

Minutes of the Sioux Falls, SD 120th STIWG Meeting, May 5, 2016.

Opening Remarks and Administrative Issues – LySanius Broyles - STIWG

Chairperson

LySanius Broyles opened the meeting of the 120th STIWG with a welcome to all. The schedule agenda for the day was reviewed and an attendance sign-in sheet was circulated while copies of the meeting agenda were made available. A round of self-introductions followed. A dial-in telecommunication set-up was activated for anyone that could not make the meeting in person. Minutes of the last meeting can be found at <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/stiwg/Meetings/index.html> .

Subcommittee Reports/Discussion:

DCS Preservation

LySanius gave a brief presentation reviewing the DCS RF spectrum auction issue. Also, he reviewed for the group the GOES products and how the DCS is important in the production of the various products. A discussion followed regarding how the many agencies use and rely on the DCS. LySanius introduced the white paper that he has written to try to cover the many important applications of the DCS.

A review was next presented that described some of the findings that were presented in the previous day's TWG meeting. Two presentation had been delivered regarding the DCS RF band interference testing that was recently carried on. The details of the testing, including the Power Point files, will be available in the DCS TWG minutes. It was mentioned that the proposed cellular telephone antennas will broadcast right on the fringe of the GOES-R RF. An informative talk had been delivered at the previous days meeting that detailed the paths that could be taken in getting comments to the FCC for fighting the proposed band infringement. While government agencies cannot comment directly to the FCC, there is a path using the NTIA. The presenter of yesterday's talk emphasized that the submission of comments needs to be fast since the NTIA group only meets once per month and the FCC comment period ends in mid-June. LySanius said he will submit the white paper within a few days in order to meet the May deadline for comments to the NTIA. A general open discussion ensued where STIWG members proposed various places to send LySanius's white paper. The title of the white paper is: "STIWG Perspective on DCS Reliance and Preservation" and is available at

http://acwi.gov/hydrology/stiwg/stiwg_dcs_reliance_and_preservation . It was suggested that copies be sent to all IRAC members in an attempt to give the paper wide distribution. A question was raised as to whether the band interference would violate a federal regulation by impeding the transmission of data from the satellite to the ground. The DCS system was said to be necessary for life and limb warning data. Also, there was a comment regarding continuity of services. More positive comments were advanced about the white paper and it was mentioned that the paper is about 25 pages in length containing a convenient overall coverage of the system. It was felt that the paper would help to educated the public as to just where the readily available data originate. Comments were made regarding where informations really comes from before it is disseminated to the general audience (e.g. weather.com, etc.). It was stated that a goal is to get on the

IRAQ agenda. The impact of ant potential loss of the DCS capabilities was emphasized in the discussion. The difference between source data versus information was emphasized. It was said that the deadline for comments to the FCC is June 12, 2016. A reminder was given that the white paper is open for the general public. LySanius will generate a cover letter but asked for input as to where the white paper should be distributed.

DCS Open Standards.

A review of the history of the development of LRGS software was presented. Mike Maloney originally developed the LRGS software personally prior to going to work for Sutron. Later, he signed-on with Sutron and following his employment there he formed Cove Systems. Later, contention developed between Cove Software/Mike Maloney and Sutron, apparently over ownership of the software. It was emphasized that there was a need to allow the different versions of the software be able to “talk to each other”. It was further pointed out that the Wallops CDA has hired Cove Systems to do new modifications to the current LRGS software. The unintended result from this work could be that many users might not be able to access the system. There was a discussion on future efforts that could result in keeping the software open. The main object would be to preserve an open system concept. It was stated that the sharing of information between DCS members is important. The members of the DCS STIWG open source members were briefly mentioned as well as the members of the preservation working group. There was an estimation that within two to three years the DCS system “gold standard” will be finalized as the open source standard. It was agreed by all that the importance of standards was a vital issue. A suggestion was made to contact all agencies so that they could at least have one representative in the open source group/team. Another suggestion was to have the software code distributed in a compiled form rather than a source code form.

DOMSAT Funding

It was reported that funding support for the DOMSAT is sufficient for this year. The Army Corps of Engineers has been a strong supporter in the past. However, many users are moving to the LRIT and therefore not funding the DOMSAT as they have in the past. Kay Metcalf said that she would like 1 or 2 more years of DOMSAT support as backup to the LRIT service. There is a desire to see if the frequency interference issue really does become a problem for the LRIT. Mention was made that maybe GEONETCast Americas could be an alternative service. It was concluded that DOMSAT funding is needed for another year. Funding is sufficient of this year but there will be a need for next year. Kay is actively looking for volunteers for the needed DOMSAT funding.

DCPC Two Way Communication

It was reported that NOAA is moving slowly on a prototype receiver that is being developed while NOAA also explores the related DADDS interface issue. One advantage to such a system was mentioned being that latitude, longitude and other information could be transmitted to management to aide in better administration of the system. It was also said that it would not be too hard to implement the two-way system into to the DADDS.

STIWG Terms

LySanius has used the Internet web page for an old list of DCS STIWG names and is contacting them to see if they still are alive and working in the listed job. The old officer rotation schedule was shown and a suggestion was made for moving the chair to two year terms. Member input on this idea was solicited; while advantages of more than a one year term were advanced especially since there are currently only one TWG and STIWG set of meetings pre year. A question of whether Canadians should or should not attend the STIWG meetings was posed. There was a strong “yes they should attend” comment. Another suggestion was made to have a vice chair position, but there was a response of “No”. It was concluded that there will be two year terms for the chair person.

Frequency Interference

A projection of a sample letter relating to the frequency interference issue was shown as a guide for mailing comments to the FCC. Dave Lubar of the Aerospace Corp. explained the details in contacting the FCC and said that commenters should feel free to express their opinion in their own words.

Next Meeting

Chattanooga, TN was suggested. The finalized location and date will be circulated to members and available also at the NOAA DCS web site.