



Met Office Board

Summary

Nov 2010

- The minutes presented for 26th Oct 2010 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting. Highlighted actions were reviewed and closed.
- The Chief Executive, John Hirst, delivered his report to the Board.
- Rob Varley reported that all the elements of Business Performance Measure (BPM) for forecast accuracy were now green.
- RV also discussed the BPM for Corporate Responsibility, also covering the air miles component, which now looked potentially achievable, with careful management.
- JH informed the Board that the Review of Government Climate Science needs by Sir John Beddington GCSA, along with supporting documents of the Lawton report and HPC paper had been published on the BIS website
- JH reported that visitors from the BBC News and the Executive were due to visit Exeter, to discuss the transition to new contract and to make working together a success for all concerned.
- The Board were informed that the relationship with Australia's Bureau of Meteorology was working well, borne out by a recent visit from BOM's Assistant Director of weather services to the Met Office Operations Centre.
- JH reported a recent meeting with CE of New Zealand Met Service, with a further meeting planned to discuss opportunities to work together in future.
- The ongoing work regarding volcanic ash was discussed, including the progress in procuring a civil contingencies aircraft.
- JH reviewed a selection of commercial developments. Feedback from the Walkers crisps campaign had been positive, with Walkers reporting the highest customer engagement for any of their campaigns.
- The Board agreed with JH that the awards received over the last 6 months were impressive and were looking forward to the Awards for Excellence. Nick Jobling updated the Board by informing them that the Direct Current Power Project had been Highly Commended at the Institute of Engineering and Technology Awards ceremony.



- JH discussed the move to 5000 sites for site specific forecasts, available free to all through the PWS. This improvement of sites to choose from is fully available from the "Invent" web site and planned to be moved across to the main site in the near future.
- RV reported the hurricane forecast had been very accurate this year. One thing it had highlighted though was that despite being an active season, the impact was low, due to very little landfall. As a consequence future potential developments would consider tracks to formulate an impact index.
- RV updated the Board on the recent and current weather. The Cornwall flooding was discussed, along with the roles and responsibilities of all involved. It was confirmed that the FFC was moving to Exeter in April
- The unusually low temperatures and snow for November were also discussed, with RV reporting that the weather pattern was not unusual, but that the air was cold for the time of year and in combination with November sea temperatures was triggering significant amounts of wintry convection.
- NJ delivered the finance report, informing the Board that the Met Office expected to reach the ROCE and Business Profitability BPMs.
- The Board were informed that the new Bribery Act was expected to come into force in April 2011 and the Met Office would comply with the Act in full.
- JH reported a range of meetings he and the Exec had been involved in, designed to fortify relationships and further develop collaborations.
- The Board were updated regarding progress with the supercomputer, including the expected Phase II installation timetable.
- The Board received a presentation on Information Assurance, expected training and the progress being made towards achieving 'Level 3 Maturity'.
- An informative presentation on the verification and comparative measures used for BPM 1 was given and the difficulties of finding and understanding the complexities of verification measures were discussed.
- RV presented a paper on the PWS measures for BPM4, assessing the forecasts the public receive.
- The Board gave any required changes to the register of interests.
- The next meeting was confirmed as 11am, 25th January, in Exeter.
- **Close of Meeting**