

**ROSS Partner Conference Call Notes
November 21, 2002**

Participants:

ROSS Team: Jon Skeels, Rod Chaffee, Sue Roussopoulos, Carolyn Rutledge, Rex Alford and Andy Gray.

ROSS Partners: Cheryl Dickson, Larry Elder, Kit Kemsley, Stacy Lensing, Marcia Smith, Flint Cheney, Debbie Bozarth, Frank Bedonie, Jay Wickham, Kathy Wiegard, Dave Hart, etc.

Other Guests: Gina Papke (Northwest Coordination Center)

Note: Additional “post-conference call information” is shown in bold text below.

Business Community Update - Jon Skeels (Neal Hitchcock was unable to participate today)

- ◆ The ROSS Core Team will participate in the National Coordinators meeting next month in San Antonio
- ◆ The NWCG has written a letter to the agencies requiring ROSS use in 2003
- ◆ 190 dispatch centers are currently using ROSS for administration and/or status
- ◆ Over 100 dispatch centers are using ROSS practice

Project Update – Jon Skeels

- ◆ Version 1.2.4 has been released
 - Going well
 - Over 30,000 overhead in ROSS now
 - Biggest source of problems: qualifications data import/export
 - ROSS can't control the data (and its export from those systems)
 - Example: Washington DNR is trying to export >19,000 overhead from IQS into ROSS – ROSS can handle the import, but the export process from IQS is being worked on
 - We're working with those systems and with the ROSS Helpdesk
 - I appreciate your efforts in reporting any problems to Helpdesk
- ◆ Version 1.2.5 will be released in mid-February with two key additional features:
 - Roster (this has been a very complex item to build)
 - Resource pre-positioning
- ◆ Fifteen programmers are working on ROSS
 - Estimated dates of release are estimates, but within a few weeks usually
- ◆ Version 1.2.6 will be released in the summer of 2003 with:
 - Supply module
 - Incident complex

Implementation Update – (Nancy DeLong was unable to participate today)

The following info was provided by Nancy after the call to share with the Partners:

- ◆ **The team is working on updating the training material for the next version**
- ◆ **The ROSS training schedule is constantly being updated and can be found at: http://ross.nwcg.gov/training/Training_Schedule4.xls**
- ◆ **Instructors and coaches are still needed! Contact your GACC or Rob Juhola at 303-439-0336**

- ◆ **While the Web Based Training (WBT) ROSS Overview module has proven a big success, future web-based products will be of a new "streaming video" type. Look for them after the first of the year**

Infrastructure Update – Jon Skeels (Steve Simon was unable to participate today)

- ◆ Because federal agencies are operating under a continuing resolution (no FY03 budget), we've postponed replacing servers until next fall.
 - This is why we'll release v. 1.2.6 instead of v 2.0 in the spring
- ◆ Various browser versions are affecting Brio report-writing in ROSS
 - ROSS Team having a conference call tomorrow with Brio to discuss possible solutions
 - ROSS itself is compatible with various platforms (e.g. Windows 98, 2000, XP, etc.), but some of the parts (Brio reports and mapping software) are issues
- ◆ On some units, an agency IRM person with Windows system administrator privileges has to install programs (like ROSS) on computers. This is an agency security issue
- ◆ ROSS users have the responsibility to have current virus-protection software running on their PC/laptop and understand how to use it
 - For example: a dispatcher using DMS recently opened a message after her virus-protection software identified it as infected, and her computer required extensive repairs

Business Team Update - Rod Chaffee

- ◆ Business Team hasn't been doing actual testing lately
 - We're writing testing scenarios for v. 1.2.5 – very lengthy scripts
 - Will test v. 1.2.5 beginning in January
- ◆ Some SMEs have helped with Lead Instructor training in the SW and NW Areas
- ◆ Also helping review users' data for ROSS production and practice
- ◆ Assisting the ROSS Helpdesk
- ◆ Will begin developing requirements review criteria for v. 1.2.6

ROSS Partner Update – Andy Gray:

- ◆ Nancy and I are considering combining a ROSS Primary (Training) Contact and ROSS Partner workshop the last week in January
 - Group size:
 - One or two people from each Geographic Area/NICC
 - Objectives:
 - Share implementation ideas
 - See and learn about coming version(s) of ROSS
 - **Update the ROSS disaster recovery plan template for dispatch offices**
 - Location: perhaps hold in Denver or somewhere in the Southwest
 - Cheryl says SW Dispatchers' Workshop held that week (Las Cruces)
 - Debbie says RM ROSS Training that week, but could have someone attend
 - Southern Area D-310 being held that week

- ◆ ROSS Overview/Implementation Power Point show (first developed by Partners Flint Cheney and Phil Cardin) has been updated and will be posted with a link on the ROSS Partners web page (also on ROSS “presentations” page)
 - Address: <http://ross.nwcg.gov/partners.htm> (then look under “Power Point Presentations”)
 - Very large file
 - Includes lots of new ROSS application screen captures
 - Download it from web to your hard drive/disk and then modify presentation to meet your briefing needs
- ◆ Also, Flint will soon post updated ROSS Partner rosters on the web
- ◆ **The newest ROSS Partner is Ed Gray, from the Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center**

Other Business/Comments/Questions -

- ◆ Next Conference Call: December 19 with the same numbers and times.

Correction to October 17 Conference Call notes:

We stated, “ROSS version 1.2.5 in January/February will have NFES catalog and ICBS inventory.” Jon Skeels has since provided the following correction: **“All current versions have the NFES Catalog. The ICBS inventory may never be displayed in ROSS. That decision has not been made as yet.”**