

AMS-NWA Memphis Chapter

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2022

Opening

The May virtual business meeting of the AMS-NWA Memphis Chapter was called to order at 7:05pm on May 24, 2022 by President Dorian Burnette.

New Business

- No applications have been received to date for this year's chapter scholarship.
- Officer elections for 2022-2023 were held. A motion was made to keep the same slate of officers as the current year, seconded, and the vote was unanimous in favor – President Dorian Burnette, Vice President Ned Savage, Secretary/Treasurer Erik Proseus.
- The Treasurer's Report was given by Erik Proseus. The scholarship fund balance is \$1,121.74. The general checking account balance is \$1,009.87. Dues can be paid and scholarship donations made on our website (www.amsmemphis.org).

Presentation

Our speaker for the evening was NWS-Memphis meteorologist Mike Johnson, whose presentation was entitled "The Utility of FLASH in WFO Operations." FLASH stands for "Flooded Locations and Simulated Hydrographs" and Mike made the case that this method of evaluating the potential for flash flooding is superior to the traditional methodology, which relies on qualitative analysis, local knowledge, ambiguous understanding of land use, and comparison of rainfall to flash flood guidance. FLASH utilizes a variety of ensemble and precipitation-based water models and provides products via the MRMS (multi-radar, multi-sensor) data suite to more intelligently determine potential for flash flooding. These include max streamflow, max unit streamflow, soil saturation, annual recurrence intervals, and QPE to FFG ratios as examples. Since implementing the method locally in 2020, the number of Flash Flood Warnings issued by NWS-Memphis has dropped considerably in comparison to other forecast offices. In addition, the probability of detection has increased, the false alarm rate has dropped, lead time is near 60 minutes, and more Flood Advisories are being issued in place of Warnings, despite a few limitations of the data and the office still developing best practices for use of the products in the warning paradigm.

Meeting attendees were then introduced to the just-announced new Meteorologist-in-Charge of NWS-Memphis, Mr. Darone Jones, who comes from a director position with the National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, AL. Darone provided some of his background and then expounded on the products available from the NWC, which are slated to become publicly available on July 5 as the new NCEP center achieves full operational capability. In particular, he deep dived into the capabilities of the National Water Model, which provides forecasts for 3.4 million waterway

miles across the U.S. The NWM uses the HRRR data out to 36 hours and the GFS model to 10 days to provide hourly forecasts out to 10 days and will eventually replace AHPS with its more precise forecast data. NWC will also begin issuing discussions and outlooks soon. Darone also mentioned that flood inundation maps will be available for all rivers and streams nationwide by the end of FY23.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm by President Dorian Burnette.

Minutes submitted by: Erik Proseus, Secretary

Approved by: Dorian Burnette, President