

## Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday December 4, 2008

### Attendees:

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

### Pre-reading:

- Word document “Communicating CHPS – issues” attached to the agenda/email for this meeting

### 1. Software Installations – defer NW and CN

Karel, RandyR, and RobS provided some feedback on the software installation at NERFC this week. The FEWS aspects of the software installation went well; with Frederik’s help Randy and Xiaobiao installed, uninstalled, and re-installed the software at least twice. There were some networking issues - Randy discovered on site that he had been given incorrect information at NWSHQ concerning IP addresses; he ended up using .91 - .94 at NE. The group agreed on the need to standardize. There was some confusion about last week’s agreement to use the .30 - .39 or .40 - .49 range. A quick check by each CAT member showed that the .2x range appears to be completely available. Randy agreed to look further into it.

There were (inevitably) some mistakes in the installation instructions; these will be corrected.

A performance improvement suggested by Deltares involves moving the database index table to a separate physical disk. Randy would like to work on this at NWRFC, which provides a good environment to stress-test database performance. This will necessitate a longer visit to NWRFC by Randy.

The original plans for NWRFC and CNRFC software installations were to conduct both during the week of Dec 15. Randy would now like to spend the better part of an entire week at NWRFC, then conduct CNRFC’s installation at a later time – except not during the same week as ABRFC (Jan 12-13) because CNRFC’s special ResSim configuration might require extra time. Randy, NWRFC, and CNRFC will discuss offline.

Deltares said NWS (RandyR) must be completely comfortable with conducting the installations independently of Deltares; if not, Deltares offered to schedule another visit by Frederik.

Status of the secure shell file transfer from ABRFC and CNRFC to Deltares was unknown (JoeG was not present at the meeting). Both AB and CN said they're ready to receive the scripts today whenever they are ready.

Action: RandyR to investigate use of the .2x range for IP addresses for the CHPS hardware  
Action: RandyR, NWRFC, and CNRFC to agree on dates for software installations.

## 2. Discussion: communicating CHPS information to others (refer to pre-reading note above)

The discussion was divided into 2 main sub-topics:

### a. **Formal Training.**

Deltares described 3 types of training:

- Forecaster training: focuses primarily on the user interface – Deltares will have some involvement in this but not a huge amount. Much forecaster training involves local procedures and hydrology, and is typically conducted locally.
- Configuration training: will require the largest involvement by Deltares at first, but over time will lessen. It focuses on new features and new ways of configuring things; how to configure new catchments and how to introduce new models/operations into existing catchments
- System management training: Deltares will have a small role initially as the goal is to “train the trainer” - Randy will learn from Deltares, then train others at the RFCs. Training involves software installations and troubleshooting techniques. Deltares will provide training on minor updates to tools.

The group noted that at NWS RFCs, forecasting and catchment configuration will be done by people with the same skill sets.

Furthermore, there are 3 different aspects to training:

- Training for the migration from NWSRFS to CHPS: this is one-time only; Deltares will play a significant role at the beginning. It will be conducted nationally (note that the follow-on RFCs will be divided into 2 groups; training to begin January 2010).
- “Top-up” training (e.g., content of new software releases from Deltares and/or OHD): this will occur more routinely and will continue into the future. Also to be conducted nationally.
- Future new-employee training: the group agreed that future new-employee training will be handled as OJT locally by each office.

Does the NWSTC play a role in national training for CHPS? There has historically been very little hydrologic experience at the NWSTC. The NWSTC recently removed the REPs completely, thereby demonstrating a complete lack of commitment to RFC training.

Would it help to out-source the training? Probably not, as information can be lost in the translation and it is much better to address national training internally, such as we are currently doing with RandyR. Recall that we also agreed some time ago that the CAT RFCs will travel around to “buddy” groups of follow-on RFCs, to assist with their training.

In the past OCWWS has coordinated some RFC workshops. From OHD’s perspective these workshops have often consumed too many HSEB software developer resources; plus these software developers do not have a forecasting background. It was noted that OCWWS HSD’s function includes training. Mary agreed to follow up and ascertain how HSD can contribute to CHPS training. Whoever is involved must attend the Migration Training in February.

CNRFC suggested that perhaps CHPS can provide us with an opportunity to improve the approach to RFC training and maximize the operational benefit?

RFC workshops in the future (long term, after the migration is complete) can address new features - in FEWS and in OHD software. RFCs will build in-house configuration expertise over time as forecasters learn to configure catchments. Calibration techniques have been (and will continue to be) addressed via national workshops.

For CHPS migration, we have ~200 staff that will need training - one central training course won’t cover it. Conclusion: we will wait until we’ve seen the Migration Training in February and then discuss how to handle migration training for the follow-on RFCs.

**Action: Mary will ascertain how HSD can contribute to CHPS training.**

**Action: <placeholder to add an OCWWS HSD training person to the February migration session at NWSTC.>**

**b. Information sharing with stakeholders.**

There is an increasing clamor for information (and some nervousness) about CHPS. We need to meet the needs of primary stakeholders first – i.e., those within NOAA/NWS such as other RFCs and the Regions. Other stakeholders beyond NOAA/NWS should be handled locally/individually.

We can’t expect to provide staff from the follow-on RFCs with formal training without some sort of exposure to CHPS first. What kind of general information can we provide? Follow-on RFCs will want to know what will CHPS look like; and what should they be doing to prepare. If, for example, FFG is to be handled differently in a CHPS world, the CAT should be sharing that message now. The DOHs have been unable to fulfill their

role as messengers of CHPS information because they never had anything solid they could put their hands on.

Harold recently gave a lengthy PowerPoint presentation to Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The slides are available via the wiki page. Could we give this presentation to the follow-on RFCs via a GoTo meeting?

There continues to be disagreement about the value of providing demos. Some felt that any kind of demo is helpful, so long as it is accompanied by caveats and supported by information on planned improvements. ABRFC reported that this worked very successfully for them at a briefing to the region. A demo doesn't have to be once-only event; we could brief more information as it becomes available.

Some, however, feel that a demo too early might create a poor impression and that we can instead provide a wealth of information by providing status updates.

The group finally agreed to provide monthly status updates via conference call or GoTo meetings etc. to the direct NOAA/NWS hydro community (HIC, DOH, and regions), and not invite others beyond this just yet. This community can then share their knowledge to local stakeholders however and whenever they choose. We will not specifically invite the chps\_info list because its audience covers too broad a spectrum for the time being. Status briefings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, using the regular CAT meeting time slot. CAT RFCs and Deltares can also contribute.

Deltares also agreed that the webinar to be developed under the contract ~Feb/March will include a FEWS demo, and could be recorded if desired.

**Action: Chris to initiate monthly CHPS status update briefings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. The first one will occur on January 8 at 8:00 am PST/10:00 am CST/11:00 am EST/5:00 pm CET, and will focus on providing high level information and status, then soliciting the audience for questions. All HICs, DOHs, and Regions will be invited to attend.**

### 3. Other items

Deltares has placed a copy of the test procedures for the week of Dec 15 on the wiki, where CAT members can access them.

ResSim – Deltares is waiting for the new version of ResSim (with improved state handling) from HEC (Joan Klipsch). Karel will wait until he hears from HEC before attending to the issue of when and how to test the FEWS adapter.

**Action: none**

*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 12/11/08.