

## Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday April 23, 2009

### Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen  
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Scott Staggs  
NERFC – Rob Shedd  
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill  
NOHRSC – John Halquist  
Deltares – Edwin Welles  
OCWWS – Randy Rieman  
OHD – Gary Carter, Jon Roe, Joe Gofus, Chris Dietz

### Pre-reading:

- None

### 1. CHPS for CAT-II

There's a perception within OHD that the CAT-II RFCs might not be completely engaged with CHPS. Is this correct? The CAT generally agreed that that this is a misperception.

- The CAT-IIs are not as far along in the overall process as the CATs are now, so they are experiencing some apprehension, as did the CAT two years ago.
- Billy pointed out that during recent hiring activities he's heard nothing but enthusiasm and excitement about working with CHPS.
- We acknowledge that we've been over a few speed bumps recently (Headwater Guidance, FFG, forcings) but we'll get through them. We have all the right technical expertise on hand (CAT DOHs, Deltares, OHD) to understand and resolve the issues and problems; it's a matter of working our way through the maze.
- Some CATs were encouraged by the recent CAT-II acknowledgement to move towards a gridded world; and also by the acceptance that we must in principle move away from the NWSRFS pre-processors.

The group did agree that all (not just some) of the CAT-II HICs will somehow need to become more personally engaged in implementing CHPS at their offices. This will come with time.

Specifically with respect to forcings we know we might be able to solve the requirements in a number of different ways. We may not want to wrap the pre-processors but if that's what ends up having to be done then we'll find a way. We certainly don't want to develop any national software just because we can; it must be the right thing to do. The CAT's role is to help navigate through the viable alternatives. Bottom line is that we don't know the answers yet but we are working on them. The group agreed that we must find ways to expose what we do, what we learn, and the conclusions we arrive at. Some mechanisms already being considered/planned include:

- Upcoming “buddy” visits
- Weekly CAT-II conference calls – while these have so far been focused on defining BOC-II we can soon begin to address specific science topics. OHD took an action to come up with some suggested agenda topics to get us started after BOC-II.
- Cat-II workshop planned for September/October – we could present some preliminary results on comparisons for forcings

We must be careful to remain focused on the CHPS goals and not get side-tracked by minutiae (e.g., unrelated software development requests) or issues which are bigger than CHPS (e.g., resource problems due to RFC domain size).

Side note: in light of Mark Glaudeman’s upcoming departure to OCWWS, Jon Roe announced that Paul Tilles will be the caretaker of group activities on CHPS forcings until the vacancy is filled.

**Action: Propose or solicit some agenda items for the CAT-II conference calls after BOC-II discussions are complete.**

**Action: Pedro to contact APRFC (Scott) to discuss science concerns and how to address them.**

## 2. CHPS Operational Support

Negotiations for OHD’s contract with Deltares led OHD to commit to the NWS taking on more of the responsibility over time. The CAT will necessarily receive more direct support from Deltares, as part of a “train the trainer” approach. The strategy for CAT-II offices includes the following:

- Support from the CAT-II RFCs from their “buddy” offices.
- OCWWS HSD support.
- Support from Deltares as needed, where feasible, when affordable, and when it makes the best sense. This support will include formal training (new FEWS releases).

The number of support hours provided in the contract for 9 CAT-II offices is approximately 50% of the hours available for 4 CAT RFCs. OHD will need to look into a longer-term support vehicle; the \$\$ ceiling on the existing contract is strictly limited and can’t be increased. Under the existing agreement we must ensure the project remains affordable. The NWS is different from most other Deltares clients, because our forecasters are very technically competent.

The CAT offices are concerned that they may not always be able to respond quickly to their buddy RFCs – along with shift changes, different time zones, and the need to attend to operations they fear the support process will be tortuous. It’s difficult to predict the level of support they can provide. There may be times when an entire week goes by...

OCWWS HSD has 2 people available for national support; one of those (Xiaobiao) is focused on AWIPS issues. It won't be long before HSD becomes overwhelmed. At the national HIC conference in February the CAT asked Dave Caldwell about increasing support resources for HSD but nothing has happened to anyone's knowledge. Jon and Chris agreed to open a dialogue with Tom Graziano.

Some other potential support mechanisms include:

- Set up 2 different ops lists – one for CATs only, one for CAT-II. Their issues will be at different levels. Randy could make sure he sees both lists to see that questions/problems don't go unattended.
- A FAQ page for the CAT-II – possibly the wiki? The existing wiki needs a lot of work... also it has mainly been used as a document repository rather than a series of true wiki pages, which can be a valuable community tool. Deltares/Edwin agreed to start the rationalization process by creating a FAQ wiki page.
- A “how-to” document is already available on the wiki (Forecaster Manual)

Other notes: Deltares will begin the process of defining sample basins for CHPS at the buddy visits. They will describe what's needed from the CAT-II RFCs and what to expect. The period between June 2009 and January 2010 will result in initial basin implementations; migration training is expected in February 2010.

Action: Jon and Chris to contact Tom Graziano to discuss CHPS operational support for all RFCs during and beyond migration.

Action: Deltares/Edwin to create a FAQ wiki page so everyone can contribute.

### 3. Other

Hardware support from Dell: CNRFC recently reported a disk problem and had a replacement disk within a couple of hours!

NERFC asked about the status of ResSngl. JoeG said a fix is undergoing final testing. The fix will address most but not all problems. NERFC should receive something to test tomorrow (Friday).

Action: none.

Next meeting: Thursday 4/30/09 at 11:00 am EDT.