

Minutes

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Meeting date 29 March 2022	Meeting Delft-FEWS Community Strategy Board #24		

Present

A. Tavendale / Marc Philippart / Martin Ebel / Trey Flowers / Roger de Crook / Gabriel Miller / Ben Balk / Nadine Slootjes / Marcel Ververs / Gerben Boot / Justin Robinson / Ian Clayton / Ilonka ten Broeke

Introduction and attendance

After the welcome by Nadine, she announces that she has taken up a new role as a product manager for Operational Forecasting Software and Hydrology Software. She will still be involved in the product management of the Delft-FEWS software, so her participation in the Community Strategy Board will not change.

The list of members is as follows:

Organisation	Represented by
Bureau of Meteorology in Australia	Justin Robinson
Dutch Waterboards	Roger de Crook
Federal Office for the ENvironment Switzerland	Martin Ebel
Rijkswaterstaat in the Netherlands	Marc Philippart
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Amy Tavendale
National Weather Service (USA)	Trey Flowers
Environment Agency (UK)	Ian Clayton / (Peter Connolly)
Tennessee Valley Authority	Gabe Miller
Deltares-USA	Ben Balk
Deltares NL	Nadine Slootjes, Marcel Ververs, Gerben Boot, Ilonka ten Broeke

Actions and minutes previous meeting

Marcel is approaching several procurement departments from clients who will go to new S&M contracts to shape the details. This action is ongoing and will therefore be removed from the action list.

Marcel gives an update on the action item with respect to the use of old forecasts. The [following wiki page](#) provides more information on how to use old forecasts

Justin: At the last CSB it was discussed that a security guide for FEWS was being developed?
Answer: Yes, Deltares is still working on that. We will not put the complete set of documents on the public wiki as that give insights into the potential week spots. Deltares will provide relevant information on request.

There are no further remarks or questions about the previous meeting minutes.

Sharing experience recent floods / extreme water levels (Australia, UK)

Justin shared some details of the recent floods using their FEWS system. He also showed and explained the forecast products they are producing. He also showed that the Bureau is gathering information about the performance of the forecasts (how accurate is it, is the timeliness correct, does forecast cross the right severity level?). The performance and reliability of FEWS has been fantastic during the recent floods. Questions were raised about their forecast products and what have they already learned from the recent floods. Their new HYFS system contains more models than before which gives better insights in the uncertainty and spread of the forecasts.

Ian shared some information through slides on their storms (3 consecutive storms in 7 days) and resulting floods. The storms resulted in the highest river levels seen in decades for some locations on the rivers Severn and Mersey. Questions were raised on the temporary barriers being used and performance of their forecasts. The answer was that forecasts were well from a qualitative perspective. The IMFS system had some issues when up to 70 users were using the system at the same time, but that problem was resolved with a change in scheduling of some database maintenance tasks.

Question from Roger to both: What functionality in Delft-FEWS was very useful during these floods?

Answer Ian: Both the dashboards showing the grids from different forecasts products and the spatial modifiers (being able to spatially change the forecasts) were very useful in making forecasts.

Answer Justin: They benefited from the topology forecast trees a lot and many of the pre-defined plots they have.

Delft-FEWS Community - in relation to the Delft-FEWS vision

Ilonka introduced this topic with the question what should the Delft-FEWS community bring you? Why do you want to be a member of this community? Three questions have been prepared that are going to be discussed in three small groups in separate break out rooms.

1. Personal references – be a little selfish
Think about all your community memberships (work colleagues, project group, sport club, friends groups, bridge mates, church group, parents association, book club).
→ What makes this memberships meaningful for you, or what's in it for you?
2. The Delft-FEWS community
Purpose. Why does the community exist, what is the purpose?
Member identity. Who is the community for, what is the profile of the most active members?
3. Delft-FEWS vision 2025
How would the ideal community look like in the future? How would we interact offline and online?
How do we define success? What would a first step be to set this transformation in motion?

Below a brief summary of the central discussion after the break-out sessions:

- Share experiences with each other (similar types of challenges) - learn from each other and get inspired (beneficial for community members as not everyone has the same level of standards yet)
- User days (on different locations) create a feeling of connectivity and facilitate participants in connecting with others, find new partners, obtain specific new detailed information from other users
- Collaboration, share new techniques, create standardised basic sets
- Develop new technologies and techniques collaboratively instead of each organisation separately
- There is an opportunity to make use of existing events to share updates, to create additional touch points. We could organize webinars every 3 months where experiences about recent flood events are shared.
 - What was useful in your recent flood event?

- What have you learned from it?
 - Which Delft-FEWS feature was used?
- More webinars where FEWS applications are shared with information about what makes that application unique - or other drop-in sessions on 'how-to'.
- Identify active moderators per topic that can respond to questions from the community.
- Choose the channel that fits the communication best: portal, mailing list, LinkedIn (or a combination).
- Make FEWS information more accessible, easy to interpret (FOEN).
- Things that can only be obtained at the FEWS User days or other FEWS events are the reason to join the community (like specific information about FEWS in combination with forecasting).
- Presentations about how people have set up their new system are sometimes not very useful to other users. It should be clear what new it brings to other users? Has this new system something new to offer?
- Show your system in break-out sessions. It will have you look at your system differently and get some interesting questions, like why did you show it like that? Or why do you do that? Deltares should have a role in this to let people know what is it that they do rather specific, or what is new/special in your system? Show your system sessions can work both ways and will also inspire the presenter. We're implementing something for Groundwater forecasting visualization that has existed as FEWS functionality since 1998. We didn't realize it existed. FEWS is so powerful. A way of regularly sharing what functionality works well for others would be great.

Roadmap developments 2022

This agenda item was skipped because of time limitations. The slides of the presentation prepared by Gerben and a video with an explanation have been shared after the meeting and link to general update on portal is shared in the chat: <https://oss.deltares.nl/web/delft-fews/roadmaps>

AOB

Roger: I would like to give a short presentation on centralized and decentralized storage of time series in the next meeting.

Action			Due by	Status
21.1	Get in touch with procurement from different organisations	Deltares	June 2021	Closed
22.1	Provide information on the wiki on how to use old forecasts in your forecasting process	Deltares	Dec 2021	Closed
23.1	Heads-up on when the Delft-FEWS security documents are ready.	Deltares	Jan 2022	Open
24.1	Organisation of the new webinars	Deltares / CSB members	June, October, February	Open
24.2	Organisation of drop-in sessions	Deltares	September	Open
24.3	Presentation on centralized and decentralized storage of time series	Rogier	June or other meeting	Open