

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 183 (9/20/06)

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, September 20, 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; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **PRH**: Alan Samori; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **OCWWS**: Shannon White;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of OB7.1: Sites MHX, HUN, and GID installed a beta version of OB7.1 either last week or earlier this week. The SyAT will occur next week. Two WFOs (EAX and CLE) are scheduled on Oct. 2 and Oct. 3, respectively, with the SVR on Oct. 6. National deployment is expected the week of Oct. 16. We plan on installing 3 sites per day but this number could be increased once the DX installs are complete.
 - b. OB7.1 Installation Documentation: We are proposing to have an on-line web version of the installation documentation versus a hard copy that was sent to all sites in the past. The on-line version would include the installation instructions, the release notes and the output files. The FMK that is sent to sites would include only the 2 DVDs and the Linux rescue CD. The documentation would be in printable PDF format and available before sites get their FMK. Would the focal points approve this new change? The consensus was they would be okay with it. A question was asked if the on-line version would also be available on AWIPS. Sanford Garrard responded that it would not and the consensus of the focal points was that only the web version was okay.
 - c. AWIPS Sending Model Data to WSR-88D RPG: A new capability with OB7.2 is that AWIPS can be configured to periodically send to the WSR-88D RPG a small 3D portion of a forecast model which is representative of the radar coverage volume, time, and space. RPG Build 9 only supports ingest of the RUC model, however AWIPS can be configured to send other models to it for future RPG builds. Mike Istok asked what other model types should we add in the future? This information is especially needed for the OCONUS sites that do not get the RUC model. GSD put together a list of models most likely to be used by the various OCONUS sites and this list was sent to all the Alaska and Pacific regions yesterday. Mike would like feedback from the OCONUS sites by early October, if possible.
 - d. Questions about the Replacement Printers: Should we obtain the toner cartridges from NLSC or purchase ourselves and put on the government visa card and charge it to the AWIPS program? Jim stated that all supplies for the printers, including toner cartridges and paper, should be charged to the local office as supplies, the same as they would for admin printer supplies.

For the 5 yr. warranty on both printers, do we call Dell for any problems or troubleshoot

ourselves first and then order a replacement from NLSC? Can we dispose of the 3 orange protective covers removed from the new color printer? Jim stated that sites will troubleshoot printer problems. If it is determined that the printer is defective, sites will order a new printer from NLSC and ship the defective unit back to NRC. NRC will initiate the warranty process for repair. Also, sites can dispose of the 3 protective covers removed from the new color printer.

Can sites dispose the old printer? Jim responded that the old printers need to be removed from the AWIPS network and cannot have an IP address. However, the sites can choose to keep the old printers for non AWIPS purposes and can keep them on the site property inventory list.

Do we add both printers to the personal property system, giving each printer its' own CD barcode label? Yes! These printers will need to be added to personal property via Sunflower at each office. Any questions regarding how to accomplish this should be directed to the office or regional property custodians. If there is information necessary, such as Purchase Order/Contract Order/Value, to complete the documentation, the regional property custodians will need to contact NWSHQ personnel.

Jim Lane was asked about the status of the upcoming hardware projects. The CPSBNs are not on a fast track. We will be evaluating the proposed schedules soon but no firm dates have been set. Concerning the new LX workstations, we are a month away from doing an OAT. For the LDAD server, we are looking at full deployment next summer but this will likely slip as it's tied in with OB8.1.

e. Remedy on the Web: All regions can now access the Remedy on the web site as provided a few weeks ago. On Sept. 21, all field sites will have the same access as instructions will be sent out to all sites with the web address. The sites will also be given a Point of Contact if they have trouble accessing the Remedy system via the web. Lynn Edwards and Randy Chambers stated that this is a work in progress and would appreciate the field's and region's feedback and comments.

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

Alaska Region: We ingest Mesonet data and some of it has specific information but when it gets into AWIPS and gets decoded, the current CDL files don't work properly. Can we change the baseline CDL files to make this work? The group could not answer Phil's question and Wayne Martin suggested that Phil call in a trouble ticket with the NCF, so a solution could be worked out through official channels.

Also, the SAFESEAS program monitors the coastal marine zones and not the offshore zones which the Region has responsibility for. How can we go about getting this problem fixed? The group suggested that the Region go through OSIP.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: Site MHX installed a beta version of OB7.1. The river monitor would not start and the solution will be added to the post install instructions.

Pacific Region: Can we dispose of the HP server manuals? Wayne Martin suggested keeping at least one copy as sites still will have the HP DS and LDAD servers.

Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

Western Region: We sent to the RACC moderator a 2002 listing of software CDs that are needed to maintain an AWIPS system. This list was last updated by NGIT a few years ago. Can we get an update on this listing? Jim Stenpeck responded that the list was forwarded to Edwin Welles who is taking the action item to work with Raytheon to obtain a more current listing.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4, 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.