

## Minutes from CHPS Meeting Thursday August 7, 2008

### Attendees:

ABRFC - Billy Olsen  
CNRFC – Rob Hartman  
NERFC – Ed Capone, Tom Econopouly  
NWRFC – Harold Opitz, Joe Intermill  
NOHRSC – John Halquist  
Deltares – Micha Werner  
OCWWS – Mary Mullusky, Randy Rieman  
OHD – Pedro Restrepo, Chris Dietz, Jon Roe

### Pre-reading:

- none

### 1. IFP meeting.

The meeting in Portland (NWRFC) this week has been going extremely well. The goal is to conduct an in-depth usability analysis and to draft a design for the CHPS users interface which:

1. goes well beyond the current FEWS GUIs seen in our Pilot system;
2. incorporates at least some of the features currently lacking in IFP and has provision for those that are considered essential;
3. minimizes the number of “mouse clicks” made by a forecaster during the course of the forecasting process; and
4. in general better facilitates the RFC’s daily forecasting activities.

Representatives from all 4 CAT RFCs, plus 2 experts from Deltares are participating in this effort.

The participants have discussed an AWIPS/D-2D-like approach for maximizing screen real estate, with multiple interchangeable panels on a single screen, and using more than one monitor at a time (AWIPS has 3-headed monitors). They have also considered using Tabs as a quick and easy way to switch between windows (cf. CAVE perspectives).

Deltares has been producing screen mockups (sometimes ‘on the fly’) as a way to prototype the concepts, and to suggest draft GUI designs. There has been a good deal of give-and-take on both sides. All of the items identified by the CAT and non-CAT RFCs in response to Harold’s poll for information have been addressed. Furthermore the full FEWS (as opposed to just the CHPS Pilot version of FEWS) can already accomplish many of the capabilities requested. FEWS is extremely flexible. Deltares (Erik) is still working on screen mockups.

Regarding MODs interfaces, the CAT RFCs would like to see more real-time interaction with the model states and source data; also the ability to activate/deactivate a MOD.

Question: does anyone use the WEADD MOD? Deltares suggests users can accomplish the

same thing via the WECHNG MOD; so could we eliminate the WEADD? No; NCRFC uses it to artificially adjust levels until the snow melts and the real values kick in. Conclusion: keep the WEADD MOD in CHPS. Deltares can now finalize the list of MODs for JoeG's group.

Can a forecaster easily view upstream and downstream hydrographs? Yes, this is already a capability in FEWS. You can view segment-related plots as well as cross-segment plots.

A side comment: the IFP meetings haven't attempted to address XEFS needs. That's OK because XEFS will introduce a completely new set of needs, and XEFS is not part of BOC. XEFS will be handled separately.

The next step will be to document the outcome from this week's meetings and then map associated activities onto the CHPS implementation schedule. The CAT will review mockups at the September CHPS workshop (although the process will continue to be iterative).

FEWS database output: we don't want a lot of different formats for SHEF output, and we want a layout that's not too complex. Does the particular SHEF format matter? We should pick either .E or .B but not both. Some customers have written their own software programs to process SHEF data; these could break if we switch formats, so we have to be careful. We should provide as much advance notice as possible.

What about XML instead of SHEF? Advantage of SHEF is that a SHEF writer is quick and simple to implement and use. But SHEF doesn't retain metadata, so it's limited. XML is more flexible but you do need a parallel translator on the receiving side. Deltares suggested if we want to go with XML we could use their published interface.

Conclusion: we will provide the option to output data from the FEWS database in SHEF (.E) or XML or both (site configurable).

**Action: Micha to forward MODs information to JoeG (existing action item # 06-2008-90).**

## 2. Next workshop

Confirm that we expect travel days on Sep 29 and Oct 3, with all-day meetings on Sep 30, Oct 1, and Oct 2. NERFC will host. Travel funds will come from FY09 budget not FY08 even though the trip spans fiscal years. Request that the CAT RFCs provide estimates for travel.

FY09 budget activities are just beginning; Chris will include known travel requirements into next year's CHPS proposal.

It was noted that the next workshop will be the last one before acceptance testing in Silver Spring in December, and the January workshop to kick off the start of the migration

activities. In Sept/Oct we should expect to go into some depth on topics not fully addressed yet, such as calibration.

Does NOHRSC need to attend? Although not essential, it would be beneficial if John were there.

**Action: CAT to submit estimates for travel for next CHPS workshop**

### 3. OHD software status report

JoeG is on leave. No update except to report that things continue to proceed on schedule. We're still waiting for some technical information from Deltares.

A side note: Wyle interviewed a candidate for Sudha's replacement yesterday, but we declined. The individual wasn't particularly impressive and had a high price tag. We have a large well-qualified team at the moment, so we can afford to be very selective.

**Action: None**

### 4. NERFC setup

OCWWS HSD/OHD ITSG doesn't see a need to travel to Taunton at this time. They'll provide the necessary disk and documentation, and will walk them through the steps remotely. Does NERFC have RedHat 4 update 2? Unknown.

**Action: NERFC to confirm whether or not they have RH4u2 available.**

### 5. Hardware purchase

Still no insight into how –or even if – the procurement is proceeding. A query received by Larry concerning the Windows version (!) we require seems to indicate that the procurement is active in some fashion.

Is there anything we can do to get more attention devoted to this? Can we go through a different Acquisition Division? No we must go through the one here at HQ. Everyone in this building is in a similar position; NOAA management seems unwilling to address the problems.

We explored what might happen if the hardware isn't purchased in time. We could get by with the existing hardware for a while, but we would subsequently have to go through a repeat installation when the final hardware does show up.

The government must obligate the funds before the last week in September.

**Action: Jon to ask PPC for status (again).**

## 6. Other items

The question of CHPS software distribution to external partners has been discussed a couple of times. A solution is unknown at this point. The same question also applies to AWIPS. Walt Scott recently indicated that OS&T's goal is to have Raytheon become responsible for distribution of all or part of the baseline AWIPS software, upon signature of a non-disclosure agreement. This would be an extension of the Deltares concept "open source, closed community". A point of contact within Raytheon has yet to be identified. Meanwhile, RFC external partners should use Curt Barrett as the primary focal point to acquire hydrologic modeling software.

What is the status of the license between NOAA and Deltares for CHPS? Unknown; Karel will be back next week.

**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 8/14/08.