

Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; July 11, 2002; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In Attendance:

Steven Bowser, USBR	Bill Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc./Corps
Mike Buntjer, USFWS	Gail Stockton, Corps
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps	Jack Veenhuis, USGS
Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps	Dave Wilkins, USGS
Charles Lujan, Pueblo of San Juan	Mark Yuska, USBR
Art Martinez, BIA	

- ❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting and turned it over to Mark Yuska to discuss Technical Team activities and the status of URGWOM development. Mark's list of activities and issues are appended to these notes. A brief summary of questions and discussion is included below.
 - Nambe Falls that has been added to the latest URGWOM version is important for accounting procedures and calculations but does not affect flows.
 - Version 2.0 of URGWOM Water Operations and Accounting Models has incorporated the most recent calibration results that were presented by Carole Thomas at the June meeting.
 - Dave Wilkins reviewed the bullets related to changes in the models to calculate groundwater/surface water interactions in the middle valley.
 - Dave was asked whether USBR should be asked to split the ET Toolbox data at the same locations (Central to Bernardo) as the gages that Dave is using, so river leakage can be calculated more easily. Dave responded that this would be helpful.
 - Jack Veenhuis offered his drain measurements that have been taken every mile from above Central to Rio Bravo.
 - Dave is also looking for groundwater data outside the middle valley.
 - **Question:** Has the Tech Team compared the results from URGWOM using both the PC and the Unix versions of RiverWare?
 - Mark responded that they have run the same models with similar results, but they have not tried to run a formal test for comparison.
 - Gail cautioned the Technical Team to be careful not to use URGWOPS resources intended for developing the Planning Model for other projects (like ESA).
 - The addition of water quality functions in URGWOM is a long-term commitment that is beginning now so the tool will be available when it is needed. The work must be started now to enable water quality effects to be determined in the future versions of the model.
 - Conrad Keyes pointed out that there is a great deal of water quality data available for the reach below Elephant Butte from the USBR and the EBID, but most of it is only in hard copies. Much of these data is not associated with measured flows and is not calibrated. Some may be available from the database used for BESTSM.

- Mark requested that the presentation on the rules be delayed until after the Technical Review Committee meeting on August 22. The Technical Team will not be ready for this presentation, and it would be difficult to fit it into the 3-hour meeting agenda.
 - Gail recommended that the rules presentation be made at a later URGWOM Steering Committee meeting. An explanation of the definition of “rules” should be provided at the TRC meeting and the date, time, and location of the rules presentation should be announced.
 - Conrad suggested that the 3 engineer-advisors be specifically invited to the meeting for the rules presentation.
 - The Technical Team must determine how to present the complex rules simply.
 - **The Steering Committee agreed to schedule the rules presentation at their November 14 meeting, but begin earlier than usual. The meeting will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Corps conference room.**
- Any URGWOPS information needed for the Planning Model should be raised by Mark at the URGWOM Integration/Water Operations Technical Team meeting usually scheduled for the first Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at the Corps. Other agencies on this team include the City of Albuquerque, MRGCD, and the 3 Joint Lead Agencies for URGWOPS.
- Bill Miller has sent a letter to the engineer-advisors on Rio Grande Compact rules to be used in the Planning Model without receiving responses. **He will send another letter to the requesting their input on the accounting procedures, this time with a deadline for response.** The letter will state that if they do not respond by a specific date, the Steering Committee will assume that they approve the proposed use of the rules outlined in the letter.
 - The methodology in the rules is used to determine whether Compact deliveries have been met.
 - The rules replicate the regulations.
- ❖ Bill reported on the last meeting to develop the QA/QC Plan for data and model testing and plan development.
 - The meeting was held on June 26 with a small group to finalize the draft plan that had been circulated to the Steering Committee.
 - The most recent edits have been incorporated and distributed via e-mail. Comments should be submitted to Gill or Gail by August 1.
 - Final edits will be incorporated and a copy of the QA/QC Plan will be ready for signature at the next (8/8) Steering Committee meeting.
 - Some of the recent changes include listing a schedule for model review and testing:
 - URGWOM will be ready for testing by the end of December 2002.
 - The 6 cooperating federal agencies will test the model through June 2003.
 - Other testing by cooperators will be conducted after June, followed by independent testers.
 - The Plan outlines testing protocol and evaluation procedures.



❖ Planning for the Technical Review Committee meeting



- **Bill will send a notice via e-mail to the TRC participants about the meeting and where to find the documents to review in advance.**
- **Roberta Ball will post the documents on the URGWOM web site.**
- **This will be followed up by a newsletter.**
- Dave asked that the updated leakage documentation be added to the document list. This will also require some changes to the physical model documentation.
- A draft agenda will be developed by Bill and Mark and will accompany the e-mail notice. Items for the agenda include calibration and validation and physical reservoir accounting.

❖ URGWOM newsletter items suggested include:

- Lead with an article about model availability for cooperating agencies to test.
- TRC meeting information and agenda
- Information on the QA/QC Plan, including requirements for model testing
- List of documents on the web site and the URL.

❖ Dave gave an overview of a groundwater/surface water data collection proposal from USGWS to benefit the upper Rio Grande. USGS is looking for funding from interested agencies.

- The proposal involves installing piezometers and surface water elevation (river stage) gages along the Rio Grande from Cochiti to San Acacia outside the riverside drains and along the river. The purpose is to get data on the gradients between the drains and the river in order to better characterize groundwater/surface water interactions and return flows.
- The first section to be instrumented will be from Alameda to Rio Bravo, most of the sites located near city wells.
- The second stage of the project would cover the reach between Cochiti and Alameda.
- An initial step will involve the inventory of existing piezometers so they can make use of and supplement existing equipment. Most existing equipment is not set up to evaluate groundwater gradients.
- Installation of the equipment will use low-impact methods such as a geoprobe to install the piezometers.
- This project fits with the NMISC project to instrument the reach from San Acacia to Elephant Butte to study groundwater/surface water interactions.



❖ **The next URGWOM Steering Committee meeting will be held on August 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the regular Corps conference room.**

STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES—JULY 11, 2002

People:

- Carole Thomas retired July 3rd
- Vacation Season

Activities:

- Adding Nambe Falls to models before EOY – CADSWES developing physical and accounting methods
- Finalizing Version2.0 of WaterOps and Account models (and associated dmi control files for new method slots). Making sure methods and rules are working properly. Had to correct some supply names in supply list functions.
- Carole wrapped up her middle valley calibration/validation work and handed it over
- Split Central to Bernardo into Central to Isleta Dam and Isleta Dam to Bernardo, allowing a new model node at Isleta Dam, however, more work is needed particularly in return flow placements
- PC RiverWare now does simple plotting
- Doug McAda will be available in FY 03 to use the current McAda Barrows ground water flow model for URGWOM planning model scenarios
- Trying to find shallow ground water level data in areas other than the Middle Valley for use in estimating river leakage for URGWOM
- Used the STWT program to estimate ground-surface water exchange near the Buckman well field. Ground water pumpage makes the results incorrect

Meetings:

- Critical Habitat meeting 7/2/02, Nabil and Mark attended: Possible modeling study work to do
- June 27th and 28th, Mark Yuska presented progress and needs to RiverWare User's Group Meeting, at CADSWES. Also presented Nambe Falls modeling needs with Ed Kandl (USBR) to be done by EOY.
- 6/19/02 conference call with Edie Zagona, Gail Stockton, Mark Yuska, on Water Quality developments – TDS on Rio Grande
- 6/18/02 Tech Team meeting with Colleen Logan of Weston on Web Click Map of model results
- 7/28 thru 8/1/02 Attendance/Presentation/Poster at Hydrologic Modeling Conference, Las Vegas Gail & Mark

Issues:

- We are not on track for presenting Rules at the August 22nd Tech Review. Asking for postponement until October or November – a dedicated half-day presentation meeting on just Rules
- We have a number of documents going up on the web at least 30-days prior to August 22nd Tech Review

- We still need from URGWOPS, operators, and biologists, the logic for storing and releasing RG Conservation water, on the long-term planning horizon, to build rules and constraints from in the models
- Waiting for more riparian CU data San Marcial to Elephant Butte to rework its calibration based upon its own data, not that extrapolated from San Acacia to San Marcial
- USBR responding to Principia Mathematica FOIA request, providing some Accounting Models, Methods
- Bill Miller sent a proposal to the Engineer Advisors on RG Compact rules in our Planning Model. We have not yet heard back
- URGWOM Mentioned in Appreciation by Senator Domenici at Corps Change-Of-Command Ceremony!