

**Notes from the URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; April 13, 2000;  
10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District Conference Room**

*In attendance:*

Roberta Ball, Corps	Steve Silcox, USFWS
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC	Gail Stockton, Corps
Walter Hines, CH <sub>2</sub> M Hill	Doug Strech, MRGCD
Conrad Keyes, Jr., EWRI	Leann Towne, USBR
Charles Lujan, San Juan Pueblo	Tim J. Ward, UNM
Tracy Matthews, ISC	Dave Wilkins, URGWOM/USGS
William J. Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc.	Mark Yuska, URGWOM/USBR

- ❖ Leann Towne chaired the meeting and introduced Mark Yuska to discuss the status of Technical Team work. He distributed an outline, which is attached to the end of these notes. Additional discussion is summarized below.
  - Ed Kandl has been testing the Accounting Model and is working out the bugs in using the 1996 data from the Data Management Interface. The model itself is working well.
  - Don Gallegos, Dennis Romero, and Roberta Ball have been working on the Annual Operating Plan, using URGWOM to generate the storage and flows for the year.
    - There are some problems providing the water accounting data. CADSWES has been notified and will work on fixing the bugs.
    - For now, all releases must be set manually but will eventually be handled by the rules.
    - The AOP is expected to be completed by April 14.
  - The Forecasting Model is working well.
  - Dave Wilkins and Carole Thomas have been reorganizing the data, and added metadata information such as the quality and source.
  - Marc Sidlow is working on model development and use.
  - Roberta Ball has been helping to test and debug the model.
  - Bureau of Reclamation reservoir data from 1975 to 1985 is on paper, so the coop student is typing the data into tables.
  - Brad Vickers is continuing to work on developing the rules.
  - WARSMP will provide funding for:
    - Collecting more crop data on evapotranspiration.
    - Developing a watershed surface water runoff model for the Rio Grande (MMS). George Leavesley, USGS in Denver, will present information on May 4 to the Technical Team on how MMS and RiverWare work together in other watersheds.

➤ Issues for the Steering Committee:

- Recommendations on how to verify URGWOM by developing tests.
  - Conrad Keyes suggested that since URGWOM was calibrated using 1986 to 1995 data, the model could be verified and tested using the 1975 to 1985 data. Mark replied that since some of the earlier data are not available, it would take time to develop and would not be a good way to verify model results. It would be best to use the 1988 to 1999 data for verification because they are more complete.
  - Walter Hines pointed out that proving loss rates and monthly flows below Cochiti is a priority for the City of Albuquerque EIS. He asked if this could be tested to establish confidence in URGWOM so that the City could use it for their EIS. The ISC seems to want the City to prove that San Juan-Chama water is not getting to Elephant Butte. Conrad replied that the quality of the data currently used for URGWOM is not good enough to meet the City's needs for proving losses and the location of the San Juan-Chama water.
  - Mark also responded to Walter by saying that loss correlation on daily timestep calculations is not good enough to meet the City's needs, but might be good enough for monthly timestep information. However, this will be accomplished in the Planning Model that the Technical Team is not ready to produce. Walter followed up by suggesting that the City could aggregate the URGWOM data into monthly timesteps to check the data correlation. The City might be interested in funding some data collection efforts to further the development and verification of the Planning Model.
  - The Planning Model will lump some or all contractors with the San Juan-Chama contractors. Development will begin once the Operations Model is working properly.
- ➔
  - **More formal and official testing will be carried out and documented.**
- The Technical Team must be insulated from requests for presentations and other work that takes time away from modeling and meeting URGWOM deadlines.
  - For example, the Engineer-Advisors requested that the Technical Team provide documentation of San Juan-Chama water accounting rules before they will approve the Accounting Model. Since these procedures were developed by the Bureau of Reclamation before they were written as rules for URGWOM, Reclamation will prepare the documentation, not the Technical Team.
- Mark asked for Steering Committee support in keeping the database development effort going.
  - Charles Lujan recommended that the Steering Committee send a letter to the agencies involved in the Database Team to request that they commit resources to database development. **Gail Stockton will circulate a draft of the letter to the Steering Committee members for comment. Once approved, she will request that the Colonel sign the letter and send it to the appropriate agencies.**
- ➔
  - The URGWOM Steering Committee members present agreed that **there should be a report from the Database Team at each Steering Committee meeting**, similar to the one from the URGWOM Technical Team.

- Bill Miller updated the group on comments received addressing the documentation of the physical model, presented at the Technical Review Committee meeting in February.
    - Written comments have been compiled and reviewed with the Technical Team.
      - Comments ranged from technical to editorial to formatting. It was clear that people spent time reviewing the document and made good comments.
      - Harriet Allen, with USGS, will make the editorial changes.
      - Al Brower, Denver Bureau of Reclamation, noticed differences between MRGCD cropping acreage and the acreage of crops reported in the USBR survey. He would like to use digital aerial photography and GIS to try to resolve the discrepancies.
        - ◆ One possible source for the differences is that one dataset includes fallow acreage and one does not.
        - ◆ It is also possible that the discrepancies could be due to grouping the cropland differently by reach or to using different reaches in the two reporting systems.
      - The crop acreage questions brought up another issue—how should the ET Toolbox data be tied into URGWOM? Cropping patterns and acreage must be understood first. It was stated that URGWOM is not yet sensitive to changes in irrigated acreage.
    - Tim Ward asked if CADSWES fixed the RiverWare problem of accounting for the seepage through Cochiti Dam. Mark responded that CADSWES suggested a different method for handling this problem: use a confluence object downstream with seepage coming into one branch.
    - Conrad informed the group that riparian evapotranspiration data are available from EROS through USGS for approximately \$10,000. The Technical Team members responded that URGWOM does not need to separate riparian evapotranspiration quantities and would not need these data.
  - ❖ Public meetings for the Annual Operating Plan
    - Since this would provide the first opportunity to demonstrate the utility of URGWOM to the public, it was suggested that the Steering Committee be involved in these meetings, by explaining how URGWOM was used to develop the plan.
    - Charles recommended that there be a presentation on URGWOM at the meetings.
    - These meetings are not well attended, but interest in the new model could encourage better attendance. **Gail will prepare announcements to encourage interested local water users to attend as soon as the meeting dates are scheduled.**
    - Dennis Romero and Don Gallegos could at the meeting how URGWOM was tested in preparing the AOP.
- ❖ **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held on May 11 at 10:00 a.m.**

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING - April 13, 2000

### STATUS OF URGWOM TECH-TEAM ACTIVITIES—Mark Yuska

#### Activities:

##### • **Three Key Activities:**

- Testing and Debugging Accounting Model - Seems to be working well now
- Preparing Annual Operating Plan - in the middle of it - there are some bugs with accounting to do with multiple supplies to a single downstream account
- Reorganizing databases - consolidating, adding metadata, etc.
- Have been adding gage and reservoir data back to 1975 and beyond in preparation for future modeling
- SJ-C Contractor Rules for Water Operations Model are still being developed
- Mark Treviño is getting funding in order for contractors including CADSWES and Brad Vickers
- With Bill Miller's assistance, have gone through a first cursory review of review comments, document
- Chuck Braden of IBWC is assisting in development of the reach from Caballo to Leasburg.
- We made presentation to URGWOPS-EIS last month, to better share cooperation and understanding
- Also did a public presentation at the Rio Grande Compact Commission meeting in El Paso, 3/22/00 - Focused on fundamental concepts, and middle valley physical modeling - it was well received
- Did a Reservoir Accounting Presentation for the Engineer Advisors here 4/7/00 - it also went well
- Met with Jack Veenhuis of USGS on MMS (for surface-water runoff). He has guaranteed \$75K to \$95K this FY. San Juan Basin modeling pretty much done - maybe available for our use for diversions. We're considering other areas we would prioritize.
- Interest and requests coming in on modeling above Jemez Canyon Reservoir for tribal water rights and management, Zia Pueblo
- We're taking the data management effort on the road - in El Paso 5/4/00 or 5/5/00

#### **Issues requiring Steering Committee Considerations:**

**Need a series of tests to put model through** - There are many things done by the model, physical modeling everywhere, crop ET, accounting, rules, forecast development, etc. While we have been doing some testing, it's not extensive, comprehensive, or official enough

**Keep the fire going on the database team - they should report regularly too** - It appears to be a little distant and inactive. In addition, it will have to earn acceptance by merit (like URGWOM). People are cautious about embracing it, until the commitment and progress are solid.

#### **Some Target Dates:**

The first Accounting Model results: This Month

AOP development: Occurring now, targeted for mid-April

Caballo to El Paso physical model completion: Late spring

Accounting Model verification for acceptance: End of year