

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. #168 (2/15/06)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Neal DiPasquale, Joe, Palko; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Mike Magsig, Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Shannon White; **Raytheon/Keene**: Dale Hutchinson

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of OB6: We had site ILN perform phase 3 of OB6 yesterday and all went well. We are continuing with the 2 sites per phase per day next week but will go with 3 sites per phase per day the week after next. The Eastern Region asked about new RiverPro templates in OB6. None will be provided so the OB5 ones are still valid. Some of the RiverPro templates on the NOAA1 server will be updated. Kevin Mack of the Hydrologic Services Division at WSH reminded everyone that these templates are never issued as part of a software upgrade but are always placed on the NOAA1 server to be downloaded by the sites. The RiverPro templates are guidance templates only and are put together to meet certain requirements. The sites can tailor these templates to meet their own site requirements.

There was some confusion reported by a few Eastern Region sites concerning the install package sent out by GTSI. Two boxes came with 2 DVDs in each box but there were two different packing slips inside the one box which inferred that there should be a total of 4 disks in that box. There are only supposed to be 2 DVDs in each box and a GTSI spokesman on this call reported that the confusion will be rectified for the shipment of DVDs going out for next week's installs. Only one packing slip per box will be included.

b. Winter Preventive Maintenance (PM) Schedule for Site Ground Stations: The Central Region had reported that some of their sites had problems with the PM recently performed at their sites. Randy Chambers stated that there are three issues with the way Globecom Systems, Inc. (GSI) has performed the winter PM. The first issue is the GSI technician has not given a copy of the checklist to the site ESA after the PM was done. The second issue is the site did not feel the GSI technician did a thorough job, and third, the ESA did not know in advance the details of the PM. The improvements in the PM process will be that GSI will provide in advance a copy of the checklist to the site ESA. Once the checklist has been performed by GSI, the technician will leave a copy at the site. And the third improvement is that if a site is still unhappy with the PM performed by the GSI technician, it can be arranged that a different technician perform the PM duties in the future.

c. Update on Status of Upcoming Hardware Projects: Jami Casamento and Phil Cragg came by to give the group an update on upcoming hardware projects such as the workstation replacement,

Xyplex replacement, LDAD firewall, new printers, etc. Jami sent out a spreadsheet before this meeting titled "AWIP HW Refresh v.2" which shows all the upcoming projects with expected start and completion dates. Only the LDAD firewall replacement is set in stone while the other projects are still in PECP review and their start and completion dates are only approximate guesses.

Concerning the LDAD firewall replacement, Mary Buckingham has added site LWX to the OAT and the site installed their hardware yesterday. We have ended the OAT for the original WFOs and need to determine when to deploy the WFO LDAD firewall. We are holding the RFCs and national centers at this point.

A lot more work needs to be done on the projects in the short term and schedules need to be determined since the ones on the attached spreadsheet are vague at this point in time.

d. OB6 WarnGen Implementation: There have been several WarnGen functionality changes in OB6 and these have affected some of the templates. There is a new workstation practice and test mode, modified quality control checking and templates for segmented Areal Flood Products. We are working to assist the WFOs with implementing these new templates. The SST has written the OB6 WarnGen implementation instructions and it will be issued to the regional focal points in a few days plus posted on several list servers and on the SST web page. These instructions provide operational guidance on implementing the various OB6 WarnGen features and also simplified step-by-step instructions on testing and customizing the OB6 WarnGen templates.

e. HazCollect Issue: There are some complications given how legacy transmission of Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEMs) evolved while HazCollect was under development. These complications result from having a legacy means of transmitting the NWEMs, which sites still have active, and the activation of the AWIPS HazCollect functionality with the deployment of OB6. This results in NWEMs being transmitted twice. Pete Pickard is leading a Tiger Team (which will include field personnel) to provide some options for a way forward regarding the technical issues that have surfaced with the deployments of OB6. Bill Gery (CRH), Greg Noonan (CRH) and Joe Palko (ER) have all volunteered to participate on the Tiger Team. We hope to have a solution for AWIPS that helps legacy EM coordination process continue during deployment, prepares the way for HazCollect to go operational in June, and informs Emergency Managers about the implementation process/schedule and the future of NWEM distribution for the Dept. of Homeland Security and NOAA.

f. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Central Region: All of our sites are scheduled for all phases of OB6.

Eastern Region: Site ILN finished installing phase 3 of OB6 yesterday and all went well. Site RLX had trouble with their DX drive while installing phase 1. They needed to obtain a new one and they gave kudos to the NCF for accommodating them on the schedule.

Pacific Region: What is the status concerning the NMAP issue? Edwin Welles reported that the NCEP folks are having some success in solving the problem and feel that they are on the

right path towards a solution.

Southern Region: We are trying to get all of our sites scheduled for all phases of OB6.

Western Region: All of our sites are scheduled for all phases of OB6. Also, we would like to once again receive the weekly workstation performance reports that are now calculated by Raytheon. Andy Nappi of Raytheon will look to see that Gar Nelson is on the mailing list.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: The beta version of WES 6.0 is ready to go out at the end of this week. We've noticed that some archived grid products are not showing up from older versions of the WES and the WDTB will be working on this problem. Also, FFMP is running approximately three times slower than usual. It was originally thought to be WES only problem. But, it is a baseline bug that will not be fixed until a future release (maybe OB7.2).

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2006. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.**