

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 154 (7/27/05)

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 27, 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**: Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sean Wink; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Peter Browning; **PRH**: Alan Samori; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo, Karl Baetcke; **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 55 sites running OB5.0 and 145 sites running OB4.2. OB6 is being tested this week at BCQ and it will be tested next week at Southern Region Headquarters.

Maintenance release 5.1 has 21 patches in it. Western Region headquarters will install OB5.1 tomorrow morning and we will be looking for a WFO to test it next week.

- b. Status of NWRWAVES Software to Replace CAFÉ CRS Formatters: The software was tested at WSH with some field forecasters coming into Silver Spring. There were 20 DRs that were identified that need to be corrected in addition to some other less critical items that the field would like to have in the software. The WSH team went back to work correcting these problems and today we should have an updated software package to test out at CRH. If all goes well testing at CRH, we will send the software back to WSH by early next week. We expect to have some field sites test the software in conjunction with OB6 in the Western, Southern and Eastern regions, mainly to improve the installation procedures and user documentation. We hope to have the final software package available for when OB6 is formally released to the field sites.
 - c. Sites Calling the SST for Status of Important Trouble Tickets: Mike Moss stated that recently an important trouble ticket that was placed in the SST queue fell under the radar. He regrets this happening. If a trouble ticket is placed in the SST queue and a site deems it critical or operationally very important, the site should either call or e-mail the SST concerning the trouble ticket in question. Mike asked that the regional focal points pass this message onto their field sites.
 - d. Bias-Tee (SBN Power Supply) Installation: This week, sites will be receiving the Bias-Tee FMK - a new set of power supplies that will enable sites to remove their old demodulators. Karl Baetcke stated that these FMKs are being shipped at a rate whereby all sites will have the FMK within 3 weeks. The Mod Note is forthcoming and is expected to be posted on the web site by the middle of next week. Once the mod note is posted, the field sites can schedule their installations via the Oracle Calendar that is also used for other installs. The installations will occur at the rate of 5 sites per day from 8 AM to 5 PM (EDT) Monday through Thursday. The consensus for using the calendar was to use the code words ASBN@ followed by the site ID.

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

Central Region: We have forecasters here at CRH testing the latest version of OB6. We have not noticed any significant problems.

Eastern Region: nothing significant to report.

Pacific Region: nothing significant to report.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: An issue with the RFCs needs to be resolved soon. This involves the backup HADS data feed that the RFCs receive. The issue involves opening up a port back at the WSH firewall instead of the current method which involves a Aback door@ method of the RFCs getting this data. The WSH response is that the issue is being worked on by the hydrology folks here at WSH.

FSL: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We have beta tested the OB5.0 in the WES and expect to have it ready to go by next week.

NGIT: nothing significant to report.

Mary Buckingham: The new rule set has been approved by the OCIO Security Officer and tested at BCQ last week. We are trying to get it into KRF this week. If WFO and RFC State College, PA are able, Mary will try to install it as a clean installation there next week. If that is successful, the remaining WFO OAT sites will be authorized to install beginning mid August. Mary will schedule the AWC for late August.

Mary sent out a document on July 25 to a wide audience that explains the new rule set and the effect on operations. This change has the potential to disrupt the data exchange through LDAD and the firewall if the new rule set is not understood. It also includes a certification form of site practices. We are asking all sites to certify they conform to the new rule set through the AWIPS Regional Focal Point before they schedule the installation date. If an exception is needed, a request for change must be submitted and approved. The document explains the details on how this will work. Mary tried to pull together in one place the information on how the new firewalls will work and how they will be deployed. The OAT sites will be receiving some additional hardware for the firewall FMK consisting of a new switch and some more cables.

Also, the focal points should begin to start thinking of the next step of replacing the LDAD servers and the issues in terms of replacing them. Even though this won't occur until the next fiscal year, it's good to plan ahead.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 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.