

**Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting;
March 11, 2004; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room,
Albuquerque**

In Attendance:

Steve Bowser, USBR	Dennis Oyenque, San Juan Pueblo
Daniel Brown, II, WJM Engineers, Inc./Corps	Jesse Roach, Sandia National Labs
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps	D. Michael Roark, USGS
Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps	Gail Stockton, Corps
Charles Lujan, San Juan Pueblo	Tim J. Ward, UNM
William J. Miller, WJM Engineers, Inc./Corps	Naomi Archuleta, San Juan Pueblo

- ❖ Mike Roark chaired the meeting and distributed a handout on Technical Team activities. Information and discussion not included in the handout are summarized below. The items on the handout are attached to the end of these notes.
 - **Question:** Are there any plans for holding public meetings to present the Annual Operating Plan (AOP)?
 - **Answer:** No current plans at this time, but if they are held, it would be to present the April 1 forecast model run.
 - Marc Sidlow compared URGWOM outputs with last year's forecast. The model was correct until late in the year when unpredicted decisions were implemented. URGWOM results were good through the snowmelt runoff period.
 - MMS is being used to verify the snowmelt runoff predictions from the NRCS forecast, which is input to the Forecast Model. The forecast is used to select a similar hydrograph as input to URGWOM.
 - Mike and Nabil Shafike (NMISC) are developing a conceptual test case with the groundwater/surface water model interfaced with URGWOM. They may use a lookup table to relate channel flow and seepage with the head on diversions in order to enhance the middle valley portion of URGWOM. The lookup table would be developed by running the groundwater model with different heads and flows and would be useful until it is possible to link URGWOM to a process model. CADSWES is considering development of an interface between RiverWare and groundwater models like MODFLOW and MODBRANCH. Right now, RiverWare does not take into account head pressure.
 - The freeware version of RiverWare will be released in approximately 6 weeks. Its use will involve obtaining a special license that would allow read-only access to the full RiverWare program. This would enable people to see the details of URGWOM runs without having to purchase the full license.
 - **Question:** Is the public involvement model used by the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly?
 - **Answer:** This model uses the same platform as the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly public involvement model with annual timesteps but is being modified by people at Sandia National Labs to demonstrate the URGWOM Planning Model on a monthly timestep. It is intended to enable the public to understand the effects of different operational alternatives under consideration in the Water Operations Review and EIS.

- The model is now running with historical data. There will be a demonstration of this model at an upcoming URGWOM Steering Committee or URGWOPS Interdisciplinary NEPA Team meeting. Some parts work well, like large reservoirs but it is difficult to use for Jemez Canyon Dam due to the large inflows, releases, and evaporation.
- Overall impacts to resources can be captured and, except for Jemez Canyon Dam and middle valley evapotranspiration, it correlates well with the URGWOM Planning Model.
- **Question:** Will the model and ruleset be posted on the public website?
 - **Answer:** URGWOM runs for the AOP will be saved and posted as read-only model output files on the URGWOM website.
- ❖ Mike distributed a list of Technical Team tasks with the descriptions, priorities, and estimated time requirements that were developed by the Technical Team. He e-mailed the list to Steering Committee members prior to the meeting. There was considerable discussion on these items and their recommended priorities. The questions and decisions are summarized below.
 - **Model Testing:** Dave Wilkins will help with developing the tutorial for model testing by cooperating agencies. Gail Stockton will send letters to cooperating agencies and signatories to the URGWOM MOU to invite them to participate in testing. The completion date for testing was set for September, with 4-month timeframe.
 - **Question:** Will this be done with freeware or the full RiverWare?
 - **Answer:** It will be up to each individual agency interested in testing if they wish to purchase the full software license.
 - **Tracking types of Rio Grande water through model:** In the Accounting Model, San Juan-Chama and Rio Grande accounts are modeled, but there is a need to address more than 2 accounts and more than one Rio Grande account.
 - The goal for completing this task is this fiscal year. Routing and accounting methods must be changed to accomplish this.
 - **Documentation of Rules:** An end date of July was proposed. The rules should be posted on the public website. (All documents on the web should be updated.) This task includes the decision tree to be developed by CADSWES so it is not likely that it will be completed this year.
 - **Complete rules for storage/release of multiple RG accounts at El Vado:** The list stated that the task is done, but because the documentation is not complete, it was recommended that this not be counted as done. When the rules documentation has been completed and posted on the website, it can be considered done.
 - **Account Model output go seamlessly into BOR Water Accounting Spreadsheet:** The Steering Committee wanted this item to be deleted from the list because it is not an URGWOM Technical Team responsibility or under Technical Team control. HDB is now functional so a prototype for this task has been developed.
 - **Develop model below Elephant Butte:** The Steering Committee changed this from a priority 1 to a 3 because the gag order is still in effect. This will become a priority 1 task when the gag order is lifted.
 - **Data accessibility solution:** The Steering Committee recommended that this be split into 2 tasks. Making model run data available to the public should be one task with a top priority (1). Developing interactivity between the separate USBR and Corps databases should be included as a separate task with a lower priority because its success is controlled by commitments of multiple agency resources and is not under the control of the Technical Team.

- **Refine Middle Valley GW/SW interaction:** This task was changed to a priority 2 by the Steering Committee because its completion is not necessary for model functioning.
- Several suggestions for further changes to the list were made by Steering Committee members:
 - Group tasks with similar priorities together.
 - Add the month that the task would be completed, and update the list if a task is delayed.
 - Define priority 1 tasks as those necessary to improve the model and increase public understanding and accessibility. Do not define priority 1 tasks as those needed to make the model fully functional because that may mean different things to different people. URGWOM is already fully functional with current data.
 - Tasks not under Technical Team control should be changed to priority 3 or dropped from the list.
- ❖ Other items of interest to the group include the following:
 - Tim Ward reported that the SAHRA group from the University of Arizona will be meeting at UNM on April 8-9. The meeting is open to the public.
 - The UNM Institute for Public Policy will be hosting a conference on water technologies in New Mexico on April 21-22.
 - The University Council on Water Resources (UCOWR) will be holding a conference in Portland, Oregon in July. Several people working on URGWOM and URGWOPS will be giving presentations on different aspects of the Rio Grande.
 - San Juan Pueblo will be hosting a workshop on Collaborative Forest Restoration (bosque restoration) in July. There will be walking or rafting tours at San Juan Pueblo.
 - The invasive species task force meeting will be held at the end of March.
 - The Paso del Norte final report on the coordinated database should soon be distributed for Steering Committee review.
- ❖ **No Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for April.**

Tech. Team activities since last meeting—Mike Roark

1. Responded to requests for data from the Planning Model from EIS teams.
2. Modifications were completed to the data push procedures from the COE to the BOR. These were necessary because of the increased security for the network at the BOR.
3. Setting up and testing of the 2004 Forecast, Water Operations, and Accounting Models was completed. The team has run the 2004 Forecast and Water Operations models for the January, February, and March NRCS forecast.
4. Continued verification and testing of the MMS snowmelt-runoff model. We had received the new calibrated parameter files for the model and had requested the GIS coverages for the model so that we can verify that the seed points and the basins are correct for URGWOM. We received them yesterday and have started analyzing them.
5. Review of the Sandia [National Labs] Public Involvement Model. The Tech. Team has received a copy of the model and the accompanying documentation for review. The model has been loaded on a team computer and the review has started.
6. The rules for the multiple Rio Grande accounts in El Vado were developed for the Water Operations Model. These rules have also been ported over to the Planning Model.
7. The team has started on the concept for the update of the middle valley portion of the models.
8. Members of the Tech. Team attended the 2004 RiverWare Users Group Meeting. Many new developments in RiverWare were covered in the meeting and the team was able to interact with other teams of modelers in other basins.