

Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) Report

**WRD Senior Staff Meeting
October 22, 2002**

ITAC Presentation Outline

- Purpose
- Members – Action Item
- Meetings
- Charter Modifications – Action Item
- Goals and Accomplishments
- Questions?
- Messages to take back to ITAC?

ITAC Purpose

- Represent WRD constituents
- Propose Information Technology (IT) strategic plans
- Make recommendations to Senior Staff on plans and policies that involve significant IT expenditures
- Communicate – WRD, Bureau, DOI
- Make decisions related to WRD computer hardware and software systems
- Coordinate WRD IT configurations / implementations
- Improve WRD computing environment

ITAC Function

- Identify long-term IT goals for WRD
- Analyze existing computer resources
- Identify functional needs
- Provide guidance / direction on computer topics
- Resolve immediate problems
- Foster interoperability
- Analyze computing economies
- Guide future computer investments

ITAC Membership

- **Permanent Members:**
 - Katherine Lins – Senior Staff Liaison
 - Tom Wood – Chief, DIS , Bureau Liaison
 - Susan Trapanese – Chief, NWIS
 - Stephen Glodt – NWQL
- **Rotating Members:**
 - Mark Nilles – WRD Technical Offices
 - Leo House – National Research Program
 - Jessica Alvarez – Regional Computer Specialist
 - Sandy Williamson – NAWQA Program

ITAC Membership (Continued)

Rotating Members:

- Grady Moore – District Chief, New York
- Sonya Jones – Studies Chief, Texas
- Brian McCallum – Data Chief, Georgia
- Joel Johnson – Database Administrator, California
- Nelson Williams – Webmaster, North Carolina
- Pat Vallance – Administrative Officer, Arizona
- Loren Kloft – Site Administrator, Kentucky
- Mike Slifer – District Chief, Missouri

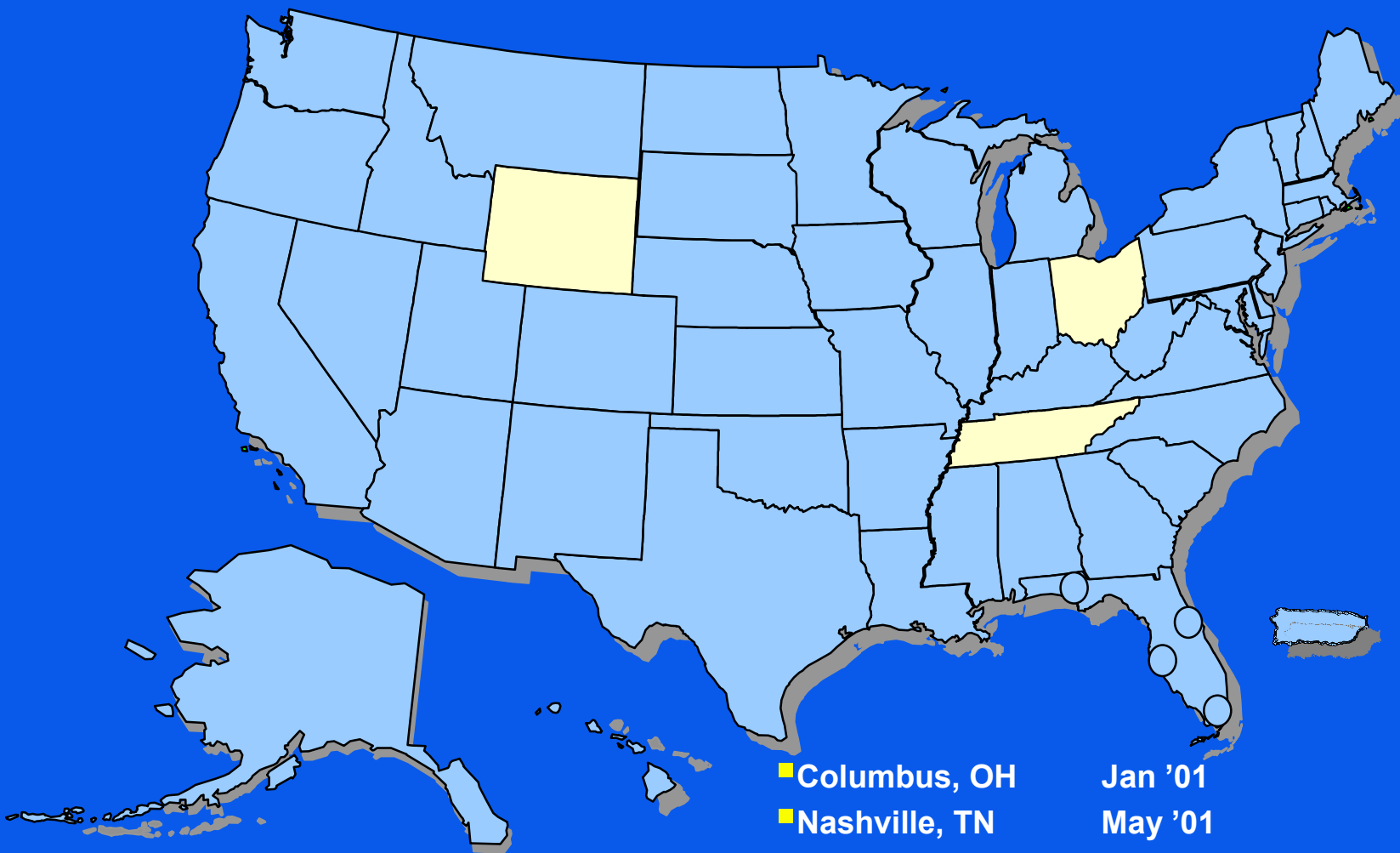
ITAC Charter Modifications

- ITAC Co-Chair position established
- AIS Chief member eliminated (de facto)
- Increased meeting frequency to Monthly from Quarterly
 - 3 in-person meeting -- included District Town Meeting
 - 9 E-meetings using Cyber Technology

ITAC Charter Modifications (Con't)

- Editorial Change: “Division” to “Discipline”
- ITAC communicates to the WRD Senior Staff *and* Bureau Geographic Information Officer
- Establish new ex-officio member: one Regional GIO
- Jim Brokaw, Acting CR GIO, will seek feedback from the GIO and the Regional Directors regarding the ex-officio ITAC membership

ITAC Meetings: 2001



- Columbus, OH Jan '01
- Nashville, TN May '01
- Cheyenne, WY Sep '01
- Fort Collins, CO Sci Center
- Two E-Meetings

ITAC Goals for 2001

- Develop policy on selection and support of WRD hardware and software
- Develop policy and plans on serving real-time data in a reliable manner
- Update the Future Computing (FUTCOM) Information
- Develop policy for archiving electronic data and documents
- Develop policy for field computer hardware and software
- Evaluate the viability of Framemaker software

NWIS Fiscal Year 2003 Priorities

from Katherine Lins memo dated Sept. 23, 2002

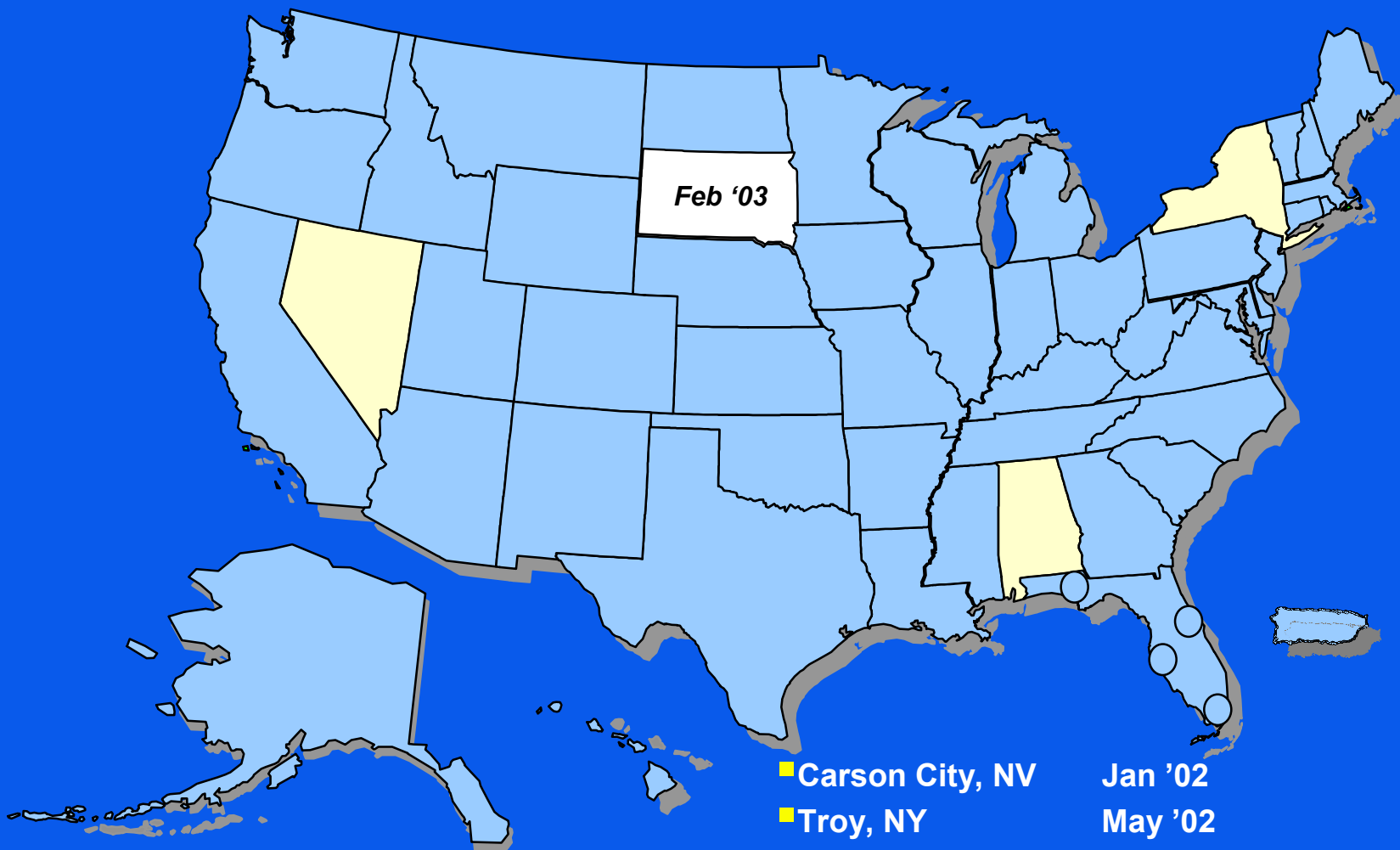
- NWIS 4 “existing systems” documentation
- NWISWeb/ NATWEB, NWIS-RT
- Staff Development and mentoring plan
- User Groups interaction model
- Management planning/policies for new NWIS versions

Examples of ITAC Goals and Processes for Future WRD Computing

ITAC ISSUES REMAINING ON TABLE

- Considered FUTCOM4 approach
- 4 WRD/Bureau relevant topics
 - NWIS architecture (describe 300b PROCESS)
 - Large GIS data sets (NEEDS ITAC WORK)
 - Remote training (NOTE SUCCESS OF CYBER SEMINARS HERE)
 - LAN/WAN bandwidth requirements (GIO MATRIX)
- Notes for above: Slide needs rework... DESCRIBE THAT THESE ARE ISSUES THAT ARE MORPHING/MATRIXING INTO THE GIO OFFICE

ITAC Meetings: 2002



■ Carson City, NV

Jan '02

■ Troy, NY

May '02

■ Montgomery, AL

Sep '02

■ Rapid City, SD

Feb '03

Six E- Meetings

ITAC Goals for 2002

- “With the on-going Bureau restructuring, outside legal issues, and continual fast-paced changes occurring in the IT field, ITAC has adopted three broad, long-term goals that are each supported with several short-term goals to be strived for in FY 2002. “

ITAC Goals for 2002

- **GOAL 1.--Ensure that the interests of the customers of the Water Resources Discipline (WRD) are represented and served during the Bureau's evolution by improving communication between the Bureau and ITAC constituents.**
- **GOAL 2.--Continue to monitor, recommend policy direction, and provide field-level communication of the status of major WRD software packages**
- **GOAL 3.--Continue to monitor and develop policy for general computer usage for WRD**

GOAL 1

**Ensure WRD interests
during the Bureau's evolution
by improving communications
between the Bureau and ITAC constituents**

- **Facilitate improved communication between the GIO, IT workgroups, and constituents**
- **Relay WRD constituents' concerns to the GIO on the loss of core IT support in the WRD**
- **Advise WRD Senior Staff and WRD constituents on the status and effect of IT personnel competitive sourcing on WRD programs**

GOAL 1

Ensure WRD interests during the Bureau's evolution by improving communications between the Bureau and ITAC constituents

- **Advise Bureau of issues with implementing DOI's Standardizing on Microsoft Desktop and Server Software, and other forthcoming DOI directives**
- **Advise Active Directory (AD) implementation so that it meets the needs of the WRD according to the priority of resource allocations with other projects**
- **Advise Bureau and our constituents of ongoing issues with the implementation of increased IT security at Bureau level**

GOAL 1

**Ensure WRD interests
during the Bureau's evolution
by improving communications
between the Bureau and ITAC constituents**

- **Advocate a renewed look at the direction of the Training Management System (TMS)**
- **Advise Bureau and WRD constituents of Basis + conversion ongoing issues slated for FY03**

Goal 2

Continue to monitor, recommend policy direction, and provide field-level communication of the status of major WRD software packages

- Advise WRD constituents on the on-going improvements to NWIS, NWISWeb, NatWeb, and NWIS-RT
- Monitor funding, release and support of GCLAS and SLEDs
- Monitor the effectiveness of maintaining models

Goal 3

Continue to monitor and develop policy for general computer usage for the WRD

- Advocate the purchase of a Direct Readout Ground Station (DRGS) to provide real-time DCP data backup of in case of DOMSAT failure
- Develop contingency plan for non-GOES telemetry data
- Institutionalize the mobile computer effort

Accomplishments

- Distributed ITAC minutes summaries to keep WRD constituents informed
- Proposed communication solutions to Bureau and Regions which have reduced the number of confusing communications and excessive data calls.
- GIO and Regions are now promoting use of existing channels of authority. Some of the proposed solutions still remain to be adopted
- Prioritized year end funding for OI

Accomplishments (cont.)

- **Postponed Bureau Implementation of Active Directory pending benefit / cost analysis**
- **Reviewed Bureau's Information Architecture Office plans and recommended that more field representation be included on teams**
- **Outlined WRD IT needs as a consequence of funding realignment. The GIO is now aware funds will have to be allocated to continue to support certain functions needed by WRD**

Accomplishments (cont.)

- Advocated funding for SLEDS enhancements
- Clarified WRD needs and offered alternate approach to BASIS implementation
- Promoted incorporation of existing Unix user ids into Lotus

Accomplishments (cont.)

- Provided "Direction" for WRD offices
 - OUTWAT rounding problems
 - Getting assistance from personnel matrixed to the Bureau.
 - Unix user ids
 - AD implementation and advancements
- Assisted Districts with IT Planning
 - Length of NWIS 4.2 migration
 - Performance implications- NWIS4.2
 - Web-based TNA, availability and Q&A

Ongoing IT Activities and Issues ITAC needs to understand

- Home Support Policy
- Wireless LANs Policy and Plans
- USGS Information Architecture Report
- Proposed Bureau Web Redesign
- NWIS Future Plans
- HASS
- BASIS+/FFS

A Last Thought

- WRD and Bureau IT future will be written by DOI:
 - Information Technology Inventory Management Process
 - DOI-wide Standardization on Microsoft
 - DOI-wide deployment of authentication (Active Directory)
 - DOI-wide Telecommunications Architecture Redesign
Driven by Security Requirements

The Kicker

- **ITAC needs to continue to learn how to deal with DOI directives and associated new costs that DOI will push down to the Bureau and WRD.**

Questions?



Messages to take back to ITAC ?