

MEETING NOTES
UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER OPERATIONS MODEL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

NM INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION
5550 SAN ANTONIO DR NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

August 11, 2011

Amy Louise called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Those in attendance and those participating in the meeting via telephone conference call introduced themselves. A meeting agenda and an attendance list are attached.

Mike Roark reported on the activities of the Technical Team, including

- The status of work on enhancements to the middle Rio Grande section required for the recalibration of this section of the model including ET computations, water surface evaporation AND database update; many features simulated in the model were inspected during the August 8th Technical Team field trip of MRGCD irrigation works;
- Changes to ET computations used in the model are being considered and implemented by the Technical Team including:
 - review and evaluation of middle Rio Grande weather station data used in the reference ET computation convinced the Team to change the way the model computes reference ET to the Hargreaves method in lieu of the FAO-56 Penman Monteith method currently used;
 - a sensitivity analysis showed that the model results are not sensitive to changes in ET except during periods of low flow and in the lower reaches of the middle valley;
 - work on investigation into the consolidation of irrigated crop acreage and ET in the model in a way that would improve model performance is underway.
- The Technical Team work activities associated with the PHVA work group have slowed although it was pointed out that a letter (dated July 21, 2011) recently received from the PVA work group to PHVA work group requested additional hydrologic information.
- Work on upgrades to model rules and accounting is ongoing (see below), along with efforts to consolidate and streamline the use of DMIs.
- Snowmelt runoff modeling work (HEC-HMS) on the Cerro to Embudo reach is under review and testing.
- Members of the Technical Team have been participating in regular meetings for the coordination, review and testing of the monthly model (PowerSim).

- The Team has established and is following a protocol for the orderly maintenance of development models, which will be located in the URGWOM common web page and made available for check-out by model developers; models in use and not in development are maintained by the Corps.

Craig led the Steering Committee through a slide presentation providing additional details on changes and updates to rules to improve model efficiency and ease of use. This is accomplished by eliminating unnecessary accounts, and revising the structure of the remaining accounts. This revision of the account structure will ultimately lead to consolidation of the planning and operations models. Rules on storage and releases of San Juan-Chama Project water and native Rio Grande water were also reviewed.

Craig also briefed the Steering Committee on those features of the middle Rio Grande model that will be reviewed and upgraded, if necessary, before recalibration of the model. These areas include review of model layout, wasteway return flow, revised open water surface evaporation method, revised ET computations, crop acreage consolidation and review of canal seepage losses.

Amy Louise reported on the Executive Committee meeting held June 23, 2011. At that meeting, the three member Executive Committee discussed the role of the Steering Committee and concluded that the most appropriate role for the Steering Committee is to act in the role of information distribution rather than project management. The MOU and the QA/QC plan will have to be revised to accommodate the change in role for the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee discussed CADSWES RiverWare work under contract with the Corps and the Bureau; Warren advised CADSWES that work on the monthly model development should take precedence over development of the groundwater object water quality capability; Edie reported that some water quality work would be done under the CADSWES contract with the Corps.

Conrad reported that the Paso del Norte Watershed Council is scheduled to meet in Las Cruces on September 19, 2011 beginning at 2:00 pm, and that the IBWC will be hosting a Citizen's forum at their office on October 6, 2011, beginning at 6:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at about 12:10 pm.

URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting
August 11, 2011

Attendance List

ORGANIZATION	NAME
8 May 2008 Signatory List	
Caballo Soil & Water Conservation District	Not in attendance
CADWES	Edie Zagona – phone
City of Santa Fe	Not in attendance
Colorado Division of Water Resources	Not in attendance
Desert Research Institute	Not in attendance
NM Dept of Agricultural	Hilary Brinegar – phone
NM Interstate Stream Commission	Nabil Shafike
NMSU	Not in attendance
Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo	Not in attendance
Paso del Norte Watershed Council	Conrad Keyes Jr. & Hilary Brinegar–phone
Rio Grande Restoration	Not in attendance
UNM	Not in attendance
US Army Corps of Engineers	Stephen Kissock & Amy Louise
US Bureau of Indian Affairs	Not in attendance
US Bureau of Reclamation	Warren Sharp
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Not in attendance
US Geological Survey	Mike Roark
US International Boundary and Water Commission	Not in attendance
Contractors	
Craig Boroughs, BH&H	Craig Boroughs
Conrad Keyes Jr.	Conrad Keyes Jr. – phone
William Miller	William Miller
Jesse Roach, Sandia Laboratory	Not in attendance
Zhuping Sheng, Texas Agrilife Research Center	Not in attendance
Tomas Stockton	Not in attendance

Additional Cooperators Not on 8 May 2008 Signatory List

ABCWUA	Not in attendance
Defenders of Wildlife	Not in attendance
EBID	Not in attendance
El Paso Water Utility	Not in attendance
Isleta Pueblo	Not in attendance
Jemez Pueblo	Not in attendance
MRGCD	Not in attendance
NM Dept of Game & Fish	Not in attendance
NOAA	Not in attendance
Santa Ana Pueblo	Not in attendance
Water Sage	Not in attendance
Zia Pueblo	Not in attendance



Steering Committee Meeting

August 11, 2011 – 10:00 am

Conference Room – New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission

5550 San Antonio Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Call-in line: 1-855-547-8255, Pass code: 92015

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Tech Team Update
3. Rule and Account Updates in Development Model
4. Method Enhancements and Re-Calibration of Middle Rio Grande Portion
5. June 23, 2011 Executive Committee Summary
6. Other Business
7. Next Meeting Date