

**Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; August 10, 2000;
10:00 AM; Bureau of Reclamation Rio Grande Conference Room, Albuquerque**

In attendance:

Roberta Ball, Corps	Nabil Shafike, NMISC
Karen E. Browne, NMED/SWQB	Gail Stockton, Corps
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC	Leann Towne, Bureau of Reclamation
Walter Hines, CH ₂ M Hill	Steve Vandiver, CO Div. of Water Resources
Conrad Keyes, Jr., EWRI	Jack E. Veenhuis, USGS
William J. Miller, WJM Engineering	Tim J. Ward, UNM
Andrea M. Rivera, NMED/SWQB	Dave Wilkins, USGS

- ❖ Leann Towne opened the meeting and turned it over to Dave Wilkins for a report on the status of URGWOM and other activities and issues from the Technical Team. Dave distributed a handout that summarizes their work. A copy follows the end of these notes. Discussion not covered in the written notes is summarized below.
 - Dave distributed a handout outlining scheduled Technical Team activities and resource needs for the end of fiscal year 2000 and into FY 2001. Any comments on this should be submitted to the project managers.
 - A handout discussing ideas on how to develop the Planning Model for URGWOPS was distributed. A presentation on the Planning Model will be made to the URGWOPS ID NEPA Team later in the day.
 - Leann is on the URGWOPS Water Operations/URGWOM Integration Technical Team that has been discussing the Planning Model with Mark Yuska. This team plans to work with the other technical teams to determine what they will need from URGWOM.
 - Another handout that was distributed discusses how URGWOM might be used to develop new San Juan-Chama water loss rates from Cochiti to Elephant Butte.
 - To complete the modeling below Elephant Butte and Caballo, the Technical Team needs to get flood scenarios from the IBWC and the El Paso Bureau of Reclamation.
 - The reworked modeling from San Acacia to San Marcial looks better than it did previously, but still has problems with large local inflow numbers.
 - Bill Miller will analyze the local inflow data in the middle valley once the team gets the numbers for canal seepage and reruns URGWOM. This is expected to be done soon.
 - Leann pointed out that the inclusion of ET computations in middle valley modeling is an item in the recent settlement agreement for the silvery minnow. The Bureau of Reclamation is trying to determine how the settlement agreement affects coordination with URGWOM.

- Bill is working on incorporating recent comments into the documentation, which is nearly final to American Dam.
- Bill also told the group that they recently put RiverWare workspace on the URGWOM web site.
- Walter Hines asked if the gain/loss problems have been fixed.
 - Bill responded that changes have been made to the way seepage from canals and irrigated acreage are handled, but the model has not yet been run to check the overall results.
 - Walter suggested that now would be a good time to measure seepage because the system is close to a steady state without impacts from stormwater runoff.
- Walter also asked if the model will be complete when Brad Vickers presents the rules.
 - Dave thinks that the model will be done at that time, but URGWOM must be tested before it can be determined to be complete.
- Under the heading of Issues Requiring Steering Committee Considerations is a comment that additional funding is needed to maintain the same level of effort for the Technical Team. Conrad Keyes asked if funding is needed from within or outside the lead agencies.
 - Some outside funding like that from WARSMP has been reduced in the next budget.
 - Some BOR planning money is available but would not be enough. The staff must determine what funding is available for the Rio Grande projects.
 - Corps funding is uncertain. Support from the USGS would be helpful. **The Technical Team should determine where the shortfalls in funding are and determine how the USGS can help.**
 - Dave suggested that there are possible Department of the Interior matching funds that can be moved between agencies. USGS plans to talk to the City of Albuquerque about providing some matching funds for upper Rio Grande basin projects. Walter thought that the city would be interested in supporting development of the Planning Model.
 - The ISC has provided a person, Nabil Shafike, to assist the URGWOM Technical Team.
- ❖ The letter soliciting assistance from cooperating agencies for support of a database development team has not been sent out yet. The Bureau of Reclamation has been short-handed but intends to hire additional planners soon, so Leann can get time to finish and send the letter. Gail Stockton mentioned that a leader for the database team is still needed. This position will most likely be staffed by the Bureau of Reclamation.
- ❖ Jack Veenhuis reported on the status of MMS model development.
 - The model has been set up for the area from Chama to El Vado and for the diversions flowing into Heron Reservoir. It covers Willow Creek, Horse Lake, and the Rio Chama basin.
 - It is a snowmelt, precipitation, and runoff simulation model that can be run using yesterday's conditions and simulate runoff based on thirty years of record.
 - The sub-basins have been developed using Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data.

- A total of \$55,000 was allocated to this effort, with \$40,000 moved to FY 01, which should last through January 2001. Other funding will be needed at that point.
- Tim Ward asked where else this model could be applied.
 - Jack responded that it could be used anywhere with snowmelt conditions. It predicts the timing of runoff based on the current status of the watershed.
 - The next priority watersheds have not yet been identified. Possibilities include the upper Rio Grande watershed in Colorado, the upper Rio Grande watershed in northern New Mexico, and the Pecos River watershed.
- Conrad learned that the Elephant Butte Irrigation District is interested in forecasting runoff he discussed URGWOPS at their meeting. A representative of EBID may be calling Gail soon.
- Gail said that MMS is an enhancement to URGWOM that could be added after the basic model has been completed.
 - It may be possible to establish a cooperative effort to set up gages on tributaries in the EBID area that would help with URGWOM and forecasting capability.
 - Conrad said that EBID interested in predicting and evaluating flooding problems.
- ❖ The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held on September 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the Corps in Room 119.