

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

In Attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS

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

Steve Bowser, USBR

Gail Stockton, Corps

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

Jack Veenhuis, USGS

Debbie Hathaway, SSPA/ISC

Dave Wilkins, USGS

Mark Yuska, Corps

- ❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting and turned it over to Mark Yuska to discuss the URGWOM Planning Model progress and Technical Team activities. Mark's handout of the Technical Team activities and issues is appended to the end of these notes. Discussion and questions are summarized below.
 - The water operations ruleset is working better than ever, but there are still a few bugs.
 - The Technical Team is close to having all of the historic data needed to run the 40-year sequence for the Planning Model. Dave Wilkins is testing the data and reported that all that return flows are the only data still needed. Agricultural data in the model now is from 1999.
 - Debbie Hathaway expressed some concern that diversion data are needed in addition to return flows because they are linked. She had been asked by the NMISC to review the data and identify the relationship between diversions and return flows in order to enable the model to take both into account. In a low flow year when diversions cannot be made, knowing this relationship could help the model by allowing an adjustment to be made in the return flows.
 - Mark pointed out that this relationship could not be used by URGWOM in its current form.
 - Deb would like to provide the data from 2002, if available soon, because the management of diversions and return flows was carefully done and recorded by MRGCD.
 - Debbie will confer with Dave to get direction before further analysis.
 - The Bureau of Reclamation has given Mark approval to provide the code for Nambe water accounting to the NMISC.
 - Mark reviewed some slides of a forecast model run that was completed in preparation for developing the Annual Operating Plan. This run identified one problem yet to be fixed in the rules. The final AOP will use the April forecast data.
 - **Question:** Is the information in this model run the same as that shared by water managers in their daily conference calls?
 - **Answer:** The data shown in the slides is for the whole year, while the information shared in the conference calls covers the forecast for the next few days.
 - The MMS forecast is ready for comparison with the standard forecast used for URGWOM, but the Technical Team is not ready to do this.

- ❖ Gail handed out notes from the Paso del Norte Watershed Council and Corps meeting to discuss a cooperative database project. The Corps is providing some seed money to begin the data collection process.
 - The group met on March 5 to discuss how to start filling in data gaps below Elephant Butte and Caballo. They will develop data-sharing agreements and plan to set up links to other databases on the WRRRI web site.
 - The biggest challenge will be to locate the needed data. There are more complete datasets below Elephant Butte than are available for the middle valley. However, Debbie pointed out that, even though more complete, they lack metadata or adequate quality control.
 - Paso del Norte Watershed Council hopes to obtain original data eventually, but would use the compiled data from BESTSM as a start.
 - Dave recommended that they begin with the wasteway data from the Corps.
- ❖ Steve Bowser reported on progress in developing HDB(2).
 - The functional design requirements and high-level design have been completed. Steve has a copy of this Phase I product.
 - An estimated \$123,000 will be needed for the next phase, which will run from June to the end of the year.
 - They are looking into obtaining water quality, time-series GIS data.
 - The developers have created a working interactive, web-based query of the database.
- ❖ **The next URGWOM Steering Committee meeting will be held on April 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corps conference room.**

STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES—MARK YUSKA

Activities:

- Water Operations Ruleset (also used for the planning model) is working the best it ever has, but still small bugs pop up. (This ruleset is designed to work without any modification in the Planning model.)
- Changes to the model including making El Vado a power reservoir and changes in the middle valley configuration are nearly completed (Brad implementing).
- Starting coding the Rio Grande Compact Rules. Will probably take a few days to integrate into big ruleset.
- We need to determine how to input forecasts for both the Indian Storage Requirement calculation and for any look ahead operations. Current thought is to test the forecast rules that are currently in ruleset and convert the Indian Storage Requirement forecast to a timeseries rather than a table. Bottom line we should have a working planning model by March 17th. At that time it will probably a week to thoroughly test the model. So Monday we will need more actual data to test. This would put production runs beginning March 24th (if the data is ready).
- Ran the local inflow model from December 31, 1974 thru August 1, 2001. This required a substantial amount of data fixing in the databases.

- Developed an output DMI to extract all local inflows from the model and populate the local inflow dss database.
- Working on getting the latest complete year of data for crop area, wastewater, letter water, and diversions into 2003-2042 database.
- Working on getting the 40-year sequence of historic data into the 2003-2042 database. All the historic data appears to be available.
- Have a first cut of having December 31, 2002 data in a database. This will be the initial values for Planning Model runs.
- Providing Nambe Falls Daily Programs code to NMISC to gain approval of Nambe Falls Accounting Model.
- Making Forecast Model runs with March 1 forecast.
- Continuing DMI troubleshooting and cleanup to get AOP model and other Water Ops models working.
- Testing & debugging rulesets while evaluating draft alternatives for EIS.
- Scope of work for CADSWES completed and contract Mod for FY03 going forward.
- Brad Vickers scope for FY03 getting put together.

Issues:

- MMS work on hold for now.
- Data and DMI's need continued cleanup and maintenance.
- Contract money is available for Tetra Tech to help, but integrating new help is difficult (this problem also exists for integrating Mike Roark of USGS back into URGWOM productivity).