

Notes from CAT-II Meeting Tuesday September 22, 2009

**Attendees:**

APRFC, MBRFC, NCRFC, MARFC, OHRFC, SERFC, WGRFC, CBRFC were all represented.  
(LMRFC absent.)

CAT members present: ABRFC, NERFC, NWRFC

Also present:

Jon Roe, OHD HSEB Chief  
Chris Dietz, OHD HSEB, CHPS Project Manager  
Edwin Welles, Deltares

**Document reference:**

1. none.

**Agenda:**

1. Status, Progress, and activities over the past two weeks

- 1.1. Visitor from Australian Bureau Of Meteorology (BOM)

Robert Thompson, of the Water Information IT Unit, recently visited CNRFC and OHD to learn more about NWS progress with CHPS. The BOM has implemented their own FEWS Pilot, incorporating OHD's CHPS version of the Sacramento model and its adapter. The first phase of the Pilot was for forecasters and scientists to evaluate the feasibility of using FEWS in their forecasting operations; this resulted in a positive recommendation. The second phase is to assess IT needs and develop a cost proposal. OHD and Mr. Thompson also discussed some ideas for future collaboration with the IT Unit under an MOU between NOAA and the BOM.

- 1.2. Interactive Forecast Display (IFD) demos

Another IFD demo version was distributed and reviewed by the IFD team. This version is currently undergoing SAT (see 1.4 below).

- 1.3. AHPS FY10 Budget

The FY10 budget spending cycle began with a presentation from all Core Goal Teams. CHPS and Ensembles (XEFS) are separate this year (combined last year for convenience). FY10 will see the largest request from CHPS; in FY11 the budget request will reduce significantly (basic functionality only).

Jon wanted to bring to the HIC's attention an email distributed by Donna Page listing activities expected to continue from FY09 into FY10; HICs are being asked to flag whether proposed line items should or should not be continued. Responses are due by Friday September 25.

#### 1.4. Software Acceptance Testing (SAT)

SAT is occurring at OHD this week. All 4 CAT RFCs have representatives here from Monday through Wednesday; additional post-testing activities continue through Friday. We're focusing on the latest version of the IFD, HEC-RAS (there is one outstanding problem with the Linux version of HEC-RAS), ResSim (using an 'alpha' version of the executable currently running at CNRFC), MODs, and live system testing. BOC-II models and associated MODs won't go through Acceptance Testing until December.

On Monday Gary Carter, Jon Roe, Harold Opitz, and Edwin Welles provided Jack Hayes, Director NWS with a presentation on CHPS to describe the purpose of the SAT and explain the major milestone coming up. Discussions points included the interface between CHPS and AWIPS II, and collaboration with international partners. Dr Hayes then made a brief visit to watch some testing activities in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor lab and meet the testers/forecasters.

#### 1.5. Upcoming Forecaster Training

During the period Oct 13-16 all 4 CAT RFCs will receive on-site IFD training. NERFC will receive two 1-day repeated classes with a potential follow-up in the near future; the other CATs will receive a single 2-day class. We may use one or both of these approaches for the CAT-II, based on feedback.

IFD training is one component of a 3-part approach: Configuration & Migration training; System Management training; and Forecaster training. The IFD training will focus on some "buttonology" but also teach new and more efficient ways of doing forecasting. The pre-requisite for this class is for the CHPS focal points at each CAT RFC to teach some basics to their local staff.

NWSTC will be represented at the ABRFC forecaster training in order to help determine possible involvement in future CHPS training.

## 2. Other

2.1. Implementation Plans for CAT-II

What should the CAT-IIs be planning for CHPS implementation? There are 2 phases to plan for:

- 1) Migration. CAT-IIs should identify who'll be doing the migrating, who'll be assigned to systems work, whether responsibilities will be shared across many staff or just a few, etc. The CATs will share their own examples.
- 2) Parallel operations. It's too early for the CAT-II to plan for parallel operations. The CATs will present draft plans for their own parallel operations during the upcoming workshop; but the plan will evolve as parallel operations progresses. At NWRFC, for example, the NWSRFS will remain the operational system until all RFC staff is trained and ready to use CHPS, at which point the RFC will switch to CHPS for its operations.

2.2. Changes to Initial Configuration data for CAT-II

What should an RFC do if they have redefined segments which have already been delivered to Deltares? It may be difficult to update the configurations, but send them anyway. Deltares will use them if they can.

Can Edwin give CAT-II CHPS focal point names to Deltares? It is more efficient to have direct communication between Deltares and RFCs rather than go through Edwin. Chris will compile and distribute to Deltares a list of CHPS focal points gathered during the buddy visits.

Edwin was reminded of an outstanding action form the OHRFC buddy visit to provide the list of contacts for community models/adapters which can execute with FEWS (limited to whatever information Deltares has available).

3. Next CAT-II conference call: *TBD. The CAT-II workshop is next week.*

Action Number/Item	Who	Notes
<b>C2-03102009-01:</b> Capture changes to BOC-II from this meeting; distribute updated version of BOC-II document	Rob Hartman	<b>Closed</b> (updated version emailed on 3/10/09 to cat_2 infolist)
<b>C2-03102009-02:</b> Distribute "matrix" from the OHD ("national") Forcings Team, which describes CAT strategy/requirements for transition to CHPS in the absence of NWSRFS pre-processors	Harold Opitz	<b>Closed</b> (matrix emailed on 3/10/09 to cat_2 infolist)

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<b>C2-03102009-03:</b> Each CAT-II RFC to prepare initial version of their entry for the Forcings “matrix”	CAT-II attendees	<b>Closed</b> (all responses received via email by 3/24/09)
<b>C2-03102009-04:</b> Get statement from Deltares whether FEWS has capability to identify sensitive/proprietary data that must be excluded from external reports (BOC requirement)	Harold Opitz	<b>Closed</b> (email sent by Chris on 3/24/09 to cat_2 infolist).
<b>C2-03102009-05:</b> Distribute notes from this meeting to the cat_2 infolist	Chris Dietz	<b>Closed</b> (emailed on 3/10/09 to cat_2 infolist)
<b>C2-03172009-01:</b> Distribute notes from this meeting to the cat_2 infolist	Chris Dietz	<b>Closed</b> (emailed on 3/20/09 to cat_2 infolist)
<b>C2-03242009-01:</b> distribute to all of the CAT-IIs instructions (also script?) originally developed by Joe Ostrowski for the purpose of identifying NWSRFS operations in active use	Chris Dietz	<b>Closed</b> (emailed on 3/25/09 to cat_2 infolist)
<b>C2-03242009-02:</b> review list of operations to make sure they’re accurate; please notify RobH if any critical operations are missing	All CAT-IIs	<b>Closed</b> (emails received)
<b>C2-03242009-03:</b> review list of operations in BOC-II doc to make sure it matches the original script output we gathered	Chris Dietz	<b>Closed</b> (emails received)
<b>C2-03242009-04:</b> update (correct, complete) the Software Migration Mapping document; distribute the updated version to the cat_2 infolist	Deltares/Edwin Welles	Open.
<b>C2-03242009-05:</b> Compile and distribute to the CAT-II a matrix showing every RFC’s response for AI # C2-03102009-03	OHD/TBD	<b>Closed.</b> Sent via email by Mark Glaudemans to cat_2 infolist on 3/27/2009
<b>C2-03242009-06:</b> Time series output from HL-RDHM must ingestible into CHPS; HSMB will define a format (e.g., SHEF) for said HL-RDHM output and change the HL-RDHM software accordingly	OHD/HSMB	Open/Pending; HSMB has received the necessary details, but the requirement isn’t needed until beyond February 2011.

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<b>C2-03242009-07:</b> For agenda April 7 meeting: report from NERFC on their investigation into a replacement HWG process.	Rob Shedd	<b>Closed.</b> Presented as part of the 4/9/09 monthly briefing.
<b>C2-040720090-01:</b> Find out status of Baseflow implementation in OHD (incl MODs)	Chris Dietz	<b>Closed.</b> Now irrelevant, since no RFC uses BASEFLOW.
<b>C2-040720090-02:</b> Check to see if cat_2 infolist is working correctly. NCRFC reports not receiving some mailings.	Chris Dietz	<b>Closed</b> per email from Mike DeWeese on 4/22/09.
<b>C2-041420090-01:</b> Send out an email on preparing for CHPS prototype hardware IP addresses	Randy Rieman	Open
<b>C2-041420090-02:</b> Send out documentation to cat_2 infolist on ER approach/procedures for RFC site backup	George McKillop	<b>Closed</b> by email to cat_2 infolist on 4/20/09.
<b>C2-041420090-03:</b> Send list of Techniques used to Chris (including esp)	CAT-II	<b>Closed (OBE).</b>
<b>C2-041420090-04:</b> Let Chris know if you use IHABBS and if so, which version	CAT-II	<b>Closed</b> 4/29/09
<b>C2-04212009-01:</b> Forward to the cat_2 list documentation on DailyQC's algorithm to fill in missing station data.	Mark Glaudemans	<b>Closed</b> 7/30/09 via email
<b>C2-04212009-02:</b> Come up with an alternative mechanism to define Techniques that are in operational use at all RFCs; solicit results from all RFCs	Deltares/Edwin, Joe Ostrowski	<b>Closed.</b> Report provided at meeting on 4/21/09
<b>C2-04282009-01:</b> Draft a list of Techniques and distribute to CAT-II	Deltares/Edwin	<b>Closed.</b> List created 5/13/09
<b>C2-04282009-02:</b> Review and provide feedback on list of Techniques from AI # C2-04282009-01	CAT-II	Open. List sent to CAT but did not send yet to CAT-II
<b>C2-04282009-03:</b> Determine a single XML format for describing rating tables for ingest into CHPS; send examples using the agreed format to Deltares/Edwin	Harold, Mike DeWeese	Open/Pending. Deltares needs to change the design for ingesting rating tables into FEWS. Solution expected in December 2009; XML will be specified once this is in place.

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<b>C2-04282009-04:</b> Distribute functional requirements document for USGS rating tables retrieval and processing.	Dave Reed	<b>Closed.</b> Forwarded to the cat_2 infolist on 4/28/09
<b>C2-04282009-05:</b> Come up with a proposal for ingesting NOHRSC SMWE data into CHPS to meet OHRFC's requirement	CAT	Open
<b>C2-04282009-06:</b> Add to the next CAT call agenda an item to discuss a national approach for alternative to IHABBS as a basin delineation and UHG development tool.	Chris	Open. Due date 4/30/09
<b>C2-009222009-01:</b> Compile and distribute to Deltares a list of CAT-II CHPS focal points gathered during the buddy visits.	Chris	Open. Due date 9/25/09