<u>Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday August 13, 2009</u>

Attendees:

ABRFC – Billy Olsen
CNRFC – Pete Fickenscher
NERFC – Rob Shedd
NWRFC – absent
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS – absent
OHD – Jon Roe, Chris Dietz

Pre-reading:

- Support log distributed on 8/13/09 via email to the chps_migration infolist.

1. Review Support Log

The latest version emailed today is also posted on the RFC support web page. Please report to Edwin if anyone notices differences between the 2 versions.

There are no major blocking issues. The outstanding issue from ABRFC relating to the configuration manager/cleaning out the database is being addressed; the system is running but we do need to monitor the database size. ABRFC's migration is not impacted by this outstanding item. OHD and Deltares will have an internal meeting today to discuss results of a disk/database analysis which is related to this issue and also to the recently discussed 'expiration times' topic.

Meaning of entries in Status column: "Fixed" means code has been checked in, but has not yet been incorporated into a release or distributed to the sites. This will be evidenced by references to JIRA issues. "Closed" means the opener has validated that the fix works at their site. We would like to see a little more information on the solution, and maybe reference to the email subject line so more details can be traced. Some of this information will be added to the forecaster manual. We want to see the office and (consistently spelled) name of reporter; e.g., "NERFC/Alison".

Note that this support log is an interim solution for the CATs – it will be superseded by a more comprehensive issue tracking tool when the CAT-IIs begin migration.

ABRFC and NWRFC have provided software version information to Chris/Edwin (action from last week). Edwin will tell Peter he needs to gather the remaining information during his upcoming site support visits.

Action: Edwin to tell Peter to gather software version details from each RFC during site support visits.

2. Discuss action item "NE action to 'facilitate consistent look and feel' for IFD configurations"

Rob Shedd recalls the action, which was to develop an initial configuration that is consistent with IFP's current default settings. The goal – expressed at one of the recent CAT workshops - was to try to ease the RFCs' transition from NWSRFS to CHPS, with a potential side benefit to inter-office personnel transitions.

The action is currently stymied in part by the absence of an IFD configuration for NERFC. However it has proved more of a challenge than expected, due to issues with color schemes and symbology; these are being addressed by the IFD team. The next IFD team meeting is on August 19th.

The following are some known issues:
1. Color - FEWS will let users define default color schemes for different data types, but when multiple time series for that data type must be plotted on a single graph the colors it uses are not the default, but are a contrasting color. It can be done with FEWS but it's difficult to change.
2. Symbology – FEWS is very limited in the range of symbols it provides. IFP allowed use of all alphabetic letters as well as numbers 0-9.
3. Axes – there is a firm requirement to plot two related sets of information with different y-axes on a single graph (e.g., reservoir pool height and outflows).

JohnH pointed out that:
- we don't have consistency with IFP anyway, so IFD consistency is a change in expectations
- we've already strayed away from IFP with the new IFD anyway - for example we now have plots against a white background

It isn't clear if we really want consistency. We certainly don't want to make any decisions now that will prevent our making headway after BOC. Another consideration is whether or not it makes sense to dedicate Deltares resources to this topic in favor of other possibly higher impact tasks. We should think about what the "good enough" point is.

The group agreed to revisit this topic at the next CAT workshop, at which time we'll have more information. IFD meetings are continuing, and we still have time to resolve these issues before the CAT-II begin the switch to CHPS.

Regarding creation of CAT-specific IFD configurations: Andre completed CNRFC's IFD configuration; but it was a very manually intensive exercise that would benefit from migration script enhancements. Andre believes his time is better spent implementing high priority software changes. Deltares proposes that we wait for Micha to return from leave, and have him adjust the migration scripts to generate IFD configurations for the remaining RFCs. Micha is expected back on August 24th. This will result in a delay of several weeks to delivery of the IFD configurations. **NERFC reported a corresponding slip to their start**

of parallel operations from mid-October to early or mid-November. None of the other RFCs believe they will be impacted.

Action: Chris & Edwin to include a discussion of IFD/IFP consistency on the agenda for the next CAT workshop.

3. IFD configurations

This was discussed under item #2 above.

Action: none.

4. Other

- Foreign National processing for PeterG: no longer required, as Peter now has a NOAA badge.

- Old/repeat request from Migration training to improve the instructions/documentation: comments were submitted but no one ever saw the results. Edwin believes Peter was working on this before he went away; he'll check into the status. The documentation is needed in final form next February for the CAT-II. RobS suggested it might also be helpful for the CATs in their final configurations. Edwin noted that because the migration scripts are very different from the scripts used last February, it's likely the documentation will also be very different. Aside: Edwin reported that his action to provide examples of segment cleanup activities to the CAT-II is complete.

- Draft HEC-RAS document "how-to" configure HEC-RAS in CHPS was developed by Mattijs and delivered this week. It is focused on Linux specifically for CHPS. It might also be available on the wiki; Chris will either distribute the document itself, or send out the link to everyone on this list.

- Update on CHPS wiki: work has begun in OHD but it is expected to take several months – there's a lot to do. OHD's web master has agreed to do the work. Chris will be asking the CAT to review the first set of changes when they become available.

- Edwin noted that many of the questions received by Deltares from the CAT RFCs are already answered in the CHPS Forecaster guide. The guide is available on the wiki; Edwin will forward the link to the group. The guide will be changing as the IFD evolves.

- From PeterG: Peter would like to run some performance tests during the upcoming site support visits. Frederik was supposed to run these tests while at CNRFC recently but he ran out of time. This is preferred anyway as it will provide us with numbers for comparison across 4 RFCs. The tests are expected to take 1-2 hours. Some expressed concern that this might interfere with the site support work itself, which usually consumes every moment of Deltares' time when they're on site. Can Peter conduct these

performance tests remotely? While not desirable, it may be feasible - Edwin will ask Peter.

- Confirmed: the CAT-II workshop is expected to run through to noon Friday Oct 2. Billy will look into reserving a block of rooms at a local hotel, possibly in the 71st Street area. He also confirmed that the airport is approx 6 miles away from his office, with an expected travel time of 10-15 minutes.

- Actions from last week:
    - JohnH subscription to chps_ops – he hasn't seen any emails so presumes he was not signed up. Chris will email RandyR to remind.

Action: Edwin to find out the status of NWS requested improvements to the Migration training documentation
Action: Chris to distribute the "how to configure HEC-RAS for CHPS" document developed by Mattijs to the CATs (or the wiki link to it, if available)
Action: Edwin to send out link to CHPS Forecaster manual to this group
Action: Edwin to ask Peter if he could conduct the performance tests remotely (from NHOR) rather than consume time during site support visits
Action: Chris to send RandyR a request to remind/subscribe JohnH to chps_ops.

Next meeting: Thursday August 20, 2009 at 11:00 am EDT.