

Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; March 8, 2001; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In attendance:

Steve Bowser, USBR

Gail Stockton, Corps

John Cawley, BIA

Carole Thomas, USGS

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC

Leann Towne, USBR

April Fitzner, Parsons

Jack Veenhuis, USGS

William J. Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc.

Tim J. Ward, UNM

Nabil Shafike, NMISC

Mark Yuska, USBR

Debbie Smith, Corps

- ❖ After introductions, Gail Stockton distributed a copy of a non-technical presentation on URGWOM that she assembled from other presentations. She plans to develop a twenty-minute general overview for such groups as the Water Assembly and tribal councils, including information on what works, some results from URGWOM, and comparisons of actual to forecast flow data.

➤ **She asked that the Steering Committee members review and comment on the handout and make recommendations to her for the presentation as soon as possible.**

- Gail is looking for any slides that might be useful to show the model and water operations.
- Tim Ward recently made similar presentations about URGWOM to a group at UNM and to a Water Resources lab at the University of Newcastle, U.K.
- Tim recommended adding a map to the presentation, and Bill Miller suggested adding plots of reservoir storage levels.

- ❖ URGWOM Status—Mark Yuska distributed a summary of Technical Team activities and modeling progress that is attached to the end of these notes. Questions and discussion are summarized below.

- As a follow-up to comments on Mark's presentation to the Engineer Advisors' on the Water Accounting Model, Leann Towne reported that they requested historical documentation of the Bureau of Reclamation's accounting procedures before they will approve the Accounting Model. Reclamation has hired Garry Rowe to develop this documentation.
- Mark will develop a summary document that compares results generated using current accounting methods to URGWOM Water Accounting results. This will be presented at the Compact meeting.
- Mark was asked how the new sediment method works. He explained that it is used in the accounting model to compute sediment inflow into reservoirs. It uses the new equations based upon the sediment survey data and does the accounting to match the daily programs.

➤ **The Technical Team recommends that the Steering Committee takes a hard look at the correlation of riparian evapotranspiration to flows and support the integration**

of independently computed riparian evapotranspiration in the next generation of URGWOM.

- Carole Thomas led a discussion on model calibration and error.
- Mark has asked the Bureau of Reclamation's Salt Lake City staff to help the Technical Team in getting URGWOM-generated data on the web site.
- The University of Arizona's Civil Engineering Department is interested in helping URGWOM to incorporate water quality modeling.

➤ ❖ Jack Veenhuis, who will give a **presentation on the MMS watershed runoff model at the April Steering Committee meeting**, provided a brief update on its status. He reported that the model is running for some forecast points on the Rio Grande.

❖ Technical Review Committee meeting

- Gail distributed a draft letter that will be sent to invite the Technical Review Committee others interested in model development to the April 26 meeting to discuss the second draft of the URGWOM physical model documentation. She asked for any recommended changes to the letter.
- Bill Miller reviewed the agenda. He noted that the documentation is now on the URGWOM web site and the appendices will be posted there by the end of March.

➤ It was recommended that the **Technical Review Committee member list be posted on the web site**. It is already part of the Quality Control Plan, but should be listed separately also.

❖ Ellen Dietrich distributed a draft of the URGWOM newsletter that will be mailed out before the end of March. Some corrections were recommended and she asked that any other changes be submitted to her.

➤ ❖ **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering committee will be on April 12, 10:00 a.m., in the Corps of Engineers conference room.**

March, 2001 - STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES

People:

- Dennis Romero resigned 2/16/01. USBR intends to refill the position.

Activities:

- Marc and Mark completed the 2000 Accounting Model and assisted USBR water operations in correcting and verifying the 2000 Accounting: The model proved invaluable in finding and correcting accounting errors and inconsistencies
- Marc has been setting up and running the Water Operations Model (using the rules) to develop Annual Operating Plans with Don Gallegos, and the results look very good
- Marc and Dave are reviewing, correcting, updating, and completing Dennis' Forecast Model testing and documentation. Dave is learning and taking over Dennis' Forecasting Model testing and documentation actions
- Received Unidentified Losses in Reaches method, and New Sediment method from CADSWES
- Awaiting the SJ-C loss from Cochiti to Elephant Butte and surface water evaporation methods due this week

- Also awaiting revised river leakage methods, due soon but at a lesser priority.
- Dave has a MODFLOW superposition model of a complete section of the valley at Rio Bravo Blvd running. The model includes the river, all drains, all canals, and bosque ET. Currently trying to calibrate.
- Dave evaluated relationships between riparian ET (Toolbox) and gage flows. The highest correlation coefficient was about 0.40 and lowest about 0.03.
- Carole completed the technical documentation for middle and lower valley Rio Grande reaches
- Carole is having Wayne Treers and Javier Grajeda review and comment on routing for the lower Rio Grande reaches
- Carole compiled output from the calibrated version of the middle valley model in excel spreadsheets, including daily reach inflows, gains, losses, outflow, diversions, returns, and bosque consumptive use for 1/1/85 thru 9/30/99.
- The verification comparison between modeled and historical flow has been extended to include the time period January 1, 1985 through September 30, 1999.
- Under Roberta's lead, we got Corps reservoirs "holdpool" generation working from the Accounting Model, and we are close to having successful generation of monthly numbers for USBR's monthly SJ-C reports.

Meetings:

- Mark presented 2000 Accounting Model results at the Engineer Advisors meeting March 1st. While they agree the model appears to be working well, Mark will provide additional documentation prior to the Compact Meeting to gain approval.
- The team held an Annual Operating Plan meeting with USBR and Corps operations folks 2/20/01, and will meet again 3/9/01 to review March 1 forecast based, as modeled, operations. MRGCD will also attend.
- The team held a meeting with Jack Veenhuis on the El Vado inflow and SJ-C Diversion MMS testcase. Jack expects to provide forecast output to compare to NRCS/URGWOM forecasts, in April.
- Mark participated in USBR's Upper Colorado Regional Annual Water Operations Meeting 3/6 and 3/7/01.
- Dave Wilkins participated in the WaRSMP meeting February 21-22 in Denver.
- Nabil Shafike participated in the 2/21 SAHRA meeting at the University of Arizona.

Issues requiring Steering Committee Considerations:

- Production use of the models is really taking off now! Please bear with the team, as we really focus on these exciting applications of the models.
- The technical review meeting April 26th is also gaining our attention, and we ask for patience and support for it.