

PREDICTIVE SERVICES OVERSIGHT GROUP

MEETING MINUTES – September 25, 2019

Participants: Dan O'Brien, Beth Lund, Jarrod Simontacchi, Bryan Henry, Wade Clack, Heidi Strader, Chuck Maxwell, GaBriella Branson.

Not Present: Nancy Ellsworth, Matt Jolly, Shane McDonald, Nate Benson, Brian Achziger, Kelly Castillo, Billy Gardunio.

Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Discussion:

- AWIPS is the current operating platform that is in use operationally in the U.S. by most meteorologists working for the federal government. It is the industry standard. The system meets the goals outlined in PSOG-19-02. AWIPS also meets the needs of all COOP plans.
- This software package processes weather model, observational, and satellite data and translates it into usable formats, which are customizable to meet specific customer needs.
- Funded at the National level and can be used by everyone in the field.
- Current cost: \$175,000 per year. This cost is split between FS and BLM, 2/3 to 1/3. BLM funds the agreement with NOAA.
- History: AWIPS II rollout to the GACCs occurred in 2014/2015. In early 2017, citing potential security concerns, the Linux-based systems operating on the USFS network were shut down permanently. The BLM also cited concerns as well, but they offered a work-around that allowed the system to continue operating. A Windows based version was created in 2018 and all meteorologists have access to this system that meets both DOI and USDA security requirements.
- Current agreement will expire in early December 2019. Drafting a new, five year agreement. This draft addresses all of the past issues. There is a 30 day “out” clause.
- Drawing tools are going to be made available in 2020. Meteorologists will be able to draw frontal boundaries and create text boxes to further highlight significant meteorological patterns.
- Auto export features will be added by 2021. This will allow for meteorologists to generate new product displays within AWIPS, set up processes for automatically exports to the various GACC websites or locations of the end user's choosing.
- AWIPS will move to a cloud based environment in 2022. This should result in no down time and increased data processing speeds.
- Other options beside AWIPS?
 - SimuAWIPS
 - Pros: Relatively inexpensive; web based; no record of significant outages/down time; visually similar to AWIPS; is portable and would satisfy COOP. The creator is responsive.
 - Cons: Future capabilities are unknown; data displays are limited and not customizable to the degree we currently have; cannot export existing data maps for offsite briefings; regional/national-level map displays are limited; unable to load important data, such as the 700mb-500mb moisture to determine possible storm locations.
 - AWIPS II/ Thin Client (used by NWS IMETS)

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- Pros: Functionally very similar to current system; 24/7 support; Windows-based; satisfies COOP; possibly less expensive to the agencies (unknown); vetted software that works
- Cons: Unknown future capabilities; historically it required all users to have a NOAA account/NOAA email; would lose control on version updates (this would require us to go through an approval process with the USFS and BLM each time a new version is released every few months); costs unknown.
- Questions: Chuck: SimuAWIPS is owned by a bigger company now. Have we ever thought about reaching out to them? We could definitely do this and explore this option. Need to figure out the value in this.

Decision: none at this time, but further research and discussion is needed.

Predictive Services Conference (All)

- Would like PSOG as part of the agenda
- Would like to see a collaborative agenda effort between Intelligence and Meteorologists
- Bryan suggests all Predictive Services individuals on PSOG get together and draft the agenda with Dan's guidance
- Gabriella asked the Intelligence sub-committee group about the agenda and there wasn't much response

Action: Bryan will reach out to PSOG members to find a best meeting time to start drafting the Predictive Services Conference agenda.

RMCS Update (Chuck)

- RDNA is looking for future funding for the Matt Jolly option
- Chuck and Matt Jolley will develop a work plan
- PSOG is the customer for this project
- Would like to re-frame the relationship between PSOG and RMC steering committee. The goal is to make sure the group is meeting all needs and requirements
- Dan: What can PSOG provide to help your group identify these needs and requirements?
- Funding for the project starts October 1 through the end of the FY

Action: Dan and Chuck will talk next week about the next steps.

POSG CY2020 Program Planning

- Need to identify the mission, expectations, requirements, etc. this will help focus the planning
- Need to be transparent in the work this group is planning to do—accountability for the group and stakeholders
- A challenge is looking at alternatives versus how Predictive Services operates now.
- Dan: is more data required to help with the program planning?
- Bryan suggests showing the progress this group has made in the last year.
- Encourage everyone to look at everything on the dashboard when thinking about CY2020 planning.

Action: Dan will lay out a framework with milestones to help map out the future. Beth will assist.

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Next Call

Wednesday, October 30th