MARS Council Meeting

General Information	
Date/Time:	Thursday, November 12, 2009, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Location:	SSMC-2, Room 12246
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)	Alicia Taylor (NOS)
Marina Rubina (NMFS)	Rahul Dayal (NMFS)
Penny Schniedeberg (NWS)	

Items for Discussion

1	GSA Vehicles
	• Penny provided a presentation on GSA Vehicles. MARS is pulling in GSA Vehicle information along with NOAA accounting information and stored accounting. Her presentation provided screen shots of the reports within the system. The team is still trying to figure out the inventory piece of it.

2	Labor Reports Demo
	• Sylvia Scott provided a demo of the Labor Reports she has created. The goal was to see if the reports should be promoted to NOAA production and if they are something other LO's would find useful. LO's need more time to understand the reports.

3	Flux Reporting
	• This is a follow up to the last MARS Council. Maureen is still trying to schedule a meeting with Jon Alexander to discuss this.

4	CBuy/CRequest Update
	• Per the last Council, NIST is using BO and has a universe and several reports, which they have shared with us. Reports that we obtained from NIST are now working in pre-prod. We are in the process of setting up accounts for folks to see these reports. We still need to figure out what reports we can use/modify and what is missing; will continue to update the Council on the status at future Council Meetings.

5	Upgrade to Business Objects 3.1

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Upgrade to Business Objects 3.1
- The MARS Business Objects Team is in the process of upgrading the software to version 3.1. The schedule is as follows:

NOV 2 - NOV 5: Prep for migration
NOV 9 - NOV 13: Prep for migation
NOV 16 - NOV 20: Migrate DEV
NOV 23 - NOV 27: Migrate PREPROD
NOV 30 - DEC 4: Migrate PREPROD
DEC 7 - DEC 11: Migrate PROD
DEC 14 - DEC 18: MIgrate PROD

Some notable new features in 3.1 include:

1) Updated support for required server side and user side components (Web Application server and browser versions, e.g., support for IE 8.0)

2) Optional prompts - reports prompts that can optionally be used by the report user

3) Data tracking - highlights changed values on reports

4) Numerous usability and performance enhancements

5) Improved Query - HTML viewer. Query - HTML viewer is an optional view mode that uses only HTML instead of Java. This mode is an alternative when Java versions become a problem. In the current version, however, the feature set is not nearly as complete as the Java viewer. In 3.1, the HTML feature set is much closer to that of the Java viewer.

6) Improved administrative features (e.g., easier security management, improved remote system administration, improved diagnostic tools, etc.)

6 What's New – MARS Web Page
- The New in MARS section of the web page has been updated to reflect all major changes within the MARS system since January 2009. The page will continue to be updated monthly, following Council Meetings.

| 7 | MARS Recertification |

- Will be a more simple process this year and will kick off January 5th. In the past they had to have signatures for 3 forms (NDA, User Agreement and ROB) from several folks and fax them to the Help Desk. Now there is only 1 form (User Agreement and NDA together) and Rules of Behavior is understood as folks take their NOAA Security online class. Folks can simply update the form they receive and email it back to us – by them sending from their NOAA email account, that electronic signature will suffice, as CBS is now doing the same. It will be about a 30 day process.

DATE	Action
January 5, 2010	Email will be sent to all users informing them they have 3 weeks to respond
January 19, 2010	Reminder email will be sent informing users to complete or their account will be deleted
COB January 22, 2010	MARS Help Desk will begin consolidating the list of those who did and did not respond by FMC and provide the list to Tarandeep by January 29, 2010
February 1, 2010	Tarandeep will follow up with all FMC admins, LO admins and SW Council members for signatures.

Closed CCR's (Promoted to Production)

CCR# 1303 – Correct fund code field for the summary section of report 135

CCR# 1304 – There are invalid organization code descriptions listed on the organization and FMC fields within Business objects for NMFS. They are "30-00 – MARS Commitment not valid and 30-51 – MARS Commitment not valid". Please remove these INVALID FIELDS

CCR# 1298 – Adding NESDIS to the Travel Numbering System

CCR# 1299 – Option to Add OH to MARS Labor Projections

Status (10/13/09)	Count
Closed	116
Open	12
Hold	6
Work In Progress/Testing	9
Proposed	0
Total	143

CCR's Pending Review

None at this time.

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	1289	Foreign Travel Module for NWS (with approval functionality and Blanket Orders).	Business	Numbering System/Approval Module deployed on 08/20/09. Added new Foreign travel Report (un-restricted) and opened restricted FT reports for all LO using DE Numbering System. Security Form needs to have a new FMC User Role.	
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	1297	Duplicate of CCR #1296	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	3	141	BOBJ Upgrade to R3	Infra-structure	Approved by NWS (Mary Rieck)	
DE	2	1296	Add Refresh Date field for auto-	Business		

			obligated Commitment Tracking.		
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	1296	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.