

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

In Attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS	Valerie Provencio, EPWU
Tim Darden, NMDA	Jesse Roach, Sandia Labs
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps	Nabil Shafike, NMISC
Don Gallegos, Corps	Gail Stockton, Corps
Greg Gustina, BLM-Taos	Jan Watts, NMDGF
Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps	Dave Wilkins, USGS
William J. Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc./Corps	

- ❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting. After introductions, she gave a brief description URGWOM models, the structure and participants of the Steering Committee, the cooperating agencies, and the use of the URGWOM Planning Model for Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review and EIS (URGWOPS).
- ❖ Dave Wilkins reviewed the URGWOM Tech Team activities since the last meeting. He distributed a handout that is included at the end of these notes. Additional discussion and questions are summarized briefly below.
 - The Planning Model is being tested with the revised ruleset by running in 10-year increments. The team may get a more powerful PC to run the model within the next few weeks because it is taking many hours to process.
 - The revised rules work in general, with a few small adjustments still needed.
 - Roberta Ball assisted the team in getting the 40-year data into the DSS files. Some variables are the latest year duplicated for each of the 40 years, while some, like climatic data, are rearranged so 25 years of data are used to represent 40 years of data.
 - Flows and storage have been reconciled for all reservoirs but Heron, which is in process.
 - **Question:** Is the purpose of including wastewater returns to reflect increasing population over the 40-year planning period?
 - **Answer:** Yes.
 - Scaling wastewater returns for each year would be a future enhancement to the Planning Model.
 - Mike Roark of the USGS is now working half-time on the URGWOM Technical Team. He will use MMS to compare to the NRCS forecast when the Planning model is operational.

- ❖ Don Gallegos gave a slide presentation to show the use of the Water Operations Model for development of the 2003 Annual Operating Plan (AOP). Don worked on preliminary AOP runs to test the model and to compare runs with and without the relinquishment of credit water by the State of New Mexico.
 - The States of New Mexico and Texas are discussing this proposal to relinquish credit water but no decision has been made yet.
 - The way Indian storage is calculated in URGWOM and the method used by the state to store water upstream are different and will have to be reconciled if the states agree on New Mexico's proposal.
 - The assumptions Don used to run the model for the AOP include the following:
 - Use forecasts from April 1.
 - There would be no shortages in the San Juan River basin so San Juan-Chama diversions would be normal.
 - There would be limited movement of flows until after the irrigation season is over.
 - There would be no Indian carryover storage.
 - Colorado would use its credit water so flows into New Mexico would be reduced from recent years.
 - The slides showed the hydrographs and storage amounts for Heron, El Vado, Abiquiu, Cochiti, and Elephant Butte, with and without relinquishment of credit water.
 - Outflows from Elephant Butte were based on information provided by Wayne Treers of the USBR.
 - At the request of the Bureau of Reclamation to determine if conservation storage would be available in El Vado, Don may adjust the run for credit water at El Vado.
 - In the runs, Don did not try to store water at Abiquiu or Jemez, just in El Vado.
 - The forecast may overestimate runoff. Due to the preceding dry soil conditions, there may be more infiltration of surface water runoff than is accounted for in the forecast.
 - **Question:** In what stage of drought would Santa Fe and El Paso be under the conditions in these runs?
 - **Answer:** This is not known from the runs, but Santa Fe has a decent snow pack and the El Paso water supply is estimated to be at approximately 50 percent of demand.
 - **Question:** What would happen next year under these scenarios?
 - **Answer:** It would most likely be worse. This year started with almost no storage in the reservoirs.
 - **Question:** Did you determine the amount of water conserved due to reduce evaporation when relinquish credit water?
 - **Answer:** Don did not determine this in URGWOM, but Nabil Shafike noted that there would be a savings of about 10,000 to 20,000 acre-feet on the credit water evaporation if credit water were relinquished.
 - Don noted that one of these runs or something similar will be used to develop the final AOP.

- ❖ Dave Wilkins updated the group on his middle valley shallow groundwater/surface water data collection study.
 - An overall Memorandum of Understanding among 8 entities has been signed by 6 parties to date. Some will provide funding, in-kind services, equipment, or other resources to meet the commitments outlined in the MOU.
 - An agreement between USBR, MRGCD, and USGS to permit staff to access the study sites is almost complete and needs to be signed.
 - The Corps through URGWOM provided some funding to start up the Rio Bravo site, but most of the funding has been requested from the ESA Collaborative Work Group. Dave hopes to have more sites set up for monitoring by the end of the summer.
 - Dave would like to coordinate with the Bosque Hydrology Group to facilitate data and equipment sharing among all who have holes and piezometers in the bosque.
- ❖ Conrad Keyes provided an update on the Paso del Norte Watershed Council.
 - The group has a volunteer board that includes URGWOM participants Tim Darden, Valerie Provencio, and Conrad.
 - They selected a new logo and have a new Program Coordinator, Dr. Nancy Hanks, who has specialties in geography and business management. With present funding, she will work 19 hours per week for 4 to 5 months.
 - The web site, <http://wrrri.nmsu.edu/pdnwc/index.html>, has all meeting minutes since 1999 and an interactive map, among other items.
 - The Council meets every 6 weeks and is planning an annual meeting for September or October.
 - They are working towards getting some coordinated database agreements with the University of Juarez.
 - Other activities include developing a coordinated database for regional water resources data, metadata for database information, and strategic and business plans. They are considering development of a biological restoration/watershed plan.
 - There are currently 5 working committees.
 - Anyone can become a member of the Council. The next meeting will be held at the IBWC, U.S. Section (first floor), in El Paso at 9:30 a.m. on May 9.
- ❖ Conrad also reported that the 2003 EWRI Congress of ASCE will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 21-26. Gail is giving a presentation on using GIS for integration and analysis of URGWOPS data. More information on this conference can be found at <http://www.asce.org/conferences/ewri2003/>.
- ❖ **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held at the Albuquerque District office of the Corps on May 8 at 10:00 a.m.**

STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES—DAVE WILKINS

- Planning Model is running—have 10 years run so far. We are running 10 years at a time to sort out data and model problems.
- Debugging WaterOps and Planning models.
- Developed rules to scale wastewater returns (can scale over a year period, but the scaling would be the same for each year over the planning model period), not implemented yet.
- Irrigation return flow percentages for planning model have been completed and the method and results are open for discussion.
- Developed 40 years of data for the Planning Model and have put the data in DSS files.
- Met with Jimmy O'Brien of TetraTech concerning data needed from the Planning Model as input to the Flow2D model. Trying to get a 1998 model run to supply the Flow2D data.
- Have developed DMIs to extract data from a current Planning Model that will be used as initial data for the next Planning Model in a sequence of runs
- Rules have been changed many times, flows and storages reconcile except storage at Heron.
- Preliminary runs for 2003 AOP have been completed and will be presented, final scenarios are being finalized.