Processing Ratings Curves from the USGS

Minutes of Conference Call March 21, 2005

Attendees

ABRFC – Billy Olsen and Lee Crowley
CBRFC – Steve Shumate and Brenda Alcorn
LMRFC – Ethan Jolly and Dave Reed
MARFC – Joe Ostrowski and Dave Zanzalari
MBRFC – Gene Derner
NCRFC – Mike Deweese, Dan Luna, and Dan Prokorny
NERFC – Rob Shedd
SERFC – Mark Fuchs
WGRFC – Bob Corby
ERH – Kevin Low
LSX – Scott Dummer
ERH – George McKillop

1. Team Guidelines – Conference calls will last less than an hour. The group will make decisions based on consensus. Goal of the team is to develop a common set of procedures to get ratings form the USGS, prepare them for inclusion in NWSRFS, and then transmit them to the WFOs. Procedures should be flexible enough that offices can run them daily, weekly, or monthly based on their needs. Procedures will eventually be taken over by OCWWS for maintenance and support. We will also provide guidance to the USGS on changes they could make in their system to better support our efforts.

2. Review of current procedures – Scott Dummer provided a briefing on how RUHT works. RUHT uses the UpdateRatings program developed by CBRFC to take ratings the RFC sends to the WFO via the SBN and loads them into IHFS. MBRFC and NCRFC have each written scriptrs and procedures to take the reatings form the NWSRFS and send them to the WFOs. Enhancements to the UpdateRatings program included email notification of the WFO and loading the IHFS database with the date of the last rating update. In CR, WFOs either run the procedures daily or every 6 hours on the cron.

CBRFC accesses the USGS system daily, retrieves the ratings, and stores them in their fastetc database. The ratings are then checked against the current rating in use. If it is an updated rating, the old rating is replaced and the rating in NWSRFS is updated. The USGS rating is extended/extrapolated to the maximum stage recorded using USGS procedures.

MARFC had some questions on RUHT and how it interpolates between rating points. MARFC will contact either Larry Ellis of NCRFC or Julie Meyer of MBRFC.

Processing Rating Curves from the USGS
Minutes of March 21, 2005 Conference call
Page 1 of 2

File:Minutes_032105(dbr 3/21/05)

3. Draft Functional Requirements – A draft of the functional requirements was provided to the team and comments requested. In addition to obtaining USGS ratings, procedures need to be developed to obtain COE ratings where available. CBRFC has already placed the rating curves from the USGS in the archive database. Displaying the measurements from the USGS would be a great benefit to forecasters working on rating curves. Menu systems should not be limited to Tcl/tk. WFOs should have the option of the IHFS database being automatically updated or manually updated. The functional requirements will be modified to incorporate the above comments and sent out with the notes from this call. It was agreed that the team would provide comments on the functional requirements by April 11.

Action Items
3/21/05-1) Provide comments on draft functional requirements by April 11.

4. Review draft project plan – The team generally agreed that we should be able to complete this by the end of the year. They are to provide comments on the draft plan by April 11.

Action Items
3/21/05-2) Provide comments on draft project plan by April 11.

5. Next Steps – After the functional requirements are agreed to, we will then make assignments of work to get tasks done. We hope to make those assignments at the next meeting.

6. Other Discussion – Some RFCs are receiving comments when their discharge values differ from those of the USGS. This is an issue that should be addressed at the regional level. Two regional offices were represented on this call.

7. Next Conference Call – The next conference call will be the week of April 18.

Processing Rating Curves from the USGS
Minutes of March 21, 2005 Conference call
Page 2 of 2
File:Minutes_032105(dbr 3/21/05)