

## RACC Meeting Minutes No. 176 (6/7/06)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT in Room 3246 on Wednesday, June 7, 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**: Joe Palko, Cindy Scott; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **CRH**: Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **OCWWS**: Shannon White;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
  - a. Status of OB7.1: Almost all operational sites have installed OB6.0. The mod note for OB6.1 was posted on June 2 and is available for all sites at OB6 to install. These installs do not need to be scheduled on the calendar, but must be completed during the NCF's install support hours (8a-5p EDT Mon-Wed, 10a-7p EDT Thursday) since the install will take the system off line. As of this morning, 11 sites have installed OB6.1.

The alpha install of OB7.1 at BCQ revealed a number of installation problems with both the operating system and software upgrade. A meeting was held this past Monday with Raytheon to discuss install strategy and solutions to the known issues. The revised procedure will be evaluated on the WSH test system NMTR early next week. We plan on doing an alpha install at Southern Region Headquarters pending the availability of Eric Howieson and the success of testing at WSH. Our best estimate is that the OB7.1 install will take about 8 hours to accomplish. This does not include the one hour pre-install step which should be done the day before.

b. Scheduling Sites for the HazCollect Activation: The date for the HazCollect activation has been set for August 1. Mike Moss sent out on May 31 to the regional focal points an e-mail stressing the need for sites to begin scheduling their activation using the Oracle calendar. Mike spoke at this conference call re-iterating the need to begin scheduling. The schedule will accommodate several sites per day beginning next week and then by July 1, we will go to 5 sites per day. (The official mod notes will be posted early next week.)

c. Several WarnGen Issues: Several WarnGen issues came up recently that the focal points should be aware of. Shannon White mentioned an event that occurred last week whereby a site could not do a re-transmission of a short duration warning. Instead, the system will send out the same warning as a new warning product and the ETN number increases. This problem began back in OB5 and continues in OB6. We are working with GSD to find a way to re-transmit warnings as sometimes this is necessary. This issue will be brought up at the Short Duration Warning Working Group meeting tomorrow. We hope to resolve this issue soon.

Ashley Kells brought up another recent WarnGen issue that popped up at site RLX. Two separate severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for two different counties on two different

workstations. Given they were issued at the same time, both were assigned the same ETN number. When it came time to do midpoints, the radar operator only could choose one of the warnings. There are so called “collision checks” to make sure the ETN numbers are not the same but they don’t always work as they can time-out. A trouble ticket was issued and the problem will be looked into.

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

Alaska Region: [Phil Mieczynski is back from an official extended leave of absence.] What is the status of the LDAD Firewall Replacement? The response was that it is on schedule and sites are installing at the rate of 5 per day. However, the RFCs have not been approved yet but will be approved soon. Phil stated that AJK began installing phase 1 of OB6 today and should be completed with phase 3 by June 27. Thus, all the Alaska sites will be at OB6 by that date.

We have received 4 additional AWIPS workstations in the region in order to support the IFPS implementation. There is no mod note informing us on how to hook these up. The response was the NCF has a restore procedure for workstations so your sites should contact the NCF when they are ready to add the additional workstations. A question arose on the need to write an RC in order to obtain an IP address. Edwin Welles took the action to find for Phil a contact person here at WSH on this matter.

**ACTION ITEM 176-1: Edwin Welles to find a WSH contact person for Phil Mieczynski concerning how to hook up additional workstations.**

What is the status of the DX3/DX4 installs? Sanford Garrard replied the DX3 and DX4 servers must be installed prior to OB7.1, since the OB7.1 install transfers a number of processes to those new servers. The install at EHU had some problems and Mary Buckingham is incorporating changes to the mod note and will be on site to install the DX3/DX4 at WFO SGX later this week. A mod note should be issued in 3-4 weeks.

What is the status of the LDAD replacement project? Jim Lane replied he is planning on having a conference call with the regions on this matter next Wednesday or Thursday. He is working on an agenda and is incorporating the recent regional comments on the project.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: Will the DX3/DX4 installs need to be scheduled on the Oracle calendar? Sanford replied in the affirmative and stated they he will send out a notice when national implementation is ready to begin.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: We recently received the alpha version of OB7.1. We need the final version of OB6.1. We are working on getting the GFE into the WES.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

**The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 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.**