



Met Office Board

Summary

25 Jan 2011

- The Met Office Board were shown a short video piece by Hd of Seasonal to Decadal Forecast, which showcased the concept of providing on-line media information and briefed the Board on La Nina and regionalised flooding.
- Julia Slingso, Chief Scientist, then discussed some of the scientific concepts and impacts of El Nino and La Nina in more detail.
- The minutes presented for 29th Nov 2010 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Highlighted actions were reviewed and closed.
- The paper circulated ex-committee, regarding BPM6 – Corporate Responsibility, was discussed. It was concluded that the unanticipated delay to audit was not within the Met Office control. As such it was agreed to remove the element from the BPM in its entirety this year.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- JH informed the Board of developments and the current situation with regard to the ongoing Met Office Asset Review and proposed Public Data Corporation (PDC).
- JH informed the Board that the funding from the Technology Strategy Board for the joint IBM, Met Office and Imperial College “Open Platform” project had been confirmed.
- The Board heard that good progress was being made on the move of the FFC to Exeter and the developing Hazard Centre. JH notified the Board that the Flood Forecasting Centre spending review case has been approved by Defra.
- The Board were informed that IP agreements were imminent between the Met Office and the EA and JH also stated he had just signed an IP agreement with NERC.
- JH discussed the Financial industry projects and the Board requested more information at a future meeting.
- Director of Operations and Services Director, Rob Varley, explained the process of identifying and using “best-data” in greater detail to the Board.



This was especially with reference to the new 5000 sites. These developments were to ensure consistency and that the most up to date and accurate data available is used across all products.

- JH and RV reported a series of positive feedback which had been received, including through the Public Weather Service Customer Group (PWSCG), following the periods of extreme weather which had been experienced since the previous Board meeting.
- Nick Jobling, CFO, delivered the Health and Safety accident statistics and trends for Oct-Dec.
- NJ delivered the finance report, informing the Board that the Met Office expected to reach the ROCE and Business Profitability BPMs.
- NJ reported that the National Audit Office had spent 3 weeks completing an interim audit and that no significant issues had been raised.
- Met Office Transport Programme Manager presented to the Board the latest information on the discussions with the CAA for the renewal of the Met Office designation as the UK Aviation Met Service provider.
- The cost and profit profiles were discussed, including the fact that over the years the Met Office had increasingly found efficiencies.
- The Board gave their support to progress with the proposed negotiation.
- Head of the Public Weather Service gave the Board an informative presentation on the development of the 5000 sites. He explained that the sites were based around population centres above 3000 people, tourist destinations and then any obvious 'gaps' to obtain a good coverage of the UK.
- The Board discussed this progress, understanding that this meant the Met Office was providing a significant amount more free-at-point-of use data than most other NMSs. It was also noted that this progress, while soundly welcomed by the public, had received a less enthusiastic reception from some competitors.
- The Board noted the extra sites were available by iPhone and web widgets. The severe weather had seen a peak of around 5M hits a day for the iPhone.
- The Board also noted that 17TeraBytes of data had been downloaded via the via web in December. Around 20-25% of government web traffic is routinely Met Office, and this peaks at times of severe weather – with an average of nearly 50% for the month of December.



- The presentation then moved on to explain the forthcoming changes to the National Severe Weather warning service, where warnings will be issued for severe impact events. The Board appreciated that the change to impact based warning, rather than threshold based, is a big, but advantageous step.
- The Chairman of Met Office Scientific Advisory Committee (MOSAC) delivered his Chairman's report.
- The Chairman and Chief Scientist thanked MOSAC Chairman for the report. The influence and contribution from MOSAC was noted and appreciated. JS and JH commented that many of the points raised were already subject to ongoing actions or planned developments and that a fuller Met Office management response will be provided in due course.
- The Board reviewed the corporate planning progress. The objectives were endorsed and planning assumptions noted. The planned approach with respect to measurement of success was endorsed.
- The Board reviewed the Corporate Risk Register and requested that a complete risk review summary should be presented once the Corporate Plan had been finalised.
- The Board noted the HR Update Report.
- The Board noted the Corporate Responsibility Report and the suggestion to change to using the phrase "sustainability" instead of "corporate responsibility" was accepted.
- The Audit Committee Report was noted with thanks.
- RN confirmed the February meeting would start at 1045am, with the opportunity to visit the FAAM aircraft at Exeter airport afterwards.
- The Chairman thanked Terence Jagger for his contribution to the Met Office. The Board wished Terence all the best for his new role as Chief Executive of Crown Agents.
- **Close of Meeting**