

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

In attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, FWS	Nabil Shafike, NMISC
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC	Leann Towne, USBR
Conrad Keyes, Jr., EWRI of ASCE	Dave Wilkins, USGS
Bill Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc.	Mark Yuska, USBR

- ❖ Cyndie Abeyta chaired the meeting, and asked Dave Wilkins for an update on MMS. The presentation by Jack Veenhuis has been postponed to the July meeting.
 - Dave reported that by the July Steering Committee meeting, MMS should be forecasting runoff for the watershed above El Vado.
 - MMS is funded by WaRSMP, and USGS has promised that it would be developed to be an integral part of URGWOM, supplying improved runoff forecast data. The Denver USGS MMS group is working with Jack and has developed an interface with RiverWare.
 - Mark Yuska commented that the URGWOM Technical Team needs to see the output from MMS to compare to current forecast data, so they can determine how to use the output in URGWOM.
 - Leann Towne stated that the Steering Committee needs to know the status and schedule for MMS, and a **conference call will be set up with USGS to verify.**
- ❖ A policy on how to handle requests for data made to the URGWOM Technical Team was discussed. The main issue is that the Technical Team has developed data to be used in URGWOM that is not in a user-friendly format, and while it is suitable for developing and testing URGWOM, it may not be suitable for public distribution in its current form. While these data can be considered to be in the public domain because they were compiled by federal agencies, the Technical Team has concerns over how they would be used and the extent of Technical Team liability when used in critical applications. A great deal of work would be needed in order to provide the data in a readily useable form, and the Technical Team does not have the time to do this. Much discussion on this topic followed.
- **The result of the discussion was the formation of a subcommittee to develop a list of available data and an outline of a policy on how to release URGWOM and its data to the public. Members of the subcommittee are Cyndie Abeyta, Bill Miller, Dave Wilkins, Gail Stockton, and Mark Yuska. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet on May 17 at the Corps.**
- ❖ Technical Team activities and URGWOM status were reviewed by Mark Yuska. His report is attached to the end of these notes. One of the main discussion items was the concern over future funding for URGWOM, especially from USGS and USBR.
- **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee is scheduled for June 14 at 10:00 a.m.**

May 10, 2001: STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES

People:

- Danielle Burke, our Stay-In-School data person is no longer staying in school (graduates Saturday).

Activities:

- The Technical Review Meeting April 26th went very well. Comments are due back May 26th.
- Marc Sidlow has helped Don Gallegos with the April and May Annual Operating Plans
- Marc is updating rules and models to use new RiverWare enhancements, and fix bugs
- Marc is making accounting and water operations models identical
- Marc is adding the new RG storage at Abiquiu and Jemez
- The Monthly Report generator of USBR accounting is checked and working
- Carole Thomas is adding Bosque ET to the middle valley physical model
- A two-season (irrigation/non-irrigation) loss calibration is promising of improved middle valley modeling
- Dave Wilkins is studying a 200-meter-grid groundwater budget model to determine river leakages to drain
- Dave is adding predictive river leakages to improve physical model for the planning model
- Bill Miller is adding reservoir accounting validation to the physical document
- Bill is also adding above Cochiti reach validation documentation
- Marc is working towards production (weekly or daily) use of the water operations model
- Mark Yuska is documenting the water operations rules, with Brad Vickers' and Danielle's assistance
- Carole is reviewing routing below Elephant Butte after speaking with Javier Grajeda of El Paso USBR
- Marc is updating the Forecast model to include Del Norte forecast point
- We cannot locate some reservoir data for 1975 through 1984, both USBR and Corps reservoirs.
- Mark is verifying the new sediment inflow equations used for Abiquiu, Cochiti, and Jemez.

Meetings:

- The 4/12/01 NRCS/NWS Spring Runoff meeting went well. Mark presented the Forecast Modeling.
- The team met again 4/16/01 with USBR and Corps' staff to work out Annual Operating Plans based upon the April 1 forecast.
- The 4/26/01 Technical Review Meeting was successful, judging from feedback thus far.
- Gail Stockton and Mark have been invited to participate at a "State of the Knowledge" Conference June 4th and 5th in Monterrey, Mexico, on planning/modeling the entire Rio

Grande/Rio Bravo. Gail will attend, but USBR will send another representative in lieu of Mark.

- The tech team met 5/8/01 and discussed middle valley enhancements to begin or continue.
- Mark is preparing to present Forecast Model needs and uses at the AWRA conference at Snowbird, Utah, 6/27/01, with others from WaRSMP
- Mark is doing an abstract to present the Water Operations Model at the November AWRA meeting here

Issues requiring Steering Committee Considerations:

- USBR's Sun Computer at Albuquerque Area Office got hacked into, costing time and other resources.
- Several data/model requests have recently come in from consultants and contractors. URGWOM is not ready to provide neatly checked and packaged data or models. What is our policy on this, and how do we plan to meet these needs in the future?
- USBR FY 2002 budget cutbacks threaten the continuation of the tech team's full staff.
- There continue to be significant holes in the data from 1975 through 1984. We need to either dig deeper and search old records (wherever they may be), or synthesize some data, or both.
- Ideally, the Planning Model will be built with sufficient inputs to allow all reasonable alternatives. Any advice on what these inputs should be is appreciated.