

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 191 (1/17/07)

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, January 17, 2007, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.
2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations outside of Silver Spring) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Joe Palko; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Gar Nelson, Carl Gorski, Scott Dummer; **CRH**: Bill Gery; **ARH**: Duane Carpenter, Phil Mieczynski, Scott Lindsey; **PRH**: Bill Ward; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker; **NRC**: Jeff Sickles; **Forecast Decision Training Branch**: Shannon White; **OS Hydro Services**: Frank Richards
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of AWIPS OB7.2 Testing: The System Verification Review (SVR) meeting was conducted on Friday, Jan. 12 at which it was determined that the release is ready for national deployment, with one contingency, that a fix for the defect documented in the Discrepancy Report 18437 [IFP Halts out of range values] be provided. Raytheon has agreed to include the fix for this defect in the final version of the software that will be deployed nationally beginning on January 29.

Two additional fixes for the following Discrepancy Reports will be included in the final OB7.2 software, 18405 – *GFE: FWS Formatter fails when single quote is entered* and 18429 – *OB7.2: AWIPS Users are unable to change their passwords*. Stowe Davison is working on a solution for the defect documented in NCF TT #278027 issue which was reported at VRH – *Problem with ARD at CWSU after OB7.2 upgrade*.

The next AWIPS OB7.2 Beta Teleconference will be held on Monday, January 22. The final AWIPS OB7.2 Beta Teleconference, a Lessons Learned meeting is scheduled for January 29 to discuss what went well for the OB7.2 Alpha and Beta Testing Phases, and also to make recommendations for improvements for future release testing.

The recent test for the Tropical Cyclone VTEC (TCV) product conducted at OB7.2 Beta Site WFO CAR was successful. The Tropical Prediction Center issued four test tropical cyclone products to start and cancel watches and warnings, which were received and processed at CAR. The forecasters were able to use the AWIPS software to include test watch and warning VTEC in their locally disseminated test Coastal Waters Forecast (CWF), Zone Forecast (ZFP), and the Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory (NPW) products. One potential AWIPS issue was identified during the test relating to the ZFP ending time of the event that is included in the tropical cyclone headline. The Tropical Program Manager is investigating the policy aspects for these headlines, and in the interim, a fix is proposed for inclusion in the AWIPS OB7.2 Maintenance Release, OB7.2.1.

The OB7.2 phase of the SMM pilot project will begin when the final version of the SMM is posted to the One Stop web page. We will send an email to the regional focal points with the change request form for site representatives to use for requesting changes to the SMM document. During this phase, recommendations for changes are acceptable until June 12, just prior to the SVR for OB8.1.

Karen Tepera of Raytheon mentioned that the F6 climate emergency release will be deployed from January 22-26 and will be pushed to all sites by the NCF. No action needs to be taken by the sites.

b. Trouble Ticket Priority/Trouble Ticket Surveys: Wayne Martin gave a briefing on the trouble ticket classification and the resulting surveys and referenced the Power Point file titled "Trouble ticket classification and surveys." Basically, the trouble tickets are classified in four categories ranging from critical to low. A site when calling in a trouble ticket should state the severity of the problem and if severe weather is occurring or maybe is expected to occur. The impending severe weather could increase the severity of the problem and quicker action by NCF and ASM could be taken. Also, Wayne stressed that in the follow up survey e-mailed back to the originator of the elevated trouble ticket, the survey responses should include not only the NCF's response to the trouble ticket, but also the actions of ASM. It is important for each office to provide a complete and objective assessment process that was used to resolve the trouble ticket so that Raytheon can determine if the process can be improved.

c. DS Decommissioning and Impact on GIS functions at RFCs: There is a problem with migrating the ArcView software from the DSs to the DXs at the RFC sites. ESRI will not support ArcView to run on a Linux box. A meeting was held on Tuesday to discuss this situation and many solutions were presented. Several solutions have been presented so far:

- Allow the RFCs to continue to run ArcView on the DSs (HP-UX boxes) until AWIPS 2 has been implemented
- Allow the RFCs to migrate the ESRI license to the HP-UX Workstations
- Allow the RFCs to migrate the ESRI license to Windows Workstations

We are working with Edwin Welles (and others) to put together a matrix of the above options with their pluses and minuses and impacts. We are seeking feedback from the RFCs and plan on presenting the above options (and possibly additional options) at the next RACC call in two weeks for a formal review.

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

Alaska Region: The Juneau and Anchorage offices had an IFPS service backup issue today and after a few frantic phone calls to the NCF and to James Washington, the problem was resolved. We've had problems with the FXNet boxes and getting data off the network. Since this is not part of the baseline system, we cannot ask for help from Raytheon. After some discussion, a contact person in the Southern Region was suggested for Phil to get a hold of to assist him. We have had recent problems with our METAR decoder and after some discussion, it was suggested that a call be made to the NCF to get a trouble ticket opened.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: While in service backup, there is a problem with sites receiving IFPS grids. Sites have reported calling the NCF and they solve the problem immediately without writing up a trouble ticket. Shannon White suggested the need for a trouble ticket to be opened up. James Washington suggested that Shannon send any pertinent information on this problem to him and Shevy Greene and they could open up a trouble ticket on the problem.

Pacific Region: We would like to see the trouble ticket surveys that our sites fill out and send back to the NCF. James Washington suggested that the sites also cc the regional focal point when returning the surveys.

Southern Region: We have a problem on our headquarters system with burning CDs. Site OUN has also reported a problem in OB7.1 with burning copies of a DVD. Bill Ward chimed in that he noticed the problem recently on their system. It was suggested that we call in a trouble ticket.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

Warning Decision Training Branch: The WES 7.2 DVD is complete and will be shipped to all WFOs and RFCs tomorrow.

NRC: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2007. 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.