

MEETING NOTES
UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER OPERATION MODEL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NEW MEXICO ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE
MARCH 12, 2009

Marc Sidlow called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Those in attendance and those participating in the meeting via telephone conference call introduced themselves. An attendance list is attached.

Marc Sidlow reported that Scott Anderholm of the USGS could not attend the Steering Committee meeting. Marc reported that Scott had informed him that nine responses to his request for water quality modeling needs had been received to date. Scott will be working on a draft report on the water quality modeling needs survey and this report will be presented at the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

William Miller presented the March 12, 2009 draft URGWOM 5-year plan, which had previously been circulated to Steering Committee members via e-mail. He reported that the Technical Team has reviewed the descriptions of work tasks, schedule and associated funding requirements. There was no objection from members of the Steering Committee to the use of this document as a guide for Technical Team activities for the next year. Zhuping Sheng reported that he will provide additional documentation in support of the lower Rio Grande basin model development effort.

Mike Roark summarized the activities of the Technical Team as described in a handout distributed to those in attendance at the meeting. Current activities of the Technical Team include:

- Updating the water surface and wetted sands evaporation loss calculations in support of development of a request for a new method by CADSWES;
- Mike has made a presentation to the Paso del Norte Watershed Council on current URGWOM activities related to the lower valley model development; members of the Technical Team are scheduled to meet March 13, 2009 to continue lower valley model development efforts;
- Jesse Roach has circulated documentation on development of hydrologic sequences used in the PHVA modeling effort for review and comment by the Technical Team;
- The Technical Team has continued discussion on development of the proposed real-time water operations model, focusing on data requirements;
- The Technical Team has continued efforts on completing development of PHVA modeling; Craig will provide additional details later during the meeting;
- Water quality modeling needs; as reported by Marc earlier in the meeting;

- Craig has led the Technical Team through a rules review and update workshop along with CADSWES. Edie reported that CADSWES is developing a report on recommendations on rules efficiency and will submit a Report to the Team by the end of this summer.

In response to a question from Edie, Mike reported that Jessie's report on development of the stochastic hydrology will be made available for review by the Steering Committee after it has been reviewed by the Technical Team.

Craig briefly described the proposed changes to the URGWOM web-page through the use of a PowerPoint presentation, which is still under review by the Technical Team. The Steering Committee discussed the manner in which the URGWOM data base could be accessed through the URGWOM web page. Steve Bowser suggested that the web page contain a link to the Bureau's web page to gain access to water accounting data. The consensus of the Steering Committee was that database metadata would be accessed through the URGWOM web page, along with current planning and water operations models and data. For example, the most current Annual Operating Plan model runs and data, along with a current planning model run and ten-year data sequence could be accessed through the web page. The URGWOM web-page should also contain a link to access the most current version of the monthly model.

Craig updated the Steering Committee on the status of the PHVA model runs through the use of PowerPoint slides that were previously circulate via e-mail. Craig's presentation displayed results and comparisons of many runs showing results of recruitment flow operation and target flow compliance. Craig also reported on:

- PHVA work group was scheduled to meet the following Tuesday to discuss the use of screening tools for review of model runs;
- Eleven scenarios with five sequences were modeled with the only difference between scenarios being the target flow levels;
- All runs show less water required to meet target flows (at San Marcial) because the model now simulates pumping from the low-flow channel which water is now used to meet target flows;
- Use of flow tools alone (i.e., lease of 8,000 acre-feet of San Juan-Chama Project water, Cochiti deviation, alternative letter water release schedule, pumping from low flow conveyance channel, relinquished credit/emergency drought water and conservation of storage when Otowi flow is greater than one million acre feet) do not provide adequate water to meet target flow at all times;
- Post processing requirements and results screening criterion;
- Description of minor modifications to the model and their development priorities that were identified during the PHVA modeling process;
- Changes to the accounting model that could improve model efficiency.

Marc presented through the use of hydrographs of flow and reservoir storage levels the results of the March 1, 2009 Annual Operating Plan runs (most probable forecast), including snowpack data, reservoir operation review, Rio Grande Compact delivery status and storage in Elephant Butte Reservoir, and comparison of streamflow data and reservoir storage for forecast values other than the most probable. Marc stated that the Annual Operating Plan hydrographs would be added to the URGWOM web page.

Under other business, Conrad reported that he has been chosen to serve as the Chair of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council, and Hillary will serve as the vice-chair. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for April 6, 2009.

April reported that the federal omnibus spending bill had been passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President. The Corps funding amount was 8% less than the amount requested, and that there is no funding available in the federal economic stimulus package for URGWOM related activities.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for June 11, 2009 (subsequently changed to June 18, 2009) at the Reclamation Office in Albuquerque.

Marc thanked the Fish and Wildlife Service for hosting the Steering Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Attendance List
URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting
March 12, 2009

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Michael Roark	US Geological Survey
Conrad Keys, Jr.	Corps Consultant– PdNWC
Zhuping Sheng	TAMU – PdNWC
Warren Sharp	USBR, Albuquerque
Steven Bowser	USBR, Albuquerque
Nabil Shafike	NMISC
April Sanders	Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
William J. Miller	Consulting Engineer
Chris Banet	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Cyndie Abeyta	Fish and Wildlife Service
Craig Boroughs	Consulting Engineer
Marc Sidlow	Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
Via telephone:	
Edie Zagona	CADSWES
Bobby Creel	NMSU – WRRI
Hilary Brinegar	NM Department of Agriculture
Elaine Hebard	Rio Grande Water Assembly