

## Minutes from CHPS CAT-2 Meeting Tuesday November 23, 2010

### Attendees:

CAT: ABRFC, CNRFC, NERFC, NWRFC

CAT-2: APRFC, CBRFC, LMRFC, MARFC, MBRFC, NCRFC, OHRFC, SERFC [WGRFC absent]

Deltares – Edwin Welles

OCWS HSD – Mark Glaudemans, Randy Rieman

OHD – Jon Roe, Chris Brunner, Lee Cajina

### Pre-reading:

- None

### 1. Review Migration Progress

Each RFC submitted responses to the “milestones” questionnaire earlier in the month. Chris has begun to put together a Gantt chart to help track progress.

In general all RFCs appear to be on track.

#### Milestone 1: All basins migrated and uploaded to the Live system

- APRFC, CBRFC, LMRFC, OHRFC, SERFC - already complete.
- New: MARFC has now completed uploading all basins to the live system and is saving states.
- MBRFC, NCRFC, and WGRFC expect to be complete by the end of December.

#### Milestone 2: CHPS Forecaster Training

- NCRFC, CBRFC, and APRFC have completed training
- Coming up next: SERFC, LMRFC

#### Milestone 3: Advanced CHPS Configuration Training

- Scheduled for next February. See agenda item on this topic below.

#### Milestone 4: ESP migrated and uploaded to the Live system

- APRFC has been running Ens for a while; we are mostly set up.
- CBRFC is running one segment; we are playing with different types of runs.
- MBRFC has not started yet; we expect to begin in the next few weeks.
- NCRFC has assigned someone to the task; we have begun discussions with our buddy (CNRFC).

#### Milestone 5: FFH/FFG migrated and uploaded to the Live system

- Lee explained the procedure is to describe zones first, then configure the polygons.xml; Lee’s group can assist anyone with the second step but unfortunately can’t help the RFCs define their own zones. Ai Vo is the lead. NERFC has also completed this step successfully and is a potential resource.
- HSEB has developed a migration script, but rather than ship out the script and expect RFCs to do everything alone we decided to help RFCs develop individual configurations. This has the advantage of training HSEB developers as well as relieving RFCs of the burden.

- OHRFC is experiencing a basin definition issue – they’re not matching what’s in the polygons.xml file; OHRFC is finding errors in their current definitions.
- LMRFC: everything is prepped and ready.
- MBRFC has not started yet. They should get their forecast locations migrated and producing states before tackling FFG/FFH. However, they might consider taking an incremental approach – forecast group by forecast group.

#### Milestone 6: HEC-RAS models migrated and uploaded to the Live system

- HSMB/Seann Reed’s group is actively helping RFCs with their HEC-RAS configurations. HSEB has assigned someone to help train Alfonso (new to Seann’s group) starting next Monday.
- Training is scheduled for February; it will be hosted by LMRFC. Classes can accommodate 2 people per RFC (all 13 RFCs) but NSTEP training funds will only pay for 1 of those. [CHPS did not budget any funds for this training.] The class might have a slight CHPS slant but is geared towards advanced HEC-RAS topics independent of CHPS. Attendees must already have basic knowledge/experience with HEC-RAS, and a good understanding of hydraulics.
- Some CHPS-oriented HEC-RAS documentation (e.g., how to configure HEC-RAS in CHPS) is on OCWWS HSD’s RFC Support web page.

#### Milestone 7: Completed hydrologic validation

- OHRFC has not begun this yet but isn’t sure the best way to do it. We are familiar with the different CAT approaches and have been talking with NERFC. NERFC will be at OHRFC’s Forecaster Training in January, but probably won’t have time for a buddy visit before then.
- NCRFC has not begun this yet as they have been focusing on the migration. Validation will probably be done in a couple of phases. The first cut will be comparisons between runs through OFS versus FEWS. We are pulling RFS time series into FEWS to view them. Do the CATs have any tips? CNRFC did ‘batch’ runs pushing 10 years of forcings through the system – they can provide some background on their approach.

#### Milestone 8: Enter parallel operations (running CHPS regularly and maintaining states)

- CAT-2 RFCs may not yet fully appreciate what this means to them so can’t be expected to plan completely. The term parallel operations meant different things to each CAT in the beginning; then the meaning evolved differently as each CAT progressed through the process. It will become clearer as the migration progresses.
- In general all CAT-2 RFCs expect to enter into parallel operations somewhere between January and June of 2011.

#### Milestone 9: Issue RVFs live from CHPS

- This milestone also varies considerably across RFCs. Obviously RFCs can’t issue live RVFs from CHPS without being in parallel operations first.
- Target dates range from April/May 2011 to December 2011, with NCRFC expecting to issue live RVFs in January 2012.
- HSEB is trying to balance the expectations (and pressure) from NWS senior management for all RFCs to go operational on CHPS by the end of FY11 against the recognition that it must be an entirely local decision and can’t be rushed. The term “operational on CHPS” is not clear and might mean entering into parallel operations. In any case, HSEB and Deltares will jointly do

whatever is needed to help RFCs reach the ultimate goal of using CHPS for their primary operations.

#### Milestone 10: Forcings without OFS pre-processors

- SERFC's questionnaire reads "Unknown" – Chris isn't sure what this means.... She will ask Judi later.

#### Milestone 11: Retiring OFS from your operations

- RFCs can continue to run OFS as long as they choose, but there will come a point where they cannot expect to get any operational support for OFS-related issues.
- Some RFCs will continue to use NWSRFS as their backup.
- How do you get new segments into CHPS without having a CHPS-based calibration tool? HSEB will work closely with Deltares to develop a configuration using capabilities already in FEWS; then HSEB will conduct a demonstration to the CAT (in December or January) to showcase what Deltares believes will be an 80- 90% solution for calibration. (HSEB could demonstrate the same to the CAT-2 RFCs.) Some RFCs might choose to accept this as an early implementation. Then HSEB will work with the CAT to define preliminary requirements to expand the capabilities – it is easiest to work with a small number of RFCs first rather than opening up everything to all. HSEB agreed that if any CAT RFC declines to participate, then APRFC will be substituted.

#### 2. Rating Curve Mods volunteer

This is the final opportunity for a second RFC to participate in the requirements definition and testing of a new Mods interface for Rating Curves. The only RFC who has provided names is NCRFC. No other RFC has indicated they will use this feature.

#### 3. Advanced Configuration Training

The class is 4 ½ days. There are 2 classes – one the week of Feb 28, the other the week of Mar 7.

We are looking for locations. It needs to be at an RFC. The target RFC doesn't need to have the chps 4/5/6 installed – a single instance of the online system is enough.

- a. Suggestion included LMRFC; the issue is that Mardi Gras is expected to run from Feb 26 through Mar 8. Securing hotel rooms will be difficult. It's unwise to go with this option. Chris will ask WGRFC if they are willing to host the Feb 28 class.
- b. Suggestion also included CBRFC – they agreed to host. They prefer to take the week of March 7.

CHPS will pay for 2 people per CAT-2 RFC to attend. Depending on the size of the classes, there could be room for extras – e.g., if some RFCs don't send 2 people. For each class there will be 4 trainers (2 from Deltares, 2 from CAT RFCs), 2 people for half of the CAT-2 RFCs, at least one from NWSTC, one from OCWWS HSD (Support), and possibly one or two from OHD.

The host RFC will need to provide access to 4 or 5 workstations.

It isn't effective to conduct this training as a GoToMeeting/webinar; it is hands-on in nature.

In the coming months the NWSTC will develop a basic CHPS introductory course, probably in the form of web-based modules or webinars.

4. October release

- a. The fix for Res-J (required at MBRFC and WGRFC) is included in an upcoming patch. HSEB will release a combined FEWS + OHD patch to the CAT RFCs next Monday; it will be made available to the CAT-2 RFCs on December 6. Note Any RFC which has not already installed the October release should do so in the next week. It is a pre-requisite for the upcoming patch. NCRFC is in the process of installing it this week; Randy Rieman has been of great help.

5. Other

- a. Buddy visits: Chris included line items in the FY11 CHPS budget for 2 buddy visits per CAT-II RFC – so CHPS will pay for (e.g.) NERFC to send one person to visit both OHRFC and MARFC twice during the year.
- b. Hardware installations (chps 4/5/6): AWIPS(?) has imposed a moratorium on all hardware installations after December 10. This is independent of the CHPS hardware, which receives support from HSD. The RC for adding hardware to the AWIPS network has recently been approved; a Mod Note is available. RandyR will provide everyone with more information - CAT-II RFCs should refrain from doing anything with their systems until they hear from him; LMRFC will hold off their hardware installation until after their Forecaster Training.
- c. MBRFC is interested in the approach for creating future temperature forcings. They will probably use monthly PRISM. The CAT addressed it in a few different ways. It can be done in CHPS but that could cause resource problems; so NWRFC creates the mean values outside CHPS using ESPADP. MBRFC will contact Ray at NWRFC for more detail and a look at the NWRFC configuration.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday December 7, 2010.