

## Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; September 13, 2001; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

### *In attendance:*

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS

Steven Bowser, USBR

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

April Fitzner, Parsons Engineering

Rhea Graham, NMISC

Walter Hines, CH2M Hill/City of  
Albuquerque

Conrad Keyes, Jr., EWRI/Corps

Gail Stockton, Corps

Jack Veenhuis, USGS

Dave Wilkins, USGS/ URGWOM Technical  
Team

- ❖ New information on database development was provided by Steve Bowser.
  - Steve submitted a funding proposal to study hardware and software options for HDB that would accommodate URGWOM data. He learned that HDB is currently not set up to accept accounting data. The group recommended that **Steve find out how the Lower Colorado River model is storing accounting data in a database.**
  - Dave Wilkins reported that a conference call with the URGWOM Technical Team and CADSWES is planned to discuss database development.
  - Conrad Keyes supplied information on the need for database development to many people, especially at a recent Corps workshop in El Paso.
- ❖ Dave Wilkins reviewed the status of URGWOM development and Technical Team activities. A copy of the summary handout is attached to the end of these notes. Additional discussion and questions are noted below.
  - The Technical Team has been checking the accounting models to identify and fix data problems. In the interest of saving time, they question the need to incorporate accounting data back to 1985. **The Steering Committee would like to discuss the need for incorporation of earlier years of accounting data at the October meeting.**
  - There is now a relationship between the bosque and riparian evapotranspiration (ET) and flow in the Low Flow Conveyance Channel and the river that contributes to the estimates of leakage. CADSWES is working on a modification to RiverWare to accommodate these calculations that will soon be available for use in URGWOM.
    - ET is not estimated for all reaches in non-irrigation months.
    - The only historic ET data that goes back to 1975 still missing are from some of the reservoirs. These will be synthesized where unavailable.
  - Flow data below Mesilla are unavailable between 1975 and 1984, so generalized data were obtained from USBR.
    - Conrad said that there were problems with data collection at that station. He thought that someone from Parsons Engineering may have the data. April Fitzner offered to check on this.
    - According to Gail Stockton, this situation may justify recommending funding to install a better data collection station at that location to improve data quality.

- Walter Hines asked when the Planning Model would be available. Gail thought that a rough version may be used for the Water Operations Review and EIS by July, but it would be in full use by the end of FY 02.
  - ❖ Jack Veenhuis reported on progress in developing MMS.
    - The model is running and all portions of the upper watershed should be working by the end of December.
    - Precipitation data have been gathered and set up for the entire basin.
  - ❖ Gail reported that letters have been sent to the agencies from Lt. Colonel Midkiff requesting permission to post the data they supplied to URGWOM on the web. The letter stated that the Corps would assume approval if no response is received by mid-November.
    - The State Engineer Office called Gail to say that they approve of making the data they supplied available.
    - The letter provided a timetable of when the data would be posted on the web site.
  - ❖ Gail told the group about a February 2001 technical report titled "Institutional Adjustments for Coping with Prolonged and Severe Drought in the Rio Grande Basin." This is NM WRI Technical Completion Report No. 317 that can be requested through the WRI web site, wri.nmsu.edu.
- ➔ ❖ **The next URGWOM Steering Committee meeting will be held on October 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the Corps of Engineers in Albuquerque.**

## **September 13, 2001 - Status Of URGWOM Tech Team Activities**

### **Activities:**

- Created master accounting DMIs (data management interfaces) for models years 1985-94 and 1997-99 (to allow running accounting models to locate and fix data problems).
- The RiverWare accounting model for 1994 is in the process of verification.
- Working with CADSWES to create a method for combining "riparian ET" and river leakage to be complete by the end of September.
- Getting multiple Rio Grande Accounts functionality also by end of September.
- Thirdly, CADSWES is providing an accounting method to reconcile Rio Grande Accounting with total water at the reservoirs.
- Implemented the Hypothetical Target Simulation (iteration feature) function into Platoro ruleset to solve for channel capacity flows below Platoro. This test of the function pointed out some limitations. Looking forward can cause physical constraint errors on reservoirs. CADSWES will need to account for this in the function to prevent abort errors in model runs.
- Collecting reservoir data for Corps projects back to 1975. Updating Metadata file as data progresses.

- Organizing data and models, and revising metadata files. This requires changes to dmi's (tedious and slow).
- Met with Brad 20-23 August to review latest WaterOps model and ruleset. Also, planning model development and effects on ruleset (with current alternatives list, don't expect many modifications to ruleset).
- Helping Don with Platoro model/rules.
- Reviewed and updated selected meta data files.
- Obtained, from USGS, ARC/INFO coverages of middle valley drains.
- Calculating drain elevations at selected river cross sections.
- Commented on tech review and other documents, along with Rio Chama Acequia Association questions.
- Documenting the Water Operations Model Ruleset.
- Checking Elephant Butte evaporation calculations using a piece of the Accounting Model.
- Updated the regulated and unregulated spillway methods and flow-curve data on Elephant Butte and Caballo.
- Steve Bowser is tracking ET Toolbox development, with emphasis on getting data for years prior to 1985.

**Meetings:**

- Brad Vickers was here August 20-23 to review latest WaterOps model and ruleset, planning model development and effects on ruleset, Platoro model/rules, and overall rules documentation.
- The team participated in a conference call with CADSWES on getting HDB, USBR's hydrologic database objective for the Albuquerque Area, going. Another call is planned soon.
- Tech Team meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month have been fruitful in work scheduling, technical issues, and planning.

**Issues:**

- Need to seriously consider adding RG Compact Accounting so planning model can figure out how to deal with Compact affected situations on the fly.
- Getting Accounting Model to run historic years is proving slow and difficult due to inconsistencies in data and notes. It is a large task on URGWOM to do this work for the main purpose of creating complete and accurate historical electronic data.
- Steve Markstrom of Denver USGS is to be here 9/18, 19 to set up MMS for El Vado Inflow.
- USBR and the Engineer Advisors holding the (recently postponed) meeting today for (among other things) conditions for acceptance of the Accounting Model.

- Still need to get budget estimates for continuance thru end of FY02, particularly for USGS assistance.
- The new faster SUN computer for URGWOM is here and almost ready for use.
- Scopes of work for FY2002 for CADSWES and Brad Vickers have been drafted to continue their contracts.