MARS Council Meeting

General Information	
Date/Time:	Thursday, February 4, 2009, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location:	SSMC-2, Room 13836
Call-In Number	Call in #:866-801-2175 Passcode: 4113559

ATTENDEES

Maureen Pulver (NMFS)	Keith Markva (NOAA CIO)
Sylvia Scott (OAR)	Mark Blades (NMFS)
Tonya Coleman (NMFS)	Kasey O'Neal (NESDIS)
Tarandeep Bawa (NWS)	Dinara Holmes (OAR)
Rueben Chappell-Hine (Program Support)	Gerlad Thomas (OMAO)
Marina Rubina (NMFS)	Rahul Dayal (NMFS)
Penny Schniedeberg (NWS)	Mary Rieck (NWS)
Renee Galloway (NOS)	

Items for Discussion

1 CRequesy/CBuy Working Group

The MARS Team has been trying to determine what information we want from the commitment perspective. We have one volunteer from NWS to participate in a workgroup. It is requested that each line provide one or two names of individuals with general knowledge in the commitment process to participate in this working group; they should also have experience with CRequest/CBuy. They must have the ability to provide recommendations from LO perspective

The MARS CRequest/CBuy Workgroup consists of:

A representative from each LO with general knowledge in:

- Commitment entry process (prefer current user)
- Contract/Purchase Orders (PO)
- CRequest/CBuy interface

Roles:

- Decide how commitments will be handled
- Identify LO current needs for Contract/PO

The Workgroup may be required to meet a few times (not a long term requirement) within the next 2 months.

Action: Each LO should provide Tarandeep Bawa name(s) by Feb 16, 2010.

2	**Uploading BOPS**

- There have been some enhancements made for BOPS, where it is now easier to reconcile. You can enter at the program and fund code.

- 75a report was reformatted horizontal instead vertical – in the funds control section.

- There have been some issues with uploading BOPS and they include:

  - Users will have to reset the flag in FM009 screen after completing each file.
  - There were errors indicating that BOPS were run successfully but there were not there; Client Services is working to resolve the issue.
  - Can only upload one line office at a time.

3	**ARRA funds as it impacts Flux and Variance reporting**

Recovery act funds – Currently CBS groups the ARRA funds into the OTHER fund group. Starting with reporting for Q2, CBS will introduce 3 new fund groups, ORF-ARRA, PAC-ARRA and REIMB-ARRA. MARS Flux Reporting will be updated in a similar fashion. MARS will also put an addition object in the Fund folder called 'Fund Group Short Name (ARRA Separate) to allow for adhoc reporting on ARRA funds. The new object will be put in all appropriate Universes by the end of the week. The Flux Reporting will be updated by the end of February.

4	**Certification of Obligations**

Penny got an email from Alison Elgin telling us there is a change being made to the Certification of Obligations Discoverer workbook. Similar change needed in MARS prior to the end of February.

- It appears that some queries will be limited by year. Penny will get clarification of requirements from Alison Elgin.
- Tonya will review the current MARS report to see if additional tabs are needed

5	**FY10 Priorities**

Mary Rieck and Maureen attended a NOAA CFO several weeks ago, where the MARS FY10 Priorities were presented. The CFO Council asked that costs and time required for each priority be presented at a CFO Council meeting towards the end of February 2010. The priorities are as follows:

High
- Oracle 11g upgrade
- Property
- Interactive Flux Reporting
- Improve Data load and transformation process (ETL)
- Table of Organization

Medium

- Development re: Surcharges and Over/Under changes
- Informatica Upgrade
- Reorganize Reports
- CBuy/CRequest *

Low
- Single Sign On
- Moving/redeveloping reports from Data Entry to R&Q *

The Council unanimously agreed to move CBuy/CRequest to a lower priority (was High) with CAward scheduled for release in FY11 and focus more on Property. The vote was as follows:

NWS	NMFS	NOS	OMAO	NESDIS	Program Support	OAR
Not Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Did not Vote	Did Not Vote	Yes

- Dinara Holmes mentioned that with the initiation of the New National Weather Climate Center (NWCS), some folks in OAR will be part of NWCS. Changes will be required within MARS as a result of this. Tarandeep will get with Dinara and ask her what MARS changes she believes will be required.

6	**Business Objects Upgrade Complete** The Business Objects upgrade to V3 was complete January 19, 2010. Overall, the Council had positive feedback re: the upgrade, as they stated is has a cleaner look and feel. There were some concerns with the upgrade and they include: • There is a conflict when using Business Objects and CBS at the same time. The workaround for this is to run CBS in Internet Explorer and Business Objects in Firefox. This issue is being worked with Rajesh Thanki (Business Object Consultant). Rajesh states it is an issue with the versioning of Java. Business Objects requires 5.22 and 5.19 does not work with it; checking to see if 5.19 will work with CBS. • There is no shading between the Universes when you do a new document – makes it a little harder to read. This has since been resolved; the MARS team made the Universe field longer so that it does not wrap.
7	**Recertification** • Process is going well. Three notices have been sent out – the initial notice from 1/5 or 1/6, a reminder on 1/21 and a final reminder on 1/26. Those who had not responded by COB 1/27 are having their accounts disabled. Tarandeep will begin to coordinate with the FMCs next week to obtain their signatures, along with the LO Administrator and Software Council Representative.
8	**NESDIS Topics** • Kasey O'Neil stated when folks in NESDIS are entering their spending plans with record number, they want to print that page but the system kicks them out; can't do it without snapshot. It was suggested that she and others in NESDIS perform this is the Reporting and Querying module. Data Entry – The 12y report BOP Summary won't accept numbers over $100 million dollars. It was suggested that Kasey write up a Change Control Request (CCR) to have wider columns.

9	**Review proposed CCRs**

CCR# 1314 - Revise the labor projection triggers to use NFC rates once actual salary adjustments are known (CAPS, COLA, January 1st, WGI, etc.) to avoid overstating projections.

VOTE: CCR 1314

NWS	NMFS	NOS	OMAO	NESDIS	Program Support	OAR
Not Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CCR# 1314 was approved.

CCR# 1315 - add org level grouping to Report 14 - Monthly Obligations by Program/Project/Object Class. It should range from Org 1 - 7. Currently it is defaulted to FMC and NMFS users are requesting a lower level of detail.

VOTE: CCR 1315

NWS	NMFS	NOS	OMAO	NESDIS	Program Support	OAR
Not Present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CCR# 1315 was approved.

10	The Next MARS Council meeting will be March 18, 2010. Moving forward, all Council meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of every month. The schedule for the rest of the year is as follows:

- April 15, 2010
- May 20, 2010
- June 17, 2010
- July 15, 2010
- August 19, 2010
- September 16, 2010
- October 21, 2010
- November 18, 2010
- December 16, 2010

Closed CCR's (Promoted to Production)

CCR# 141 - BOBJ Upgrade to R3
CCR# 1294 – OAR labor process modifications related the changes in leave/benefits for FY10
CCR# 1296/1297 - Add Refresh Date field for auto-obligated Commitment Tracking.

Status (02/02/10)	Count
Closed	121
Open	11
Hold	6
Work In Progress/Testing	11
Proposed	2
Total	151

CCR's Pending Review

CCR# 1314 - Revise the labor projection triggers to use NFC rates once actual salary adjustments are known (CAPS, COLA, January 1st, WGI, etc.) to avoid overstating projections.

CCR# 1315 - add org level grouping to Report 14 - Monthly Obligations by Program/Project/Object Class. It should range from Org 1 - 7. Currently it is defaulted to FMC and NMFS users are requesting a lower level of detail.

Work In Progress

Mod.	Pri.	CCR	Short Description	Type CCR	Comments/Status	Due Date
RQ	2	60	Leave & Benefit Statement / OC 77 Modifications	Business	Approved by NWS (Mary Rieck) 3/4/08	
RQ	3	61	GSA Vehicle Data Import	Business	Approved by NWS (Mary Rieck) 1/10/07	
Both	1	69	C.Req/C.Buy Data Extract and Commitments	Business	Approved in the MARS Implementation Plan 11/30/06 v2 Working on data analysis for MARS Commitments generation.	
Both		561	Outstanding part: Build universes, create reports for GOL Data.	Business		
DE	2	664	NDW/MARS Extract Improvements	Infra-structure	Approved by the O&M Group 7/15/08 Status on 10/15/09: Finished development and deployed in pre-prod. Combined with NWS flow. Testing daily in pre-prod.	
DE	1	1300	FY 2010 Surcharge changes: Labor Projections and Budget	Business	Completed in Pre-Prod. Will be deployed by 10/16/2009.	
RQ	3	1225	Labor Projection Universe	Infra-structure	Approved by NWS (Mary Rieck)	
DE	2	1310	Create Internal Fund reports to track if obligations by object class based on percentage used by fund/program/project by Line Office and FMC.	Business		
DE	2	1311	Add grouping feature to selection criteria for Report 2 to allow the report to display LO totals by fund/program/project.	Business		
DE	2	1312	Per OPM regulations, change procedures for COLA rates in personnel tacking and labor projection systems to allow COLA rates to be projected by an effective pat period.	Business		
DE	2	1313	Change a layout for the Report 75a to view quarterly data side-by-side (AA, Budget and Difference lines) to assist in CBS BOP Upload Preparation.	Business		

Best Practices

None at this time.

CCR Queue (Open)

Open CCR's should be reviewed when evaluating and prioritizing new CCR requests.

Mod.	Pri.	CCR	Short Description	Type CCR	Comments	Due
Both	3	984	Reference Guide for Reports	Infra-structure	Approved by the MARS Council 11/13/08	
DE	3	904	New Match Parameter Rpt - Auto Ob Settings	Business	Approved by the MARS Council 11/13/08	
RQ	2	441	Comp Time Rpt	Business	Need to find new data source other than Labor Detail since comp & credit earned may not be included after the re-engineering of over-under.	
RQ	3	63	DE to RQ Report Conversion	Infra-structure	Approved by in the MARS Implementation Plan 11/30/06 v2	
RQ	3	64	User interface for R&Q maintenance tables	Infra-structure		
RQ	3	65	User interface for Appropriation Data	Business		
RQ	3	67	Sunflower Data	Infra-structure	Approved by in the MARS Implementation Plan 11/30/06 v2	
RQ	2	1301	Copy all available Leave Balance information from WFM Universe into the Labor Detail and Labor Detail Surcharges Universe. This will allow leave information to be available to users who don't have or need complete WFM access.	Business		
Both	3	1286	Create samples of the reports found within Data Entry and Reporting and Querying modules.	Business	Allow users to quickly view reports with sample data to see if format/information relevant without having to run the actual reports. Samples will be useful for new users, and for existing users who are searching for the most relevant report for a given situation. No resources to complete this now.	
R&Q	2	1302	NMFS is proposing that MARS Council initiate discussions on creating the Flux Variance process within the MARS Reporting and Querying system module	Business	This would replace the current process using Oracle Discoverer and the Excel spreadsheets. It would be similar to the variance process currently in place.	
DE	2	1306	When a change is made to the Data Entry security screen, the user and date of change is not being stored in the tables if the LO or FMC admin make changes. Please correct.			