

## **Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; September 11, 2003; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque**

### *In Attendance:*

Steve Bowser, USBR

D. Michael Roark, USGS

Charles Braden, BIA

Marc Sidlow, Corps

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

Valda Terauds, USBR

Danny Hernandez, AMAFCA

Jack Veenhuis, USGS

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps

Tim J. Ward, UNM

William J. Miller, WJM Engineering,  
Inc./Corps

- ❖ Steve Bowser chaired the meeting and turned it over to Marc Sidlow to discuss the status of the URGWOM Planning Model and Tech Team activities.
  - The City of Albuquerque staff has reviewed the Planning Model and voiced some concerns about apparent conflicts with the model they used to predict impacts in the City's EIS. Some of their concerns are as follows:
    - The 40-year hydrologic sequence represents a combination of years that are too dry, so that the volume of flows is too low. The City used a 60-year combination of historic flows from years between 1975 and 1995.
    - The rules for shortages at Heron used by the Planning Model (all contractors are proportioned, per Bureau of Reclamation) are different than those used by the City (City and MRGCD have first rights, other contractors proportioned thereafter).
    - The City release schedule for additional SJ-C release (to ensure City water rights balance per OSE) is based on a different hydrologic sequence than that used in the 40-year sequence for the Planning Model.
    - The City's return flow schedule increases over time as the population is assumed to increase, while the Planning model uses a constant return flow schedule for the 40-year sequence.
    - The Planning Model assumes that the City would turn diversions on or off on a daily basis, but the City plans to make adjustments monthly. The City will provide a monthly schedule for opening and closing diversions that can be used by URGWOM.
  - The URGWOM Tech Team has been fixing some of the Rio Grande Compact rules.
  - The reconciliation problems identified at the last meeting have been fixed. All of the necessary fixes should be done so that the base run can be completed in the Planning Model next week.
  - Roberta Ball sent out test data from the Planning Model to the URGWOPS tech team leaders so they can prepare to use the data in analyses.
  - The batch runs of the Planning Model (in 10-year increments) are working well.
  - **Question:** In the base run, are the City of Albuquerque withdrawals included?
    - **Answer:** Yes, starting in 2006.
  - URGWOM is using the latest patch for RiverWare.

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- After the Planning Model has been completed and is being used for evaluating the URGWOPS alternatives, the Tech Team must start finalizing the Water Operations Model so it can be used for the next Annual Operating Plan. This will include adding updates for water accounting at El Vado. The Corps, through Gail Stockton, is funding Brad Vickers to keep working on updating the rules.
- ❖ Quality Control Plan update—Bill Miller
  - Two cooperating agencies have been added to the URGWOM project: Paso del Norte Watershed Council and the Desert Research Institute at the University of Nevada.
  - A draft of the proposed changes to the QC Plan were circulated by e-mail to the Steering Committee members for review. Bill incorporated the comments and the latest version was distributed at the meeting.
  - Some of the Steering Committee members have already signed the new plan, and the rest most likely will sign soon.
- ❖ Technical Review Committee meeting plans—Bill Miller
  - The meeting is scheduled for November 13 in the Corps of Engineers' conference room, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. This will replace the regularly scheduled Steering Committee meeting for the month.
  - Bill met with the URGWOM Tech Team to review the proposed agenda and e-mailed a draft agenda and meeting announcement to about 60 people.
  - The agenda will include:
    - Review of the Planning Model
    - Description of initial hydrologic and reservoir conditions on 12/31/2002
    - Presentation of selected model results from the base run, including reservoir storage and Compact accounting.
  - The model documentation will be e-mailed to the Technical Review Committee by October 13.
  - The URGWOPS Steering Committee meeting to discuss the Planning Model output and preliminary analysis of the alternatives will be held in the same room, beginning at 1:00 p.m.
  - A newsletter will be distributed around October 10 that will provide an update on both URGWOM and URGWOPS, with both meeting agendas and some discussion of the relationship between the two projects.
- ❖ MMS update—Mike Roark and Jack Veenhuis
  - The model will soon be loaded on a computer at the USGS so Mike can test the model and develop documentation. Model tests will predict runoff for historic periods and compare to actual data.
  - The climate data should be completed within the next few weeks.
  - MMS should be able to forecast runoff for use by URGWOM for the AOP.
- ❖ Paso del Norte Watershed Council—Conrad Keyes, Jr.
  - The Council will hold a workshop on September 15 at the Texas A&M research station in El Paso, beginning at 3:00 p.m. On the agenda will be a demonstration of the El Paso Water Utilities project of the Coordinated Database and a presentation of the final report on this EPWU database project. This is also the annual meeting for the Council, with election of new officers.

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- Conrad resigned from the Executive Committee but will remain on the Council. A new chair will be selected on September 15.
- The coordinated database project has succeeded in obtaining a canal and wastewater return data from approximately 20 stations south of American Dam. The data was collected from 1998 through 2002.
- The web site for more information on the Paso del Norte Watershed Council is [www.pdnwc.org](http://www.pdnwc.org) or [www.pdnwatershed.org](http://www.pdnwatershed.org).
- ❖ HDB update—Steve Bowser
  - There will be a users group meeting in Nevada at the end of November.
  - HDB(2) has been used mainly in the USBR-Salt Lake City Regional Office. They are still working on adding in water accounting. Steve is getting training on using HDB.
  - Steve is trying to get a new server in the Albuquerque Area Office of USBR to prepare for running both the URGWOM Accounting and Water Operations Models.
- ❖ **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held on October 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corps' conference room in Albuquerque.**