

**NFUSE Steering Team
February 27, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

Bob Ryan
Paul Hirschberg
Doug Hilderbrand
Cindy Woods
Sam Contorno
Andrea Bleistein
Dave Novak
James Partain
Leroy Spayd
John Sokich
Lee Anderson
Suzanne Lenihan
Robert E. Livezey
Zoltan Toth
Jason Tuell
Ken Waters
Kenneth Johnson
Harry Glahn
Sreela Nandi
Francis Richards
Mary Mullusky
David Myrick
Aimee Devaris
Lewis Kozlosky

Topics and Summary:

- 1) Approval of Minutes
- 2) Action Item Review
 - Feb 14 meeting minutes approved
 - Review of Existing Action Items
 - All current NFUSE documents approved subject to further review as needed
 - Action to provide Doug Hilderbrand with list of current uncertainty forecast (UF) related activities **still open**
 - Only OHD has supplied a list
 - Compiling such a list is important. It will enable Team to:
 - ◆ Corporately leverage existing activities and ideas
 - ◆ Understand gaps and argue for resources
 - ◆ Communicate with leadership about what we are currently doing

- Hirschberg will be briefing Team TOR etc. to Ops. Comm. in March

3) Announcements

- Andrea Bleistein has joined OST staff and will function as Exec. Sec. for Team.
- New NFUSE e-mail list established
- Bulletin Board established
- Web site coming

4) Bob Ryan (NBC 4 in Washington D.C.) review of the 2006 NRC Report, "Completing the Forecast. Characterizing and Communicating Uncertainty for Better Decisions Using Weather and Climate Forecasts." Bob was member of committee authoring report.

• Major Points from Study:

- Focus of study was on both the needs of the end user and the forecaster
 - James Partain (AR) commented that he thought report focused more on needs of end user than forecaster.
- There is a need to better understand psychology for how decisions are made
- Over time weather enterprise has lost sight of inherent uncertainty even though we've made great advances from analog to numerical to digital forecasts

• Overview of Report's 9 recommendations:

- Recognize NWS as the lead
- There is a need to design products from the ground up involving behavioral/social scientists
 - How are certain words interpreted?
 - Probable vs. possible vs. tossup
 - How should images be arranged for interpretation?
- Effective communication
 - The utilization of the NWS AFD was found to be high
 - Should we make AFD easier to understand for all users?
- Testbeds
 - How can decision makers/public tell us how useful a product is?
 - How confident is the forecaster writing the forecast discussion?
 - Does forecaster know the uncertainty before issuing uncertainty forecast?
 - Forecasters are users of models too
 - The modelers should involve forecasters in development
 - Can testbeds lead to funding initiatives to better serve forecaster?
- Get probabilistic information to forecasters

• General Discussion:

- Survey (NBC viewing public users):
 - Would probabilistic information in forecasts be useful?
 - Answer: YES!
- Are "we" overpromising and underdelivering by not issuing more probabilistic forecasts?
- What would be initial steps for involving the users and for developing partnerships?

- Bring in the AMS
- The Weather Coalition
- WAS*IS
- What guidance tools and products should be considered?
 - The Product Generation Process
 - Bring in the experts first!
 - Social/behavioral scientists
 - Survey users for what they want, not necessarily for how useful a current product is
 - Should there be a confidence factor tool?
 - When should “we” stop issuing daily deterministic forecasts at day 7 or 10? Even probabilistic forecasts at day 14 may be accurate.
 - Should there be a series of unified enterprise-wide weather icons?
 - Must also consider that not all users want probabilistic forecasts

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 2:30-4:00 EST

Topic: HSD/OHD User Survey

Other: TBD