Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday December 9, 2010

Attendees:
ABRFC – Billy Olsen, Mike Pierce
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Pete Fickenscher, Brett Whitin
NERFC – Alison MacNeil, Ron Horwood
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill
NOHRSC – John Halquist
Deltares – Edwin Welles
OCWWS HSD – Dave Riley
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Jon Roe, Chris Brunner

Pre-reading:
- o Support Log sent to chps_ops on Dec 8 by Dave Riley

1. Support Log health check

   - There seems to be a large number of Open items on the list.
   - The PI_Service problem (#415) was originally reported on 9 November as High (fix in 2-10 days); a supposed fix in CHPS_1.0.2 recently failed testing– what priority should it be now? Alison said RobS created an alternative solution by exporting the data as pi_xml. We should continue to investigate the cause of the problem, but it's no longer as urgent for NERFC.
   - RonH sent an email about the way the UHGCHANGE mod works. Edwin reported that Deltares has received a similar request from another client (a Dutch water board) for the TSCHANGE mod, which will result in extra flexibility for other mods – the concept is to introduce intervals for the start/T0/end keywords. This will be issue #427 in the support log for tracking purposes.
   - HSD/Deltares logging into RFC systems: Deltares uses the fews user id to log in. In accordance with security policy RFCs are required to change the password every 90 days. RFCs are configured differently, and are on different cycles. Whenever RFCs change the password, they don't pass it along to HSD or Deltares – resulting in an inability for Deltares to troubleshoot. RFCs prefer not to let HSD/Deltares control their own passwords; instead the CAT agreed that <u>every time an RFC changes the fews user password the RFC will inform HSD</u> (details will be worked out between RFCs and HSD). HSD will inform Deltares. Access to the fews user account (rather than setting up a second account) is important because of file ownership.

   Action: Each time an RFC changes the fews user account password they must notify HSD to ensure Deltares can provide operational support when needed.

2. Community web site discussion

   Based on a recent meeting, CUAHSI has agreed to be the broker for CHPS packages, but only for research purposes. Packages would include some generic configurations and test cases to validate. Anyone downloading a package must have a pre-signed agreement in place with Deltares for the use of FEWS to conduct research.

   HEC stated this week that they do NOT want NWS (or anyone else) distributing the development version of ResSim (currently a part of CHPS); however they have no objections to our distributing HEC-RAS 4.1.

OHD will outsource to an external contractor to develop a web site; one who has the kind of experience we need (subject to the usual NOAA contracting limitations). We'll use the new OHD-BPA memorandum of agreement to co-develop a straw man. The CAT will then provide feedback. We would like the web site to be a clearinghouse for all things CHPS, including exported information from FogBugz – RFCs have been learning a lot, and we want to share that information with everyone as a way to make up for our inability to provide operational support for the community. It's unlikely we'll have a straw man in time for the HIC conference in Tulsa next January.

Action: none.

3. Performance expectations at CBRFC

- From the CAT-II conference call this week: CBRFC is very nervous about some performance numbers they have extrapolated based on preliminary ensembles timings. One scenario with an 8-basin forecast group running 4 times over for 1 year and with 40-50 ensemble members was estimated to take 90 minutes – this is unacceptable. CBRFC said the equivalent in NWSRFS took 4 minutes. They are willing to accept 20 minutes; however this is unrealistic. Edwin will check back with John Lhotak, as there may have been a misinterpretation of some details. We all acknowledge we won't meet NWSRFS performance. We can't size all CHPS hardware based on worst case needs; we must size heavier-use RFCs differently. However, we must not optimize at the expense of flexibility (one of the main drivers for the new software architecture). This topic will be a continuing priority; HEFS will force the issue even further.

Action: Edwin to confirm with CBRFC the details of their ensemble performance estimates.

4. Other items

- OHD would like to distribute CHPS-1.0.2 to the CAT-II RFCs beginning Monday Dec 13. ABRFC, CNRFC, and NERFC have adequately tested and they approve distribution. [NWRFC were absent from this portion of the discussion.]
- ABRFC reported that the User Training at SERFC and LMRFC went very well. Both RFCs did a good job of preparing ahead of time.
- NERFC asked when the dates are for OHRFC's User Training. Edwin is waiting for OHRFC to select 2 days during the week of Jan 24.

Action: HSD to distribute CHPS-1.0.2 to CAT-II RFCs starting Monday Dec 13.

Next meeting: Thursday December 16.