

MARS Council Meeting

General Information	
Date/Time:	Thursday, July 9th, 2009, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location:	SSMC-3, Room 13836

ATTENDEES

1 Tarandeep Bawa (NWS)	2 Sylvia Scott (OAR)
3 Reuben Chappel-Hine (Program Support)	4 Daniel Bess (Program Support)
5 Tonya Coleman (NMFS)	6 Penny Schmiedeberg (NWS)
7 Mary Rieck (NWS)	8 Rahul Dayal (NMFS)
9 Marina Rubina (NMFS)	10 Dinara Holmes (OAR)
11 Gerald Thomas (NMAO)	12 Keith Markva (CIO)
13 Jim Lewis (NESDIS)	

Items for Discussion

1	Dates for MARS Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next MARS meeting will be scheduled for August 6th. We will determine later if the September meeting will take place, given it will be so close to the end of the fiscal year.
2	Status on IT Cost Reporting Demo - The IT Cost Distribution report and rate maintenance for NWS and OAR is complete and has been published to the Higher Level Review category. The report was discussed at the Business Rules meeting on July 7th. The method for handling overhead costs was highlighted. Penny suggested the IT Cost committee members present at the meeting review with the committee. The only feedback received was from Mark Blades. He suggested we should start creating sub-categories under the Higher Level Review category. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regard to the NOAA Variance Reporting, we decided to make it a Category (that is, remove it from the Higher Level Review Category) and then leave the IT and Flux in the Higher Level Review without creating sub-categories.
3	C.Buy/C.Request Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is still being worked. A request becomes a commitment at the “Submit” phase. Data Analysis for commitment C.Request is underway. LO Admins are to gather their reporting requirements for this and bring them to the next MARS Council meeting.
4	CBS Load Times - loads are taking a long time – 1 – 1.5 hours longer since the web migration. Payroll is taking several hours longer and we are consistently not opening for business by 7:00 AM. Blank out commitments and put a note “still processing” in the column. Users will get actuals but not commitments. The MARS status page will be updated accordingly so users have an “accurate status.”
5	Remind MARS user community to check MARS Desktop Requirements page in MARS web page. https://mars.rdc.noaa.gov/docs/installers/MARS_Desktop_Requirements.pdf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MARS Quick Start guide/MARS Desktop Requirements documents will be updated and posted with the latest desktop requirements.

6	<p>Request MARS user community to provide specifics when reporting MARS related problems to Help Desk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please have users provide as much information as possible when submitting a Help Desk ticket. The more detail provided, the better service users will receive. • Tarandeep will research the ability for emails to auto-populate fields that provide pertinent information for MARS Help Desk tickets.
7	<p>CCR1292 – (RQ) Certification of Obligations Report - Make available the Certification of Obligations report to the Reporting and Querying user community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report is available and testing in Business Objects took 4 minutes, which is a lot longer than expected. There appears to be an issue within Oracle 10g that is being worked. A defragmentation of the SAN may be the issue.
8	<p>Knowledge Accelerator Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Accelerator is a customized training module for users. The plan is to gather a list of FAQs and build training based on what users have issues with most. This will be a work-in-progress for the next few months.
9	<p>Proposed CCRs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCR1286 – (Both) Report Documentation/Access Improvements. Create samples of the reports found within Data Entry and Reporting and Querying modules. Allow users to quickly view reports with sample data to see if format/information relevant without having to run the actual reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This CCR was already approved but there are no resources to complete this now. • CCR604 – (DE) Budget Module / BOP interface - Revisit and discuss creating method to download BOPs (other than BOPS designated as Target) into Budget Module to reduce double entry into both CBS and MARS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maureen is going to talk to CBS about adding the capability to upload transfer and adjustment BOPs into the CBS BOP system. We currently do that for initial BOPs. This would give the ability to plan at a lower level and create the BOPs rather than pulling BOPs into the Data Entry and having to create the lower level detail after pulling the BOP (the CCR was to pull the BOPs into DE).
10	<p>CCR#1244 - OPT Generator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was completed for Program Support but is available for all line offices.
11	<p>OPT Table populated with new IT Cost task combinations for 2009-2010 – new ones were created.</p>
12	<p>New Fund Codes for 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the process of changing codes 1001-1002. This will be tested in production the week of July 13, 2009.
13	<p>BOP Upload CBS Issue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a coding issue with the CBS upload procedure that omits detail lines when the BOP plans do not agree with the allotments/pools; we are waiting for CBS to resolve.

14	Reserv_Trans (Travel Manager) availability in DW <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This will not happen this fiscal year
-----------	--