

Dear MPEXers:

It's now been 1 month since our workshop, with just 4 months left till the field program begins. So, it's time again to seriously engage in MPEX planning. In this regard, it would be good to remind ourselves of the key action items that stemmed from the workshop.

### **1) Website:**

Note that the MPEX website ([www.eol.ucar.edu/projects/mpex/](http://www.eol.ucar.edu/projects/mpex/)) has been updated to include all the presentations from the workshop (in pdf format).

### **2) Working Groups:**

It was deemed beneficial to create several focused working groups. The working groups that are now defined (at least in my mind), with the designated lead, include:

Realtime Modeling: Glen Romine (romine@ucar.edu)

Forecasting/Nowcasting: Craig Schwartz (schwartz@ucar.edu)

Upsonde Operations: Jeff Trapp (jtrapp@purdue.edu)

Dropsonde Operations: Morris Weisman (weisman@ucar.edu)

MTP Operations: Chris Davis (cdavis@ucar.edu)

Aircraft Ops: Pavel Romashkin (pavel@ucar.edu)

Field Catalogue/Data Archival: Greg Stossmeister (gstoss@ucar.edu), Steve Williams (sfw@ucar.edu)

General Ops: Jim Moore (jmoore@ucar.edu)

The basic charge for these working groups is to serve as focal points for the detailed field phase planning, to document progress and/or ongoing issues. Ultimately, the working groups will be responsible for contributing to the writing of the "Operations Plan", which will be due by April 1 (see below). If you would like to contribute to any of these working groups, please contact the lead person (noted above) directly.

### **3) Personnel needs:**

Several staffing needs were identified for the field phase, including forecasters (daytime), nowcasters (nighttime flight support), realtime dropsonde quality

control personnel (during flights), mission scientists (during flights), mission antagonist (all the time), mobile upsonde personnel, etc.

In order to start the planning for Boulder-based staffing, we need to know:

- a) Who is planning to be in Boulder, and for what time period.
- b) Will you be bringing students, and how many?
- c) In what capacity would you (or your students) like to contribute to the field operations?

Please email me (Morris) directly with this information as soon as you can!

#### **4) Teleconferences:**

In order to gage progress in planning and to identify any MPEX-wide issues, we will begin a series of teleconferences, with the first one about Feb. 15, and then each month subsequently (more frequently if needed). For these teleconferences, it is expected that the working group leads will summarize progress or issues that may have arisen in their respective foci. I will send out a reminder as the time gets closer.

#### **5) Further retrospective testing:**

There was much support for further retrospective testing before the field phase begins to help further refine our targeting strategies. I would propose that we complete sensitivity testing on the June 14, 2012 case (the 3<sup>rd</sup> case that we didn't have time to discuss at the workshop), and discuss these results as part of the first teleconference call around Feb. 15.

#### **6) Education and Outreach**

We still need to work on this.

#### **7) Timeline to Operations:**

Feb. 15: First teleconference, with update on progress with FAA

March 15: Second teleconference

April 1: Draft material for Ops plan due from working groups

April 15: Third teleconference

April 20: Operations plan completed

May 1: Begin NCAR/WRF realtime forecasts

May 6-14: Aircraft test flights

May 10: Begin daily forecasting and briefings

May 15: Begin full aircraft and upsonde operations

June 15: Operations end

**8) LOGO!!** Has anybody developed any ideas yet?

**9) Further questions/comments/ideas? Email me!! :)**