska Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: All of our sites have installed OB4.2 and we are moving ahead with OB5.0. Does OB5.0 have the capability to issue the preliminary F6 product over the SBN? The SST took the action item to look into this matter since they didn't recall seeing this new feature in the OB5 release notes.

Also, we asked our ITOs what additional information they might need for OB4.2 and OB5.0. We received a lot of feedback. We forwarded the list to Frank Lucadamo at WSH since some of the items concerned installation documentation. Frank and Mike Moss of the SST took the action item to look over the rest of the list and to forward to the appropriate people here at WSH.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: We discovered that after a site installs the Red Hat Enterprise Operating System and they lose their LX1, there are no procedures to get it back. The NCF is aware of this issue and NGIT is working on procedures to resolve this issue.

Western Region: Concerning the WAN traffic, can we get stats on a weekly basis in order to get trends to identify problems? As it turns out, the WAN traffic is documented in the monthly PAR (Performance & Availability Report). Bruno stated that he believes that each Region gets a copy. Additional WAN traffic data can be obtained by calling the NCF and speaking with Karl Baetcke, NCF Lead Communications Engineer. NetMetrix reports can be run to provide more details to specific traffic concerns.

We would like a clarification on the whole critical weather day (CWD) issue. One of our sites was told by the NCF last week that they could not install OB5.0 but they had already begun the install. They were subsequently told they could finish the install. Vico Baer responded that an official policy in the form of a NWS directive is in the works and should be finalized in the near future. In the meantime, Vico took the action item to inquire what the confusion was about concerning a CWD last week. **[Editor=s Note:** Randy Chambers of the NCF responded to Vico=s inquiry concerning the policy of critical weather days. Until the official directive comes out, the NCF agreed that if an NCEP issued CWD is declared, it will be at the discretion of a field site=s management on whether any software installs can take place. Any Homeland Security CWD needs to be taken on a case by case basis until the formal policy on this matter comes out.]

FSL: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

NEXRAD Hotline: Mark Albertelly reports that the changes which Diane Deitz implemented at KRF to activate the TCP/IP connection between the KRF AWIPS system and the KEAX radar look good. Mark thinks that it is okay to proceed with the draft procedure for activating the TCP/IP connection between an RFC and the RFC's associated radar.

Mary Buckingham: Concerning the new firewall, it is ready to go with the new configuration and can be tested at the Central Region headquarters today or tomorrow. A new switch and cable need to be added to the FMK. The last stumbling block is to figure out how to get the time saving setup to work. Also, the new firewall rules set that was discussed in a previous RACC will be issued soon.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 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.**