

## Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday November 5, 2009

### Attendees:

ABRFC – Eric Jones, Tony Anderson, Mike Pierce  
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Pete Fickenscher, Scott Staggs  
NERFC – Ron Horwood, Tom Econopouly, Norm Bingham-Maas  
NWRFC – Joe Intermill  
NOHRSC – John Halquist  
Deltares – Edwin Welles  
OCWWS – (Absent)  
OHD – Jon Roe, Chris Dietz, Dave Kitzmiller

### Pre-reading:

- Support log distributed by Edwin to chps\_migration infolist on 11/5/09.

### 1. Review Support Log

**No new major blocking issues.**

**Action: none.**

### 2. FFG/FFH project charter

Lee sent out a summary of the proposed FFG/FFH project. There was a question: why does the section “What’s not Included” say “Tools for editing FFG configurations or creating new FFG configurations in CHPS (e.g. similar to functionality in FFGUID-SETUP) is not in the scope of this project.”

The concern is that editing configurations is a required basic operational capability and must be included in the activities. The requirement was further explained as being the need to edit products after they are generated, but before being disseminated.

Lee’s document only addresses the calculation of values, not the creation of a product because this is the limited scope of his project – another team (not Lee’s) will address the text product generation for BOC.

Edwin agreed to work with Lee to document a description of the proposed end-to-end FFH process; then distribute to this group.

RobH repeated that CNRFC believes recreating the original logic is the wrong approach, and CNRFC abstains from participation in any evaluation of it.

**Action: Edwin/Lee to document the approach for FFH product generation in CHPS.**

### 3. MODs transfer

Chris has received conflicting direction for MODS transfer requirements and needs clarification.

- a) Part of the requirement is to ingest MODs into CHPS from external sources (WECHNG, SSARREG);

b) The other part of the requirement is to transfer MODS made with NWSRFS to CHPS during parallel operations.

What is the need for b)? ABRFC, NWRFC, and CNRFC confirmed they do **not** need to transfer any MODS from NWSRFS to CHPS during parallel operations. NERFC – Edwin will confirm with Rob Shedd (they are both at Deltares this week). *[From Chris: RobS subsequently confirmed that NERFC has no need for any MODS described in b). NE does have a requirement to import WECHNG.]*

As an aside, CBRFC has a BOC-II requirement to import SETQMEAN.

Chris reported (from Lee) that the OHD work for WECHNG and SSARREG is complete. Deltares confirmed that these will be included in the December release (but not the November patch).

**Action: none.**

#### 4. Development registry

Chris wants to know if Deltares has enough information to proceed with the November patch and the December release? Edwin said yes.

The next steps are to iterate with this process, by adding items to the list and reviewing priorities. The registry is a tool to help clarify expectations and priorities for release content.

RobH requested that the floating point number (the averaged priority, which is rather meaningless) be replaced with a Release version/date. Edwin will clarify entries where they are unclear; CATs to flag any which need explanation. Edwin will add items which are candidates for March and June releases. Edwin will then send out the latest version to the chps\_migration list. (The most recent version was distributed on Nov 2.)

Edwin confirmed that Deltares/OHD will continue to issue patch releases; to date they've been issued on a monthly basis. We expect this paradigm (quarterly releases, as-needed patches) to continue until the CAT concurs that all functionality is present and working correctly. Patches are needed so that no bugs will prevent RFCs from validating the system over the Winter during parallel ops. Edwin will identify (in the registry) patch releases as well as routine quarterly releases.

From JohnH: the multi-synchronization item (# 80 "Ability to connect multiple master controllers") is up for consideration by CAT RFCs but there are national implications. Although it received a 3.0 minimum ranking, Edwin reported that it will be included in the December release. To simplify testing it will be demonstrated during SAT on the Deltares test system, not on NHOR or NHDR; then it will be tested in January using NOHRSC and 2 other CAT RFCs.

**Action: Edwin to update the registry and re-issue to the chps\_migration list.**

#### 5. Scheduling for CAT-II Migration Training and Site Support visits

Issue: several RFCs want to receive Migration Training in the first session (Feb 8). APRFC has a personnel scheduling conflict and wants to receive Site Support w/c March 1 not w/c March 8. There is some concern that training/site support could conflict with operations. NCRFC, for example, expects major flooding on the Red River and the training is close to the flood season. Other RFCs have expressed similar concerns at various times.

However these multiple requests significantly complicate scheduling and we can't accommodate all RFCs in the first training session/site support visits.

What are the CAT constraints for re-scheduling? CNRFC: 2<sup>nd</sup> training session is difficult, but can be accommodate if absolutely needed. NW can be flexible if needed. ABRFC has no constraints.

Another observation: CATs don't have to send the same individual to training and site support visits – it could be someone different. Don't forget Mardi Gras.

APRFC has indicated they don't necessarily need Deltares for Site Support, but the group disagreed; Deltares' participation in the first Site Support visit is essential to ensure RFCs get up and running with new configurations, and to troubleshoot any system issues.

Given the minimal risk of a major event occurring during this small time window, the group felt we should forge ahead with the plan as-is and address emergencies as they arise (as we have done in the past).

Chris will review all feedback and work with Edwin to update the schedule; then distribute to the CAT-II.

**Action: Chris to finalize the CAT-II migration training/site support schedule with Edwin.**

## 6. November patch

Peter is currently testing the patch. Edwin reported that Deltares will load the release to the FTP site by the start of (NWS) business Thursday 12 November. The patch will contain a fix to Amalgamate, a fix for the SACCO mod (turned out to be configuration not software). Detailed installation instructions will be included on the FTP site. Edwin agreed to find out if there's anything the RFCs can be doing to prepare for the patch installation and will share.

As an aside... this week Deltares demonstrated the dual-Y axis functionality to RobS. This is targeted for the December release.

**Action: Edwin to distribute any "patch prep" instructions to the CAT.**

## 7. Post-IFD training status

What are RFCs doing now that all staff are trained in IFD?

- ABRFC has a plan in place. In a couple of weeks 2 people per shift will begin some daily testing to stay current with the IFD.
- CNRFC has been running CHPS since 19 October. The staff is getting used to the new system. The patch will help.
- NERFC is not running parallel operations, but a plan is in place which takes NE out through March. NE is waiting for the patch.
- A few CHPS focal points at NWRFC are on vacation, plus they've had events to deal with. Still focusing on configurations. Waiting for the patch and SACCO mods. Enough people are familiar with CHPS that they can help others pick up again.

Edwin also reported that the IFD calls will resume soon. Andre is about to ship out another demo version and will set up a GotoMeeting. The demo will be a standalone version – NW had previously suggested that they be allowed to load demo versions onto their live system, but they now feel that's too risky.

Action: none.

## 8. CAT-II Forcings

Dave Kitzmiller's task is to facilitate the RFCs transition from basin averages to grids. He'll need some data to accomplish it. The idea is to use NOHRSC as a central collection/distribution point for CHPS forcings for all RFCs. The data transfer is a 2-step process:

1. From RFCs to NOHRSC: the script (provided by JohnH) will ship data through the local LDAD firewall across the Internet; it won't use the AWIPS network. So far only 2 of the 4 CATs (NERFC, ABRFC) are shipping their data to NOHRSC. CNRFC will activate it as soon as possible. JoeI reported that Harold is the keeper of the scripts for NWRFC; but he's on leave so the activation must wait until his return next week.
2. From NOHRSC to Deltares: JohnH reported that he wants to compress the tar file for increased efficiency; Edwin will provide a name at Deltares for John to contact so he can get the data flowing to Deltares.

Testing data flows will be part of the CAT-II software installation process. JohnH pointed out that in order for DaveK to help with forcings, he'll need data feeds in place for the CAT-II before installation and well before CAT-IIs go into Migration training. Can we get ofsde\_chps out to the CAT-II sites now? In the absence of a final directory structure, CAT-IIs could put the data in a place of their choosing; then change it later during installation. OHD will look into how to make this happen.

DaveK reported that, based on the Tuesday CAT-II conference call, all CAT-II RFCs were beginning comparisons. Some RFCs are already using grids for precip.

Dave requested that ABRFC and CNRFC share with him any new information/impressions regarding comparisons and analyses as they progress. Dave will discuss with JohnH his data needs. ABRFC is storing basin areal averages locally; they are not sent to NOHRSC, and are also not ingested into FEWS. NERFC is sending basin areal averages to NOHRSC.

What is the status of the forcings matrix 'plans'? All CAT RFCs are on track; NE and NW are waiting for DQC updates – this is the only thing holding them up.

There has been some recent email traffic concerning analysis of historical grids using point data from calibration stations. There have been various attempts at doing comparisons over the years; but we keep returning to calibration. Part of the problem is that the observation network has changed too much over the years to provide a consistent record. We can reassess all model parameters but we can never reproduce exactly the same values. So the most we can hope for is the least flawed method. This is a necessary but interim measure until AOR is ready. Perhaps the FY10 budget can provide some help? CNRFC is fine with their MAP strategy; they use a scaling factor for QPE and QPF. Their MAT analysis is ongoing.

Action: Edwin to provide a Deltares focal point to JohnH so he can coordinate data delivery from NOHRSC.

Action: HSEB to review documentation for ofsde\_chps, and prepare to send to CAT-II RFCs.

## 9. Other

- CAT workshop: will be 3 days in Silver Spring the week of Jan 4. Travel days will be Monday and Friday.
- Does Deltares plan to conduct any more site support visits? The answer is no. Support will now necessarily be focused on CAT-II. Deltares acknowledged there are still a lot of issues and on-site visits are very effective; however we don't have the latitude under the budget to do any more.
- Rating curves into FEWS: Deltares has decided to ingest data the NWSRFS format, rather than specify an interim XML format which will need to change once WaterML is defined. Edwin will send out a list of fields that will be used by FEWS. Someone also needs to notify Dan Pokorny that he doesn't need to do any more work on an XML format for CHPS. NWRFC asked if FEWS will permit multiple rating curves in a single file, and allow for a different subset of curves updated via a single file on a potentially daily basis – Edwin will incorporate this requirement.

Action: Edwin to send out list of ratings data fields to be used by FEWS for CHPS.

Action: OHD(?) to notify Dan Pokorny that he doesn't need to do any more work on an XML format for CHPS.

**Next meeting:** Thursday November 12.