

**Notes from Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review
Interdisciplinary NEPA Team Meeting; July 11, 2002;
1:00 PM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque**

In Attendance:

Mike Buntjer, USFWS	Charles Lujan, Pueblo of San Juan
Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps	Clay Mathers, Corps
Susan Goodan, SAIC/Corps	Jennifer Neal, Corps
Brian Hanson, USFWS	Claudia Oakes, SWCA/NMISC
Debbie Hathaway, SSPA/NMISC	Chris Perez, USFWS
Ernie Jahnke, Corps	Garret Ross, USBR
Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps	Gail Stockton, Corps
Steve Kolk, USBR	Julie Tsatsaros, NMED/SWQB
Colleen Logan, Weston/Corps	

- ❖ Nabil Shafike began the meeting with a presentation on the first draft of a groundwater/surface water model he is developing for the middle valley, from San Acacia to the delta at Elephant Butte. A brief summary of his presentation and questions asked are noted below.
 - The purpose of the model is to calculate the interactions between groundwater and surface water.
 - A schematic of the flow system for the model showed that the Socorro main canal supplies all irrigation water to the Unit 7 and to Bosque del Apache. All water entering the system is gaged.
 - The water budget for the area showed that water depletions average approximately 123,000 acre-feet, 52 percent from riparian evapotranspiration and 27 percent from crop ET. When the Low Flow Conveyance Channel is not operating, depletions in the Rio Grande increase due to ET from riparian vegetation.
 - Nabil has calculated that river losses decrease downstream.
 - Aquifer testing of irrigation wells indicates that there is high hydraulic conductivity in the soils in this reach.
 - The model uses a numerical grid that is 1000 feet by 1000 feet for each cell and has been calibrated using a regional water table contour map. It uses MODFLOW packages and the 1992 USBR aggradation-degradation lines to generate the river and LFCC bottom elevations. The width of the Rio Grande is calculated using IKONOS data. Mountain front recharge is calculated.
 - Model calibration is ongoing. Currently, the model is simulating higher flows than are observed (1000 cfs calculated vs. 720 cfs observed at Elephant Butte).
 - This model is intended to be used for the following primary purposes:
 - Investigation of LFCC operations;
 - Evaluation of alternatives for ESA decisions;
 - Evaluation of restoration projects;
 - Evaluation of conveyance efficiency.

- **The Riparian and Wetlands Technical Team is interested in having Nabil give a presentation at a team meeting. Claudia Oakes will notify other tech team members who might be interested in attending once the presentation is scheduled.**
- Gail Stockton told the group that this is another tool at their disposal for the evaluation of alternatives in a portion of the basin.
- ❖ Steve Kolk announced that he has accepted a job in Washington State with the USBR and will be leaving his assignment as a Project Manager.
- ❖ Follow up on items from the last meeting in May:
 - Changes to the tech team roster have been incorporated on Team Link.
 - Gail reported that **Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data that was used to develop the hydraulic modeling should not be used for any other purpose due to the agreements with the tribes** that gave permission for this specific use. If any tech teams need this information, they must request it through Gail and must explain exactly how it would be used so she can evaluate the need. Permission must be granted before it can be used for any other reason.
 - Gail also had a reminder to tech team members: **URGWOPS time and funding may not be used for any other projects.** There is a great deal of work to be done and time in meetings must be used efficiently to accomplish the URGWOPS tasks at hand. She requested that tech team members not spend valuable URGWOPS time in discussing side issues, but should use that time to accomplish the tasks in the study plans and continue the good working relationships that have been established.
- ❖ Colleen Logan reported that she has been working to integrate the tech team study plans into the overall project schedule. She stressed the importance of coordinating between tech teams to keep on track and recommended that team members check the study plans of other teams on Team Link.
- ❖ Colleen gave a demonstration of the Team Link web site, <https://westonproject.net/TL/urgos.nsf>.
 - Team Link can and should be used to communicate with other teams and see what they are doing. **If anyone needs a new password, contact Colleen at 885-5050 or via e-mail at colleen.logan@mail.rfweston.com.** She reminded everyone that passwords are case sensitive.
 - She recommended that all tech team meeting notes and other documents to be shared within each team and with other teams be posted on team link. Meeting dates should be listed on the calendar. Links to meeting dates, especially changes in meeting dates, should be sent to all tech team members or selected ones.
- It was **requested that Team Link be changed so an entire tech team can be selected for e-mailing links**, instead of only being able to select individual names or sending to the entire list. It was also suggested that a function should be added to enable users to send a posted message, or a link to a message, to Team Link users similar to the setup for sending links to the calendar entries. **Colleen will try to get these features added.**
- **Colleen will also try to get a main button added on the left side of the site for meeting notes, as requested. The notes section will be organized by tech team.**
- Another new section that may be added is one for generating reports on milestones from the project schedule and a link to enable users to add reports, such as the Draft EIS for the City of Albuquerque drinking water project, that should be included in the administrative record. Clay Mathers requested that the LizardTech reader be added as a downloadable file, similar to Adobe Acrobat reader. This would permit the posting of large scanned documents on Team Link for use by all teams because the size is much smaller than PDF files.

❖ Summary of the June Steering Committee meeting

- Attendance at the meeting was fairly low.
- It was recommended that the month of the semi-annual meetings be changed to May and November or early December to improve attendance. Another recommendation made was to coordinate the meetings with other meetings that attract the same interested people.
- The presentations by the resource teams were well done, and the posters were outstanding. **The Project Managers want electronic copies of all of the posters to be provided to Ellen Dietrich soon.**

❖ Steve reported on a meeting with the Project Managers, the GIS Tech Team, and the Hydrology and Hydraulics Tech Team. The main purpose of the meeting was to determine how analyses would be completed and to discuss the schedule and process for the support teams to conduct analyses needed by the resource teams. The major points and recommendations from this meeting include the following:

- **Future ID NEPA Team meetings, beginning in August, will be conducted as tech team workshops involving all team members** to facilitate coordination between resource teams and with the support teams. **Team leaders should request that all team members attend the August 8 meeting.**
- Tech teams must work more closely with the support teams so schedules and data can be coordinated to meet the needs of the resource teams.
- Alternatives will be finalized by the end of September.
- Modeling and other data analyses needed to evaluate impacts on resources is scheduled to begin in January. By that time, FLO-2D, the URGWOM Planning Model, and GIS needed must be ready to use. Technical teams should know what types of analyses they will conduct to evaluate the impacts from each alternative.
- The impact maps showing the area of maximum inundation from FLO-2D from Cochiti to Elephant Butte will be available for tech team use and tribal presentations by the next ID Team meeting.
- **The agenda for the next ID Team meeting involving all tech team members will be posted on Team Link. A link to the file will be sent to all tech Teams. Clay asked that tech teams bring along the GIS cartoons that they have developed.**

❖ Charlie Lujan of San Juan Pueblo has been asked by the All Indian Pueblo Council to explain the URGWOPS project. He would like to use some of the maps and posters from the Steering Committee meeting for his presentation. He hopes that once he gives this presentation, the AIPC would invite the Project Managers to give a more comprehensive presentation at the annual Water Summit.

- **After Ellen receives all of the files of the posters, she will make a CD for Charlie.**
- Clay recommended that some of the DOQQs also be copied to CDs.
- Gail cautioned that we must ensure that the tribes understand the difference between the different Rio Grande projects and agencies involved.

❖ **The next ID NEPA Team meeting will be held on August 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the Corps.** This will be the first in a series of workshops for all tech team members. **Come prepared to discuss approaches for analyses, coordination with other resource and support teams, and the schedule for accomplishing these tasks.**