

**ROSS Partner Conference Call Notes  
September 18, 2003**

**Participants:**

**NICC:** Kim Christensen  
**Rocky Mountain:** Flint Cheney, Debbie Bozarth, Rob Juhola, Jim Fletcher, Marco  
**Alaska:** Rick Dupuis, Jennifer Trudeau  
**Eastern Area:** Kathy Miles  
**Great Basin:** Kathy Wiegard, Lani Williams, Dave Hart  
**Southwest:** Cheryl Dickson  
**Northwest:** Phil Cardin, Kit Kemsley  
**Northern Rockies:** Rosanna Finley, Ray Nelson  
**California:** John King, Tom Evans  
**ROSS Team:** Jon Skeels, Beth Grey Cloud, Sue Roussopoulos, Andy Gray

**Note: Any information received after the call is shown in bold type below.**

**Business Community Update- Kim Christensen**

- Implementation going well
- We're coming off a long and intense fire/mobilization period and I'm getting lots of feedback from IC's and Area Commanders about ROSS
- There's a desire to convene a group of dispatchers (with good field-level representation) to perform a critique of ROSS and identify priorities for what changes to ROSS

**Project Update – Jon Skeels:**

- Programming is a very long process. Lockheed-Martin's project plan is in place for this winter.
  - Long-term scheduling is necessary to deliver changes needed by next June. Rochelle Piro of Lockheed-Martin is traveling to Missoula to help understand items that were raised when she was there earlier.
  - Project office is papered with every e-mail message containing a change management item.
    - These are all being compiled into one document, which will be shared with dispatch community
    - Too detailed - it wouldn't add value to go through it with dispatch community - but team will summarize it for you
    - Example: 350 suggestions on the Resource Order printout alone with many suggestions directly opposing each other
    - Example: speed is #1 item – refers to moving from screen to screen
    - Example: over 400 requests for new reports or report changes
  - Next week the team will contact each GACC on a conference call asking for their top three priorities

- NICC is encouraged to participate in GACC conference calls next week
  - Jon will provide outline to GACCs prior to calls
- Received 40 to 50 pages of business rules items that are not really related to ROSS but were exposed by ROSS implementation.
- Even with these changes/fixes, continued development of ROSS, as spelled out in project charter and scope, will need to go on.
- ROSS Project has an end date (December 2005)
  - Between now and then – lots of improvements and tweaking.
  - For example:
    - Contracts
    - Name requests
    - Visibility of the ordering chain
    - Improved usability
- ROSS version 1.2.6 is two-thirds tested now and will be released in near future
  - Will include:
    - Blocks of request numbers
    - Custom request numbering
    - Retrieve request function
- ROSS version 2.0 will be released over the winter
  - Performance upgrade
  - You won't notice any new functionality
  - ROSS will be converted to “enterprise java beans” due to changes in various agency architectures. This will be an improvement in system performance.

**Question (Andy Gray):**

- How are continued development and the ROSS budget being constrained by the agency, department and/or OMB?

**Response (Jon Skeels):**

- All IT investments over a quarter million dollars over a ten-year life cycle are now controlled by Forest Service Investment Review Board (IRB)
- Any major enhancement is determined to be a “segment” which is given a go or no-go by the IRB
  - Example: management of tactical aircraft at an air tanker base (through a limited role in ROSS) is a separate budget request

**Question (Ray Nelson):**

- What is the status of the Change Board? Want to have input in prioritizing work on ROSS for next summer.

**Response (Jon Skeels):**

- Each GACC will have input via conference calls next week
- Change Board takes over after project team is through
  - At least 350 out-of-scope change requests that the board will need to consider
  - Rod Chaffee is communicating with Change Board

- Will probably have meeting in November prior to National Coordinators Meeting
- We will send out a summary of the change requests by the end of the month. The changes will also be posted on our web page.

**Comment (Kim Christensen):**

- In the meantime, it's really the team and the ROSS Partners having input into priorities
- It'd be helpful to the Coordinators if ROSS Team would outline the items that L-M will be focusing on next; also which items will wait until after the project and the Change Board will deal with.

**Comment (Ray Nelson):**

- I'd like to see the changes that will happen between now and next summer so I can give feedback to my folks.

**Response (Jim Fletcher):**

- The potential list of items is about a 40-page document, and it addresses everyone's requests.

**Response (Jon Skeels):**

- Examples of out-of-scope items that Change Board will address:
  - Contract items should display vendor costs on screen so dispatcher can mobilize most cost-effective
  - Incident prioritization module for ROSS
  - Buying Team module for ROSS
  - Link to ICS-209 form
- Between now and Coordinators Meeting we'll develop a list of tasks that we need the dispatch community to complete for us
  - Example: work on the resource catalog in ROSS, which was developed by dispatchers but needs improvement

**Implementation Update – Beth Grey Cloud:**

- ROSS training sessions scheduled between now and first of the year:
  - Asheville, NC – October 20
  - Atlanta, GA – October 27
  - Sacramento, CA – October 27 (two sessions)
  - Reno, NV – November 3
  - Shep Crim will update ROSS training calendar on the web
- Training materials:
  - Users Guide and other materials are updated and posted when new ROSS versions are released
- Folks in each area need to begin planning next year's training now:
  - Complete or refresher courses needed
  - Funding, travel, etc.

**Comment (Flint Cheney):**

- The Buying Teams are interested in special training session

**Response (Beth Grey Cloud):**

- Shep or Stacy has the lead on that. I'll follow-up and have them get back to you on that.

**Question (Kathy Wiegard):**

- Will there be changes to the ROSS Admin materials?

**Response (Beth Grey Cloud):**

- Yes, the admin materials will be updated in the next few weeks (e.g. rosters, pre-orders, etc.).

**Business Team Update - Sue Roussopoulos:**

- With activity winding down, we're now providing limited assistance to fires
- Doing a lot of testing right now
- THANKS to all the Partners for your help in dispatch centers this season

**Comment (Ray Nelson):**

- We couldn't have done it without your [the Partners] help

**Comment (Kim Christensen):**

- Ditto. I'm getting lots of feedback from agency management about how responsive the ROSS Team was in getting help where it was needed.

**Comment (Andy Gray):**

- By "ROSS Team" they mean the extended team including the Partners
- You helped out yourselves and recruited others to help

**ROSS Partners – Andy Gray/Sue Roussopoulos:**

- **Sue Roussopoulos**, ROSS Team Subject Matter Expert (based out of Asheville, NC) will be transitioning with me as the new ROSS Partner Coordinator effective this week
- **Sue's contact information:**
  - Office number: 828-259-0558
  - Cell phone number: 828-216-9577
  - E-mail address: [sroussopoulos@fs.fed.us](mailto:sroussopoulos@fs.fed.us)
- Sue will put her contact information on the web soon

## **Other Business/Questions:**

### **Question (Lani Williams):**

- We're being asked for lots of year-end reports. When will the data warehouse be available?

### **Response (Jon Skeels):**

- You'll see a gradual transition to the data warehouse
  - The computer is being spun up now
  - Sample data will be loaded September 30
  - Data warehouse will just have data – no tools for reporting
  - We have 70 Brio Insight licenses but hope to replace Brio with a better tool
- Be advised that many organizations never had agency affiliations assigned, so you'll have to look at the reports you run
- The Rocky Mountain Area will test the data warehouse beginning mid-October
- Should be available for general use in December

### **Question (Jennifer Trudeau):**

- We've got a lot of duplicate personnel, vendors, etc. in our database. Can that be cleaned up?

### **Response (Jon Skeels):**

- The ROSS Team will issue directions on data cleanup by the end of the year.

### **Question (Kathy Wiegard):**

- Will we be able to delete user accounts?

### **Response (Jon Skeels):**

- We'll fix a bug that currently prevents you from being able to do that. Right now you can only take away all of the privileges from a user account.

### **Action Item:**

Jon and Kim will work out details of forming a dispatcher group to make recommendations to National Coordinators on changes to resource order form printout. Recommendations from group will be due by National Coordinator Meeting in December.

### **Next Conference Call:**

- October 16, 2003 at 1400E/1300C/1200M/1100P/1000AK
- NOTE: beginning October 16, there will be a new conference call phone number, access code and leader name:
  - Phone number: 1-888-469-5804
  - Pass code: 99308
  - Leader Name: Sue Roussopoulos