

**Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting;
February 13, 2003; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room,
Albuquerque**

In Attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS	Bill Leibfried, SWCA/ISC
Steve Bowser, USBR	William J. Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc./Corps
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps	Nabil Shafike, ISC
Debbie Hathaway, SSPA/ISC	Gail Stockton, Corps
Ernie Jahnke, Corps	Dave Wilkins, USGS
Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps	Mark Yuska, Corps

- ❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting and turned it over to Mark Yuska to discuss the URGWOM Planning Model.
 - The water operations ruleset is working but still may have problems with water deliveries from Abiquiu. It also has problems with waived water left over from a prior year.
 - Brad Vickers is continuing to write and troubleshoot the ruleset. He will be coming to Albuquerque to work with the Technical Team during the week of February 24.
- ❖ Mark distributed a handout that summarized Technical Team activities. The information is appended to these notes and additional comments, questions, and discussions are summarized below.
 - The Nambe Falls Accounting Model is a separate model that feeds into URGWOM. This is intended to model data by replicating the daily programs, which are spreadsheet calculations that are the basis for accounting calculations. This is the last daily program to be replaced by the URGWOM accounting model.
 - A short document (3 pages plus attachments) has been developed by USBR for the engineer-advisors to explain the Nambe Falls model background, testing methods, and conclusions of model testing. This document may be made public at a later date.
 - The model does not now include return flows, but these may be added later.
 - **Question:** Does the Planning Model include local inflows for the middle valley?
 - **Answer:** It includes local inflows, but there are none in the middle valley.
 - **Question:** When will the Planning Model be ready to run the URGWOPS alternatives?
 - **Answer:** Possibly by the end of February but due to potential bugs, it is difficult to predict.
 - **Question:** Can the Technical Team provide a sample of URGWOM output for URGWOPS technical team use?
 - **Answer:** Don Gallegos has been running draft alternatives a year at a time, so he could provide some samples.
 - CADSWES is improving RiverWare memory and speed so it may soon take less time to run the 40-year sequence needed for URGWOPS. This would improve the analysis time for URGWOPS.

- The URGWOPS technical teams are supposed to complete analysis by April 30, but need the Planning Model first. Gail suggested that technical teams might have to use historic data for some analysis in the interim.
- ❖ Steve Bowser gave a slide presentation on the plans for development of HDB(2). A new update will be given by CADSWES on April 26 and can be presented to the URGWOM Steering Committee at the following meeting.
 - HDB(2) is intended to be a central data storage, with limits on sensitive raw data availability to all users.
 - HDB(2) will soon be adding water accounting data capability, the basics of which should be done by the end of the fiscal year. Development of HDB(2) is a large effort, of which water accounting is of primary interest mainly to the USBR Albuquerque Area Office. The Truckee-Carson office, as well as the Upper Colorado and Lower Colorado Regions will need to use the accounting functionality in the future. The Truckee River area is funding part of Phase II accounting work beginning in June.
 - The database will generate metadata, convert data from other programs, document changes, and track decisions made over time. It can also generate reports that summarize data to be posted on the web.
 - The database is currently working without water accounting in the Lower Colorado office. **Steve will check with that office to obtain some examples of how they are using the database.**
- ❖ Conrad reported on activities of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council. He distributed a brochure about the organization.
 - The coordinator's position is vacant and the Council is seeking applicants.
 - The official location of Council information is the WRRI web site.
 - The Council recently signed an MOU with URGWOM.
 - They are working on developing a coordinated database that would make data related to water resources below Elephant Butte available and would provide links to other databases. They are planning to include such data as water quality, biological resources, and diversion and return flows URGWOM will support initial tasks to insure compatibility ,coordinate formats and provide interface with URGWOM and URGWOPS data.
 - The Council recently received approval from El Paso Water Utilities to continue work on the development of the coordinated database and GIS data. To accomplish this, they may sign appropriate agreements between WRRI, Texas A&M, and three irrigation districts to obtain additional data for URGWOM and URGWOPS.
 - Funding for the Council comes from Texas A&M, NM WRRI, El Paso Water Utilities, USBR, and the World Wildlife Fund.
- ❖ Other items discussed:
 - USFWS plans to release a draft Biological Opinion on the effects of actions associated with the Programmatic Biological Assessment of Reclamation's Water and River Maintenance Operations, Corps Flood Control Operation and Related Non-Federal Actions on the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico. The signed omnibus spending bill for the federal government includes \$10 million for the ESA Collaborative Work Group Steering Committee. However, a 1% across-the-board spending cut for all federal agencies is expected.
- ❖ **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held on March 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corps' conference room.**



STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES—MARK YUSKA

People:

- Effective 2/9/03, Mark Yuska works for the Corps (and still on URGWOM).

Activities:

- Nambe Falls Accounting Model is ready and test results submitted for RGCC approval.
- Running Local Inflow model to develop local inflows for 1975-84. This required finding and developing data for this time period that is missing but required for local inflow runs.
- Developed preliminary list of objects and slots needed for initial data, historical data, and that will be output from the planning model for one year and input for the next year.
- Made Forecast Model run with Feb 1 forecast.
- Most of the dreaded “Reconciliation” problem is solved in the latest ruleset Brad provided.
- Making AOP runs based upon Feb 1 forecast and latest ruleset.
- Having to do some DMI troubleshooting to get AOP model working though.
- Evaluating draft alternatives for EIS with latest ruleset.
- Working on Water Ops model DMI’s to make them able to completely fill models with needed data.
- Working on “pseudocode” rules for Rio Grande Compact operations of Elephant Butte and Caballo, (Planning Model).
- Checking and completing reservoir data from 1975 thru 1984.
- Brad working on Planning Model in preps for 2/24 visit, now Water Ops Model rules working pretty well.
- Assembling scopes of work for CADSWES and Brad Vickers for FY03 contracts.

Meetings:

- 1/22/03; Brad Vickers here all week – Status and needs of Water Ops Model rules, Planning Model meeting with tech team including Nabil Shafike and Bill Miller.
- 2/19/03; Present Nambe Accounting test results to Engineer Advisors for approval.
- 2/24-2/28/03; Brad here again, Planning Model work.

Issues:

- The Water Operations Model needs to be easier to use. We need to make it more friendly.
- MMS work on hold for now.
- Data checking and repair is a major undertaking – we expect it to be more substantial than earlier thought.