

RACC Meeting Minutes No. 221 (April 2, 2008)

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, April 2, 2008, 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**: Joshua Watson; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sheila Deiotte; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan, and guests Sanford Garrard and James Morris; **ARH**: Joe Rubel; **GSD**: Joanne Edwards; **NWSTC**: Randy Schupbach, Jim Totusek, Heather Galan;
3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:
 - a. Status of Beta Testing OB8.3 (Frank Lucadamo): The WFO Boulder, CO (BOU) completed their install earlier today in a little less than 3 hours. The installation went very well but a few operational issues were discovered with handleOUP and GFE after the install was complete. There are 3 WFOs and 1 RFC scheduled next week to install OB8.3. There will be a beta OB8.3 teleconference call next Monday (April 7) to review open issues and provide information on upcoming releases and updates.
 - b. Status of Upcoming Software Releases (Karen Tepera): There are 73 sites that have installed OB8.2.1. Requirements for OB9 continue to be reviewed. Concerning the WFO DS software decommissioning, only 3 WFOs are left to decommission. The LDAD server replacement project has 33 sites off the old HP and onto the new Linux servers.
 - c. Status of Small basin download and Installation – Tier 1 (Mary Mullusky): The FFMPA shapefile download and processing instructions have been posted on NSSL's public web page: http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/basins/basin_instr_public/. A link to these instructions will be placed on the AWIPS installation web site. Sanford Garrard of the WSH Install Team took the action to add this link to the installation web page. Approximately 17 WFOs have completed the tier 1 installation. Ami Arthur will host a follow up webinar scheduled for April 23, 2008, at 2PM EDT. Announcements will be made across the FFMP list server and through the Region's Hydrological Services Divisions. Jim Stenpeck took the action to make the announcement for distribution to the RACC mailing list. **[Editor's note: action completed.]**
 - d. WarnGen and D2D Slowdown Issues (Wayne Martin): Wayne briefed the group using a Power Point file which is attached to these minutes and is titled "WarnGen Slowdowns." To summarize Wayne's briefing, over the past couple months some WFOs have reported that WarnGen and D2D appear to run slowly when the WFO is in severe weather operations. The WFOs have opened NCF trouble tickets to report the problem. For the past month, a group from Raytheon and the NWS has been discussing these slowdowns and possible reasons for this. The NWS and Raytheon would like to install diagnostic software at a few WFOs that are likely to experience severe weather over the next month. We are preparing an AWIPS ATAN to authorize this testing. We are looking for up to 8 WFOs to participate in this test. We are

requesting that the Regional Focal Points ask for volunteer WFO systems to participate in the ATAN. Because we would like WFOs that are likely to experience severe weather in the next month, the likely candidates would come from the Central and Southern Regions. Please submit your candidates to Wayne Martin and we are hoping to have most of the candidates selected by April 8. The NWS/Raytheon will install the diagnostic software at the test sites and monitor performance at these sites.

e. Monitor Replacement Concept (Jim Lane): Jim Lane assumes all the offices have new operational monitors unless he is told otherwise. He stated the government has a backfill of 17 spare monitors at NLSC. We are going to purchase between 100-150 temporary monitors to serve as replacements for text and/or graphic workstations. We should be okay until we do a monitor refresh buy in the FY09-FY10 timeframe.

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

Olga Brown-Leigh: Concerning the latest status of the new firewall policy, several regional comments have been received and I have forwarded them to John England-Gordon of the CIO office. John understands the concerns of the ability to view logs and he is revising the policy to include verbiage to reflect this fact. If the other regions have any comments, please send them ASAP to Olga and she will forward them to John England-Gordon.

Alaska Region: All of our sites are on Mode B for the LDAD server replacement project.

Central Region: nothing significant to report.

Eastern Region: We installed beta OB8.3 on our headquarters' system last Thursday (March 27). A few scripts hung up during the installation but they were rectified immediately. The software has been running okay since.

Southern Region: We had several D2D pane hangs yesterday after the latest delta install of OB8.3. We will closely monitor the situation. What can we do with an old HP external CD-ROM device? Jim Lane responded that we could dispose of it locally.

Western Region: nothing significant to report.

GSD: nothing significant to report.

NWSTC: We sent all of our concerns about the new firewall policy to Olga Brown-Leigh who will in turn forward them to John Gordon. These concerns were more than viewing logs. Can we get the NCF questions to a site about their WarnGen slowdowns so we can present them at our classes? (See Wayne Martin's briefing above.) Kevin Johnson of the NCF took the action item to send the Training Center the questions that the NCF will ask a site when they have WarnGen or D2D slowdowns.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2008. If you know of any agenda

items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Frank Lucadamo. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.