

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday November 13, 2008

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Mike Pierce, Jeff McMurphy
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Pete Fickenscher
NERFC – Rob Shedd, Ron Horwood
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Don Laurine, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Karel Heynert
OCWWS – Mary Mullusky
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Chris Dietz, Joe Gofus, Mark Glaudemans

Pre-reading:

- None

1. Forcings for CHPS task

- a. Status update – MarkG now has names of team members, will send out an email today to initiate weekly conference calls. Team members are: Mike Boehmke, Mike Pierce (ABRFC); Harold, Don (NWRFC); Ron Horwood, Jeff O (NERFC); Art Henkel, Alan Haines (CNRFC). The CAT will monitor progress/activities via their respective focal points not via this CAT meeting. Team may need to contact Deltares to identify what FEWS can and can't ingest; Karel said the usual practice is for their customers to define what they need, and Deltares will enhance FEWS to accommodate.
- b. Ref. previous action item "how to compare and judge differences between RFS generated MAP/MATs, and those from MPE/GFE for CHPS". This will be addressed as part of MarkG's task.
- c. Related forcings topic: what was the outcome regarding Tom LeFabvre's email on dropping RFC support? Discussed at HSD meeting. Approach should be to provide same level of support to RFCs and WFOs alike – no special requirements. Harold strongly disagreed with this approach. He noted Tom was very supportive for NWRFC as they experimented with GFE, sometimes writing scripts for them. What funds were providing the support? Believe it was leftover from old DHM funding. In any case, HSDs agreed to gather requirements from the RFCs. Additional suggestion: NWRFC might put together a proposal for the AHPS Inputs & Forcings Theme Team. Mary noted that there's already a proposal to modernize GFE formats for compatibility with NPVU.

Action: none

2. FY09 AHPS Theme Teams

- a. Core Goal 13 (CHPS) and Core Goal 8 (XEFS): approach will be to present costs expected during FY09. Scheduled to present to OHD & OCWWS management on Nov

19. Chris is working with Karel to get some numbers. She will then distribute via email to the CAT and the XEFS Oversight Group, and will need a fast turnaround. Content will be in spreadsheet form.

- b. Issues from AHPS Verification Theme Team meeting yesterday: 1) no apparent long range plan to get verification into CHPS; 2) Hindcasting requirements should be addressed now/during BOC not later. For 1) this is an information management problem. Solution will be to address Verification activities via the CHPS plan, and share the information with the other Theme Teams. For 2).... this appears to be a new requirement? It's more of an old requirement that was never addressed in NWSRFS and has been delayed for years. FEWS already provides the capability to run Hindcasts. The FEWS archive database can be used to store large amounts of data as an interim measure until a full NWS archive database is defined and available. But some OHD-developed models reportedly don't support Hindcasting. Examples: Res-J, Unit-HG (this was found to be bad information – the tests were conducted on a very simple/temporary version of the model in the CHPS Pilot), and DeltaTS (this one may not work in NWSRFS but works in FEWS). If they don't work in NWSRFS now, why is there a requirement for them to work in CHPS? Karel suggested we consider running some tests early next year, not extend the Software Acceptance Tests. The CAT agreed that such testing must not impact the CHPS BOC schedule. We'll need to run the tests at a CAT RFC because we need a CHPS configuration – since Bill Lawrence is on the AHPS Verification Theme Team, ABRFC was selected. The Verification Theme Team will need to come up with some test scenarios they want to run, and gather the data to support the tests. The results of that testing will identify the deficiencies and a plan to address those will be developed.

Action: MaryM to task Verification Theme Team with defining the tests and providing data for CHPS to conduct March/April 2009 (at ABRFC, after installation and during Migration)
Action: Chris to include Verification test activities in CHPS FY09 work plan

3. Previous action item: “how to compare and judge differences between RFS generated forecasts and CHPS generated forecasts?”

All results should come very close but RFCs should be aware the results will not be 100% identical. In the case of HEC-RAS replacing FldWay, this will be much more subjective. The burden of deciding whether the differences are acceptable should be placed on individual RFCs. They have been through this before with other transitions.

There are several ways to approach the examination process – can generate forecasts in NWSRFS, then ingest into CHPS, run the same forecast in CHPS, and view the plots side-by-side for comparison. Users will be able to access data directly in the FEWS database. The goal will be to confirm that all discrepancies are explainable.

The software acceptance tests in December will be geared towards preprocessed (canned) data, with no MODs applied.

Action: Karel to forward to the migration list Micha's minutes from his OHD visit last week
Action: Karel to forward to the migration list the test procedures document

4. Other

Secure server: status? Not there yet.

Mod Note: have RFCs received it yet? No. Chris to check with Randy.

CHPS status update for DOHs on Tues Nov 25: will be informal, no more than about 30 minutes. DonL may invite others such as regional reps. Note Harold is also giving a CHPS presentation to the SCHs on Dec 9 at the NWSTC.

FEWS synchronization to multiple MCs: this is an item on Deltares' plan but is low priority. NOHRSC has its own version of FEWS. Karel will discuss with John Halquist a timetable for completing.

Proposal from Deltares: suggest that 2 groups (Micha & Willem; Peter & Mattijs) travel to all 4 CAT RFCs during the week following Migration training (w/c 16 Feb – note the federal holiday). Purpose will be to ensure everything is working properly including live data feeds, and perhaps install a software update, as the RFCs begin Migration. The CATs agreed; OHD agreed.

Action: Chris to check with RandyR on status of hardware installation instructions.

Action: Karel to discuss plans for multi-MC synchronization with John Halquist (and report back to the CAT)

Note: Action items from this and all previous meetings are contained in the "ActionItems" document maintained and distributed by Chris Dietz, OHD.

Next meeting: Thursday 11/20/08.