

27 September 2012 Databank WG Conference Call Summary Notes

1200 - 1315 UTC

Members In Attendance

Jay Lawrimore (NOAA NCDC, USA, Chair)

John Christy (Univ of Alabama-Huntsville)

Matilde Rusticucci (Univ of Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Albert Klein-Tank (KNMI, Netherlands)

Byron Gleason (NOAA NCDC)

Waldenio Gambi de Almeida (CPTEC/INPE, Brazil)

Matt Menne (NOAA/NCDC, USA)

Colin Morice (UK Met Office)

Jared Rennie (NOAA NCDC, USA)

Steve Worley (National Center for Atmospheric Research, USA)

Peter Thorne (CICS-NC, USA, Chair, Surface Temperatures Initiative Steering Committee, ex officio)

Agenda

- I. Review action items from 6 Jun 2012 conference call (Lawrimore).
- II. Update on activities of the Int'l Surface Temp Initiative Steering Committee (Thorne)
- III. Discussion of Stage 3 Merge process (Rennie, Gleason). Jared will send a lengthy document on the merge process Wednesday.
- IV. Plan for beta release of Stage 3 products (Lawrimore, Thorne)
- V. Discussion of next goal for Databank (further expand Monthly, begin development of Daily, other?) (All)
- VI. Data collection activities at the Regional level (All)
- VII. Summarize Activities and Next Steps for coming months
- VIII. Other Business

Action Items From 6 June 2012 conference call.

1. DL to determine if all data from BADC can be shared.
This issue has not been resolved but contact with Ag Stephens continues.
2. CM and DL to provide some expert decision and rationale to define ensemble member settings.
CM and DL provided recommendations and ensembles were produced based on their recommendation. Jared included results in pdf for discussion.
3. JL to request that other WG members provide some expert decision and rationale to define ensemble member settings.
Other ensembles were produced based on recommendations from other working group members and included in pdf for discussion.

4. JR and JL to provide volunteers a short summary of what is requested regarding source prioritization and parameters for metadata and data comparisons.
Summary provided in advance of ensemble development.
5. JL to discuss issue of releasing bias corrected global temperature trends with release of Databank version 1 with leadership at NCDC and WG.
Discussions were held and decision was to release the databank beta without quality controlled or bias corrected global time series. Further development of those aspects is required before release of such information.
6. VR to provide Russian baseline data in English version. JR to add to databank.
This action remains open.

II. Update on activities of the Int'l Surface Temp Initiative Steering Committee (Thorne)

The Steering Committee has met two times since the Databank call in June. Has shown posters at relevant workshops in the past several months and looking forward to supporting the first release of the Databank. At that point benchmarking can move forwards.

III. Discussion of Stage 3 Merge process (Rennie).

Jared sent a lengthy document on the merge process Wednesday in pdf format. The presentation will be posted alongside the conference call notes.

Jared reviewed the presentation and the following questions were raised.

JC: Can merge deck ordering be played with?

JR: Yes its simply an ancillary text file that the program reads.

JC: GSOD source – do you account for the fact that its not true Tmax / Tmin

JR: Yes, we give it lowest priority for this reason. But you could move it up / down.

JC: Why are there red dots in slide 14 if GHCN is top priority

JR: 1. First priority is GHCND not GHCNM. Some red dots relate to location issues in GHCNM that are resolved in the databank. Near gridbox borders this can matter. In other cases the GHCNM stations were withheld from the merge because they could not be resolved by the auto merge process.

PT: Choice of GHCND is deliberate for vertical coherency of monthly and dailies down the line.

AKT: Is the geolocation issue adding many phantom stations?

JR: Withholding of stations should mitigate the potential issue.

AKT: Concerned at the size of addition.

JR: GHCND alone is 27000 stations so we are adding 10000+ from the remaining sources.

CM: Which ensemble members have fewer gridboxes?

JR: One is Peter's. The other would need to be checked.

JC: These variants are raw unless homogenized sources are included?

JL/JR: Yes.

CM: Plan to release as GHCNMv4?

JR: Yes

AKT: Very good work. Differences compared to GHCN: Is it mostly sampling?

JR: Yes, partly better sampling existing gridboxes and partly new sampling.

JC: Is the gridbox analysis on anomaly space?

JL: Yes

IV. Plan for beta release of Stage 3 products (Lawrimore, Thorne)

JL: Plan is to release in beta form next week for 3 months and publicize. Then make adjustments as needed and official v1 release. No plan for a press release but will work with NCDC public affairs to draft a story which will provide an overview of the Databank activity. There will also be a notice on NCDC website under 'What's New'. Peter will update the surfacetemperatures.org and put blog posting online the day of the release and in the week or two to follow.

PT: Possible CLIMLIST post, series of blog postings. What about new sources appeared?

JR: Some sources need updating

JC: Commented that he would like to redo some sources of his. Could these be integrated before the beta is official version is released?

JL: We can add stations until around Dec 1st. At that point no new data would be added – which would give users a month to review and comment on before the official version 1 release.

CM: We need to state this in comms that additional data will be considered prior to 12/1.

AKT: There will be new data coming in.

JR: All stage 2 data are version controlled. So we can track the provenance.

V. Discussion of next goal for Databank (further expand Monthly, begin development of Daily, other?) (All)

JL: In the short term we will be focusing on going through to beta, but where should the focus of the databank effort be afterward. Further development of Monthly or begin addressing development of a merged Daily dataset?

JC: How does this relate to Berkeley?

JL: Its mainly created from NCDC data and we have additional data.

JC: Put out a blog posting?

JR: We have that already?

AKT: What if someone asked for you to use Berkeley data source?

JL: Its low priority even if it goes in.

CM: Little to be gained from that data.

JL: We'd need to ascertain what is unique – likely very little.

Where should focus be? Daily merged dataset?

AKT: Objectives are to support daily time resolution. Yes, useful to switch focus.

JR: Hope that merged monthly product will give more data sources both daily and monthly.

MM: On daily there aren't many daily sources as yet not in GHCND. GHCND is a little more mature and comprehensive.

AKT: Is GHCND-raw the raw stage 3 daily?

JL: Yes, that is the assumption as to how this will work.

VI. Data collection activities at the Regional level (All)

Brazilian data integrated into Databank thanks to the efforts of Waldenio.

Also KNMI data from AKT and Ugandan from JC, NCAR source Greenland data from SW.

MR: The National Weather Service is OK with releasing their data. Perhaps we can send them a letter thanking them once in hand. Also, there are other potential sources - the National Water Resources Institution or some regional, state level institutions. Request that JL provide a generic letter to encourage them to join the initiative's efforts.

VII. Summarize Activities and Next Steps for coming months

Beta release, additional data and ingest 12/1 for further comments.

Papers – EOS already submitted and Jared is leading a method paper on which WG members will be authors along with NCDC folks.

VIII. Other Business

None. Next call in December or January.

ACTIONS resulting from 27 September call

JL and JR to follow up on outstanding data source issues, BADC and Russian source.

MR to continue to pursue new Argentine source data.

JL to aide MR by providing a letter encouraging contributions to the initiative's efforts.

Beta release to occur during first week of October. Accompanied with Overview story, updated surfacetemperatures.org website, and blog postings.

JR to continue to add new sources up until 1 December.

Stage 3 data issues to be addressed as comments come in.

PT to work with Benchmarking working group to initiate benchmarking of Stage 3 data.

NCDC to conduct QC and Bias correction testing and development of Stage 3 data.