

**Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting;
September 12, 2002; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room,
Albuquerque**

In Attendance:

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps	Gail Stockton, Corps
Debbie Hathaway, SSPA/NMISC	Jack Veenhuis, USGS
Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps	Dave Wilkins, USGS
Bill Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc./Corps	Mark Yuska, USBR
Nancy Purdy, USBR	

- ❖ Mark Yuska opened the meeting and presented some information on the URGWOM Planning Model, following a handout that is included below, with some comments and questions from the meeting under the relevant items.
 - 1st Planning Model runs targeted for beginning of year, 2003
 - Planning Model is stripped down in Accounts from Water Operations and Accounting Models:
 - Planning Model has 5-SJ-C Accounts (Water Operations Model has 16):
 - Albuquerque
 - MRGCD
 - Cochiti Recreation Pool
 - Reclamation
 - Others
 - Planning Model has 2-RG Accounts:
 - Non-Conservation Water
 - Conservation Water
 - Initial Planning Model Runs—One 40-year sequence containing wet, dry, and average periods, oriented dryer than our 25-year data set, and applying some randomness to avoid bias.
 - Split Conditions—Historical Hydrology, Future Ground Conditions
 - Planning Rules begin from tested stage of Water Operations Rules, and would be changed under different alternatives.
 - Not sure our computers can handle 40 years of data—may have to split runs.
 - Using a “fuzzy forecast” method to have El Vado make decisions on non-perfect forecast information. This has been used in other basins like the San Juan.
 - Trying to add flexibilities like varying Indian storage calculated volumes
 - El Vado to be converted to a Level Power Reservoir—we have it as a Storage Reservoir.

- Need trend information like Albuquerque groundwater pumpage, wastewater return flows, irrigated acreages. 1st runs may not do much of this.
- Add a diversion at Paseo Del Norte, and split the reach, for Albuquerque surface water diversions beginning 2006, and how/what they will divert
- Sediment is displacing SJ-C contractor space in Abiquiu: Need details on how to handle this. Need to determine how to make water operations decisions over 40 years if sediment takes up small contractors' space.
- We are staying with waivers as is: A switch that allows everyone or no one for the entire period. The date of the waiver could be changed, however.
- Our physical model calibration is static, but the system is dynamic: Can we fairly represent the next 40-years? We may need to adjust calibration.
- How often do RG Compact Credit/Debit computations need to be made to operate? Annual, monthly, or daily?
 - The accounting can be done daily, but the annual index flows and credit/debit would have to be projected.
 - Debbie Hathaway suggested that the credit/debit calculations for Compact deliveries should not be generated for more than 3 to 6 months because the end of the year flows at Otowi would override the calculations anyway.
 - **Bill Miller will work with the Technical Team to look into how to calculate credits and debits for the Planning Model and make a recommendation to the Steering Committee.**
- SJ-C delivery times are not cast-in-stone: Model rules have to decide.
 - The Technical Team needs guidance on timing SJ-C deliveries under URGWOPS alternatives.
- Putting in a user-variable minimum storage pool for Elephant Butte
- Need to consider minimizing Evaporation losses at Caballo and Elephant Butte, by timing deliveries to Caballo
- Need to force water out of Caballo to meet target storage
- It was agreed that Mark should present the information in the handout to the URGWOPS technical teams.
- ❖ Bill provided a brief follow-up on Technical Review Committee meeting held on August 22.
 - September 30 is the deadline for submittal of comments on the draft documents. Once the comments are submitted, Bill will incorporate them into the documents and post the revisions by the end of December. Conrad Keyes has already submitted some comments at this time.
 - The PowerPoint slide presentations are now available on the URGWOM web site.
 - Conrad recommended that there be a link to the TRC meeting information on the first page of the URGWOM web site.
- **Bill will have more details on the comments received at the October 10 meeting.**
- ❖ Mark, who distributed a summary that is attached to the end of these notes, discussed technical Team activities and URGWOM status. There was little discussion. Mark noted a

meeting planned for September 25 with the Technical Team and USGS staff supporting MMS to discuss a problem with the forecasts at El Vado.

- ❖ MaryAnn Woodward and Elaine Hibbard, of the Middle Rio Grande Water Assembly outreach committee, reminded the group that the Assembly and the Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments are partners in developing the regional water plan.
 - They are currently evaluating alternatives to be incorporated into the plan and are encouraging a wide variety of public input. They are seeking initial public preferences, and then plan to contract out the evaluation of alternatives. In late winter, they intend to return to the public for review of the impact analyses of the alternatives.
 - They would like to gather the names and e-mail addresses to notify people whom they could use as resources and who are interested in being apprised of the plan status periodically. They plan to schedule a meeting in early October to facilitate agency coordination and discuss planning efforts.
 - The area covered by the plan includes the Rio Grande basin in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia Counties.
 - ❖ Conrad Keyes had several announcements.
 - NMED is holding hearings on TMDLs in the Rio Jemez in Cuba and Jemez Springs on September 24-25.
 - There will be a hearing on October 1 in Santa Fe on the NM Water Quality Management Plan.
 - Paso del Norte Watershed Council, composed of most of the water organizations with the exception of irrigation districts, is working on the following activities.
 - The council is signing an agreement with El Paso Water Utilities to develop a coordinated database that they plan to have available on their web site within a year. Assistance is coming from WRRI, NMSU, and Texas A&M at El Paso. The database will not duplicate the database efforts of other agencies and organizations, but will provide data not available elsewhere.
 - Considering participation in the EPA Watershed Initiative, including New Mexico and Texas.
 - Expanding wetlands in four areas, two in New Mexico and two in Texas.
 - Mission Possible 2002—a conference on water resources on September 27-28. Gail Stockton will present information on URGWOPS on September 28.
 - The Watershed Council's annual meeting will be held on September 28.
-  ❖ **The next URGWOM Steering Committee meeting will be held on October 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corps conference room in Albuquerque.**

STATUS OF URGWOM TECH TEAM ACTIVITIES—Mark Yuska

- ❖ People:
 - The Tech Team is back intact, with Mark finished with training
 - Dave Wilkins has gone to half-time, other half on groundwater data collection effort

- Brad Vickers is here this week working on Planning Model, and Water Operations Rules debugging
- ❖ **Activities:**
 - Tech Review went very well August 22nd. Small turnout though.
 - Team has been doing Water Operations Modeling for ESA scenario-runs; 3-year and 1-year
 - Set up data and model for ESA runs (not trivial), not totally successful. It was good for testing and debugging model and rules though.
 - We think middle valley depletions (mainly riparian ET) are modeled too high, but need to investigate it
 - Devised a plan to test Water Operations Model Rules, and proceeding with it
 - Planning Rules will come off tested Water Operations Rules
 - Evaluating monthly average local inflow for Cochiti to San Felipe and Bernardo to San Acacia reaches for use in the planning model.
- ❖ **Meetings:**
 - Held Technical Team meeting 9/9/02 with Brad Vickers to scope all work on Planning Model
 - August 22nd and 23rd, Steve Bowser attended the WaRSMP Steering Committee Meeting in Boulder
 - August 22nd: the big Technical Review Meeting was held here.
- ❖ **Issues:**
 - We need some information for use with Planning Model: Land use, well-pumping, wastewater return, crop acreage, diversion and return trends, for example.
 - Getting one 40-year sequence from '75-'99 data for Planning Model run from Debbie Hathaway.
 - April Fitzner is up in Chama to collect 1975 through 1984 reservoir data to fill in our data holes.
 - First edition of Planning Model, like the other models, will be simplistic and rough, needing testing, repair, and enhancements.
 - Hardware, particularly memory, is challenged to contain multiple-year data. 40-years going to be a squeeze!
 - Water Operations rules are promising, having done some ESA runs, but still are undergoing troubleshooting, repairs, and enhancements.
 - Our November 14th Review Rules documentation is looking to be very much a rough, technical draft.
 - We are trying hard to fend off extra-curricular activities now, to make modeling progress!