



**Minutes, APMC 08-1
ASOS Program Management Committee
February 12, 2008**

1. Convened - 9:00 AM

A meeting of the ASOS Program Management Committee (APMC) was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in National Weather Service (NWS) Headquarters, Room 16246.

Members Participating:

Chair - John Van Kuren, NWS
Alternate - Joseph Facundo, NWS
ASOS PI - John Monte, NWS
DOC - John Hahn, NWS
- Kevin Schrab, NWS
- James Heil, NWS (Alternate)
DOD - Mike Neith, Navy
- Timothy Kimbrell, Navy (Alternate)
- Tony Lute, USAF (Alternate)
DOT - Richard Simmons, FAA (Alternate)
Ex. Sec. - Deborah Lavine, NWS

Advisors and guests included: Peggy Hoch, Greg Dalyai, Don Rinker, Kevin Conaty, David Mannarano, Hak Kim, Richard Thomas, Jerald Dinges and Rob Erickson from the DOC, Bing Huang, Vaughn Yates, Jerry Kranz, Raymond Bahavar, and David Gorman from the DOT and, Wayne Knight from the DOD.

2. Opening Remarks and Previous Minutes:

John Van Kuren welcomed the participants. The minutes from the last meeting (June 12, 2007) were reviewed and ratified. John Van Kuren reported that, for FY 09, the \$500 thousand requested for ASOS Sustainment, has recently been increased to \$700 thousand dollars. The \$5 million request for FY 2010 is still in tact.

3. ASOS Configuration Control Board (ACCB) Status Report

Joe Facundo (NWS) provided information on issues or concerns arising from the ASOS CCB.

4. ASOS Operations Status Report

Greg Dalyai (NWS) provided information on the status and performance of ASOS operations and maintenance. Dalyai also briefed the APMC on (1) the proposed thin client emulator, (2) the

status of the backup power installations from the Katrina supplemental, and (3) an update on parts obsolescence. Slides are attached.

Action Item 08-1.1 Dalyai: Provide the PMC with the definition of “lifetime buy” used in the ASOS sustainment section of the ASOS Maintenance Briefing.

Action Item 08-1.2 Dalyai: Provide Wayne Knight with the RFP for the back-up power system being procured for ASOS.

Action Item 08-1.3 Dalyai: Once vendor quotes are received, forward the numbers to FAA and DOD.

Action Item 08-1.4 Kimbrell and Leute: Inform Greg Dalyai of whether or not their agencies will participate in the lifetime buy of ACU processor boards.

5. Product Improvement (PI) Program Status Briefing

John Monte (NWS) provided the status of ASOS Product Improvement activities including (1) the plan for the new Enhance Precipitation Identifier (EPI) effort, including the revision of requirements established in the previous solicitation, (2) an update on the replacement ceilometer, and (3) an update on the All Weather Precipitation Gauge (AWPG) windscreen. Slides are attached.

Actions Item 08-1.5 Monte: Provide an electronic copy of the EPI 'lessons learned' paper to the APMC membership. (Action was completed 2/14/08.)

Actions Item 08-1.6 Monte: When available, distribute new EPI specification and statement of work to all agencies for review and comment.

6. Ice Free Wind (IFW) Sensor Status Report

Dave Mannarano (NWS) provided an update on the status and issues associated with the IFW sensor. Mr. Mannarano explain that the bird perch device will only be employed at non-FAA locations, and the bird abatement device may be available as early as June, pending testing. NWS has developed a project plan for resolving IFW issues which as been coordinated at the staff level of the tri-agencies. Included are testing of bird perch and bird abatement devices as well as changes to the software and to the IFW algorithms. In mid-June a decision will be made as to whether or not to deploy the bird abatement device at sites not included in the test that is now underway.

7. ASOS System and Operation Testing Information & Discussion

Jerry Dinges briefed the PMC on planned improvements to systems testing and operational testing, including a recommendation to re-establish the ASOS Test Review Board (TRB), to ensure the PMC gets an independent assessment of the adequacy of testing and test results during the testing process prior to deployment. The TRB would include representatives from each agency and an outside expert. In addition, Mr. Dinges announced there would be a tri-agency workshop to comprehensively examine ASOS testing, recommend further improvements, and begin assembly of a charter for the TRB. Slides are attached.

Action Item 08-1.7 All PMC members: Designate representatives to the ASOS Test Workshop scheduled at the Sterling Research and Development Center in Sterling, VA. (Completed)

8. Information Technology (IT) Security Information & Discussion

Jim McNitt (NWS) briefed the APMC on IT security issues and the Joint Certification and Accreditation processes. A key element is acquiring funding for the software development required to implement the security capabilities. Mr. Van Kuren pointed out that this is an item never really considered when the agencies developed their operations and maintenance budgets. Yet it is a must-pay bill. Slides are attached.

Action Item 08-1.8 McNitt: Provide revised Security Requests for Change to the tri-agencies.

Action Item 08-1.9 Hoch: Provide PMC members with the per-system cost for the security upgrades.

Action Item 08-1.10 PMC members: Identify funding for security upgrades.

9. ASOS Software Development Status Briefing and Discussion

Peggy Hoch (NWS) provided a presentation to the APMC on software loads and impacts. Slides are attached.

10. Sterling Construction Status Report

NWS/OPS2 Joe Facundo briefed the APMC on the status of the Sterling, VA construction, and the impact on ASOS. The project includes moving test beds as well as construction of a new observation building.

11. Future Sustainment and Product Improvement Working Group Status

Rich Thomas (NWS) presented the Improvement Working Group's proposed Project Plan for APMC review and endorsement, including assessment of the effort required to utilize the FAA Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) as a platform for ASOS sustainment. Slides are attached.

Action Item 08-1.11 Van Kuren, Simmons/Thoma, Leute, and Kimbrell: Determine what funding mechanisms are required for the Acquisition Control Unit and Data Collection Platform Replacement.

Action Item 08-1.12 PMC members: Per the Acquisition Control Unit (ACU) /Data Collection Package (DCP) Replacement Project Plan distributed to PMC members on February 7, 2008, name members to the project teams identified on p. 29 to 31 of the Plan. **By March 31, 2008, name members to the overall Project Management Team.**

12. Next Generation Air Transportation (NGAT) System Information & Discussion

Bing Huang briefed the APMC on the value of the ASOS 1-minute data to the NGAT as it strengthens the case for sustainment. Slide is attached.

13. Old Business

Mr. Van Kuren asked for updates on the following old business items. PLEASE PROVIDE THE UPDATES BY MARCH 31, 2008.

- APMC 04-2.2 Monte: Submit a Request for Change (RC) for the AWPAG frog intrusion prevention basket. NEW 12/7/04; PENDING 04/12/05; drawings are due next week PENDING 11/15/05; PENDING 06/27/06; the vendor proposed design is under evaluation. PENDING 6/12/07
- APMC 05-1.7 All APMC Members: Provide names for membership in an ad hoc group to develop a list of ASOS redeployment sites for adjudication. Mr. Mannarano will be the

interim chair. NEW 04/12/05; The APMC should oversee redeployment. PENDING 06/12/07

- APMC 06-1.3 Leute: Provide the USAF response to the Product Improvement Manager confirming the USAF schedule of processors and dewpoint sensors. NEW 06/27/06; PENDING 06/12/07
- APMC 06-2.2 Hoch: NWS (OPS23) is to proceed with an analysis of converting the ASOS software from pSOS to Linux. This will provide more detailed information useful for future PMC decisions. NEW 12/12/06; PENDING 06/12/07
- APMC 06-2.4 Thoma: The FAA is to investigate taking the lead on a cross-agency task group to identify a new communications architecture for ASOS. Initially, the group should examine capabilities already in place. Final planning will depend upon data accessibility requirements from the integrated work team. NEW 12/12/06; PENDING 06/12/07

<p>14. Next APMC Meeting Date: The next meeting of the APMC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in NWS Headquarters, Room 16246.</p>

15. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

16. Executive Session:

- AWOS as the basis for ACU and DCP sustainment.
 - Van Kuren - Is AWOS the direction we want to go for ACU and DCP sustainment? The PMC members reaffirmed that the FAA AWOS effort would form the basis for ACU and DCP sustainment.
 - Kimbrell – Navy has training and security concerns. It was agreed that these issues will need some close attention by the appropriate working groups as defined in the draft Project Plan.
 - Kimbrell – Is now a good time for a rewritten ASOS Site Technical Manual? It was agreed that this would be done as part of the ACP/DCU effort.
 - Van Kuren – We need to make sure the current MOUs provide the authority to fund this project—if not, we will need to develop the appropriate documentation.
- Security Improvements:
 - Van Kuren - We need to find funding for these improvements. The O&M budget continually has gotten tighter, and these were items never considered when the O&M budget was formulated.
 - Van Kuren asked each PMC member to look for money for security funding in '09.
 - There is NO money allocated in 2008. If we can find the \$50K in RC 10577 (approved, pending funding), we may be able to retain the key staff at the software contractor into early FY 09 so that they can complete the security upgrade if the tri-agencies can make the balance of the required funding for these upgrades available early in FY 09.
 - The plan is to seek approval of all of the security RCs in March.

New Action Items, 2/12/08 PMC

08-1.1 Dalyai: Provide the PMC with the definition of “lifetime buy” used in the ASOS sustainment section of the ASOS Maintenance Briefing.

08-1.2 Dalyai: When the “lifetime buy” vendor quotes are received, pass the information on to FAA and DOD.

08-1.3 Kimbrell and Leute: Inform Greg Dalyai of whether or not their agencies will participate in the lifetime buy of ACU processor boards.

08-1.4 Dalyai: Provide Wayne Knight with the RFP for the back-up power system being procured for ASOS.

08-1.5 Monte: Send the EPI Lessons Learned paper to the PMC members.

08-1.6 Monte: When available, distribute new EPI specification and statement of work to all agencies for review and comment.

08-1.7 All APMC members: Designate representatives to the ASOS Test Workshop scheduled for February 28 at the Sterling Research and Development Center in Sterling, VA.

08-1.8 McNitt: Provide revised Security Requests for Change to the tri-agencies.

08-1.9 Hoch: Provide PMC members with the per-system cost for the security upgrades.

08-1.10 Van Kuren, Schrab, Hahn, Simmons/Thoma, Leute and Kimbrell: Identify funding for security upgrades.

08-1.11 Van Kuren, Simmons/Thoma, Leute, and Kimbrell: Determine what funding mechanisms are required for the Acquisition Control Unit and Data Collection Platform Replacement.

08-1.12 PMC members: Per the Acquisition Control Unit/Data Collection Platform Replacement Project Plan distributed to PMC members on February 7, name members to the project teams identified on pp. 29 to 31 of the Plan.