

Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday June 26, 2008

Attendees:

NOHRSC/NCRFC - John Halquist
ABRFC - Billy Olsen
NWRFC – Don Laurine
NERFC – Rob Shedd
CNRFC – Rob Hartman, Pete Fickenscher
Deltares - Karel Heynert
OHD - Jon Roe, Chris Dietz
OCWWS – Mary Mullusky, Randy Rieman

Pre-reading:

- Document ActionItems.doc distributed by Chris on 6/26/08 to the chps_migration list
- Document “CHPS BOC I/BOC II Timeline” submitted by Harold, distributed to the chps_migration list on 6/25/08

1. Review of Action Items from last week’s workshop.

Action items 06-2008-04 and 06-2008-10 are related but have different goals. Both are tied to rating curves.

06-2008-04: Dan Pokorny at NCRFC is on a national Rating Curves team, led by Dave Reed, LMRFC. Dan is in the process of writing/testing an application to retrieve rating curves from the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS); and he’s writing a GUI-based front-end for forecasters. The data retrieved from NWIS by the application is kept in a repository that will be populated and managed locally at the RFC. As USGS rating curves must be processed before application, local storage and management is the most practical approach versus a national repository.

AI 06-2008-04 can be deleted as unnecessary and/or undesirable.

The real need is for a standardized exchange format. Don said he’s fairly certain the USGS doesn’t have a standard XML-based format.

AI 06-2008-10 can probably be closed as “none exists”. (Chris will check if OK with Harold first).

NWRFC noted that it also gets rating curves from non-USGS agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation.

NWRFC noted that its regional USGS provided a simple application to notify NWRFC when the rating curves have been updated.

FEWS can handle just about any XML standard

Action: JohnH will get sample XML from Dan Pokorny’s application to Deltares

2. BOC Timeline discussion

The group would like to combine the following 2 documents which appear to overlap but also contain conflicting information:

1. BOC Timeline document, created by the CAT to capture a schedule of deployment activities that it believes is attainable for all RFCs;
2. Calendar document, created by Deltares and OHD to provide details of planned workshops

It would also be nice to have a Gandtt-style chart to show dependencies between tasks.

Action: Chris will combine the 2 documents into one and include a Gandtt chart. She will then distribute for review.

Question: could we get more details regarding the Dec 2008 entry (“Software install. Acceptance testing w/test procedures.”) This has been split into 2 sessions:

1. December in Silver Spring (w/c 12/15) for acceptance testing. This would be a small group (suggest Joe Intermill + one other), including OHD to run through a suite of test procedures for the BOC software delivered to that point.
2. January in Sacramento (w/c 1/5) for a CAT workshop (1.5 days) followed by training in new features (3.5 days).

This first software delivery/testing will be unusual as it’s expected to be the largest delivery; subsequent releases will be delivered for testing every 3 months (tied to the workshop schedule).

Action: Harold to confirm that Joe Intermill can attend the December session

Action: CAT to identify a second forecaster to accompany Joe Intermill

Action: Chris to confirm OHD will pay for travel December 2008 and January 2009

3. Hardware

Summary of discussions between OHD and Deltares on 6/20/08: we discussed the possibility of hosting 3 software servers (MC, FSS, DB) on 2 computers. Deltares advised against this; it would be preferable to purchase 3 lower-end dedicated computers (5400 series) than 2 higher-end computers (7300 series) for sharing.

Also opted for raid 10 not raid 5 disks. We don’t know the delta in cost between the two; that will be revealed by the bids. Performance is 8-10 times faster for the raid 10 over the raid 5.

4. NOHRSC role in the CAT

John Halquist’s move from NCRFC to NOHRSC raised the question of CAT membership. After hearing about IWRSS last week during the CHPS workshop, it’s apparent that NOHRSC will play an increased role in CHPS. Thus NOHRSC desires a say in CHPS decisions that would impact NOHRSC. John Halquist’s presence on the CAT is NOHRSC’s opportunity to participate.

Since the other CAT members value John’s judgment, they would like to see him remain a CAT member but without making decisions on behalf of RFCs nationally; that role will now fall to NERFC.

5. RFC backup

Delft-FEWS provides the RFCs with their first technical solution for national service backup, but it's no good without an underlying enterprise network (including adequate bandwidth) and management commitment. Karel noted that Delft-FEWS can be configured to send less data during synchronization to reduce bandwidth requirements. NWRFC wants more than one backup site; to solve this requirement Deltares is looking into FEWS changes for the FSS to communicate with more than 2 Master Controllers.

National service backup is now also being driven by IWRSS. It must therefore be a requirement for CHPS. However OHD does not have the right expertise or influence to make it happen. It requires significant input from the AWIPS program. The RFC backup OSIP project is 07-056; Jeff Zimmerman leads the IWT with participation from Harold and Jon Roe. The team has been inactive for some time, mostly because everything was put on hold for AWIPS II; the regions implemented a stop-gap measure for AWIPS (I). It's time to re-visit.

We should begin discussions now so that come January 2009 we have information ready to kick the project into action. How about putting together a proposal in time for the HIC conference to gain consensus? OHD could lead the effort, but something else would have to take lower priority as we've reached maximum capacity. ***The CAT agreed that the RFC backup requirement is higher priority than archiving.***

Chris agreed to lead service backup discussions at the next CAT call. Only Rob Shedd will be missing – he agreed to defer to his teammates. The goal will be to work up a proposal ready for the national HIC conference in July.

What do other FEWS users do? The UK Environment Agency's NFFS is a good parallel because it's

Other OSIP projects related to this topic:

1. RFC AWIPS Configuration (OSIP project 07-059)
2. CHPS (OSIP 07-017)
3. RAX Tech Refresh (OSIP project 07-054)
4. "NOAAnet" (OSIP project ??)

Action: Chris to put service backup on the agenda for the next CAT call.

Action: Deltares will put together estimates of bandwidth requirements for synchronization.

Action: Deltares will gather comms statistics from the UK's implementation of region backup

6. FFG

NERFC reported they had secured agreement to pursue ABRFC's approach for FFG. ABRFC will provide support; John Schmidt will be the contact.

NERFC will also need the snow model – John suggested getting in touch with Scott Stockhaus at NCRFC.

As for a national solution (NOHRSC), NERFC prefers to take a local approach first, maybe develop something else later. No firm plan exists so CHPS couldn't rely on it in time for BOC.

Action: NERFC to contact ABRFC for FFG implementation support

Action: NERFC to contact NCRFC for snow/FFG support

7. Set up for NERFC

Karel will visit NERFC the week of July 21st to provide a general overview and introduction.

OCWWS HSD and OHD ITSG can visit NERFC sometime after July 24 to set up and configure their 'pilot' system.

8. Other

From AI 06-2008-25, Micha will travel to Portland on July 28-29 to sit with Pete Fickenscher and Don Laurine and go over 'local' things done during the forecasting process.

Note: Action items from this and all previous meetings will be incorporated into the "ActionItems" document; to be maintained and distributed independently of the minutes.

Next meeting: Thursday 7/3/08.