

MEETING NOTES  
UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER OPERATION MODEL  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
NM INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION, ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

April 8, 2010

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. A meeting agenda and an attendance list are attached.

Mike Roark distributed a report on the activities of the Technical Team and summarized the report as follows:

- a. Documentation of the middle valley upgrade work is underway and drain discharge measurement data collected for use in re-calibrating middle valley section is under review;
- b. Rules updates and improvements are being made and a draft report on the rules review has been completed;
- c. A field trip to review the Colorado portion of the basin and to meet with representatives from the Colorado Division of Water Resources is scheduled for the week of July 26<sup>th</sup>;
- d. Work on the development of groundwater/surface water interaction methods for the Rincon Valley in the lower Rio Grande is nearly complete and work will be expanding on the Mesilla Valley area;
- e. The Technical Team will conduct a workshop on development of real-time water operations model on April 20, 2010 to help further define the scope of this effort;
- f. Modeling for the PHVA workgroup (ESA compliance and BA/BO development) continues (see below);
- g. Work on improvements to the monthly model is continuing which includes data base updates for calibration and validation and documentation of findings of the comparison with URGWOM model;
- h. The water quality modeling subcommittee has not met since the last Steering Committee meeting (see below);
- i. The Team continues to work on developing methods necessary for the implementation of the open water and wetted sand evaporation methods;

- j. A draft planning model user manual has been prepared and has been circulated for review by Technical Team members; work on manuals for accounting and water operations models is underway.

Scott Anderholm summarized the activities of the water quality modeling subcommittee. Cyndie Abeyta reported that the Collaborative Program will include URGWOM modeling of water quality impacts. Steve Bowser suggested that more appropriate water quality modeling software should be considered instead of relying on RiverWare to do everything. Zhuping reported that the simulation of salinity in the lower Rio Grande could use URGWOM in the second phase of that study. The first phase of the study, hydrology and economic impacts, might be ready for review soon. After further discussion, those representatives of the URGWOM lead agencies and the cooperative agencies present agreed to maintain the water quality modeling effort in the URGWOM 5-yr. plan. The BIA representative abstained from acting on this matter. Cyndi also reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has funding for the continuation of water quality data collection in the middle Rio Grande for an additional 18 months.

Craig Boroughs presented a detailed report to the Steering Committee on the status of the PHVA/PVA modeling efforts for new Biological Assessment / Biological Opinion. Ongoing work includes pre-ESA model runs, to evaluate river and reservoir operations that would have existed absent the listing of the silvery minnow. Craig presented hydrographs summaries of model runs, for various hydrologic sequences, for: times of shortage which show that when the MRGCD diversion at Angostura is increased to 400 cfs river during below the diversion would result; simulation of calls by Texas under Article VIII of the Rio Grande Compact (Texas call on post-compact storage in El Vado, which only occurred in two out of fifty years); comparison of historical model runs with observed wetted channel conditions to develop low flow threshold to define drying; Cochiti deviation for recruitment and overbank flow releases, and review of safety factors as they apply to target flows. Modeling and consultation with biologists in the PVA work group is continuing.

Marc reported that the Federal Interagency Modeling Conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV, June 27 – July 1, 2010. Craig will be making a presentation at the conference on URGWOM modeling activities.

Marc reported to the Committee that the Technical Team has scheduled a field trip to survey physical features of the Rio Grande basin in Colorado for the week of July 26, 2010. Marc will circulate a trip itinerary after it has been developed.

Marc reported that the URGWOM Technical Review is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2010, probably at the NMISC Albuquerque Office. Tentative review items include middle valley upgrade, rules and DSS / DMI improvements, accounting model update, lower Rio Grande and the monthly model.

Marc presented some preliminary Annual Operating Plan model simulation results based on the April 1, 2010 forecast (102% of average at Otowi, April – July). Marc presented hydrographs of projected flow and reservoir operations for 2010. Included in the plan is the potential for a Cochiti Lake deviation from normal operations for overbank flow; the target would be 5,800 cfs at Central Ave.

Under other business, Zhuping reported that TAMU, along with the USGS, NM WRRI, TX WRRI and Mexico will be undertaking a joint assessment of the impacts of groundwater pumping on the Mesilla Bolson, which will involve an upgrade of the MODFLOW model for the area. TAMU is also teaming with NMSU and UTEP in the development of a National Science Foundation proposal for an investigation into the impact of climate change on the hydrology of the upper Rio Grande.

Steve Bowser reported that Reclamation has updated the ET Toolbox webpage with a new schematic of reservoir storage and ET by reach in the basin. He will forward the link to that location to members of the Steering Committee.

Marc reported that his office has been requested to make a presentation to the governors of the six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos regarding the function of the URGWOM models. The presentation is scheduled for May 6, 2010.

Conrad reported on the following matters:

- The next meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council is scheduled for May 7, 2010 at the NMDA offices;
- The IBWC will conduct a citizen forum on June 15, 2010 at the Dona Ana County Community Center;
- The IBWC has funding available for environmental restoration activities, some of which may be available for water quality modeling.

The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee is scheduled for August 12, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting  
April 8, 2010

Attendance List

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Steve Kissock	Corps of Engineers
Nabil Shafike	NMISC
Cyndie Abeyta	Fish and Wildlife Service
Jesse Roach	Sandia National Lab
William J. Miller	Consulting Engineer
Mike Roark	U. S. Geological Survey
Marc Sidlow	Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
Zhuping Sheng	TAMU
Scott Anderholm	U. S. Geological Survey
Jennifer Wellman	Pueblo of Santa Ana
Jody Kougioulis	Pueblo of Sandia
Andrew Lieuwen	Alb. Bernalillo County Water Utility
Bill Tai	NMISC
Steve Bowser	Bureau of Reclamation

Via telephone:

Hillary Brineger	NMSU Dept. of Agriculture
Conrad Keyes, Jr.	Corps Consultant
Craig Boroughs	BH&H, Inc.
Randy Shaw	Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque
Charles Lujan	Ohkay Owingeh



Steering Committee Meeting  
April 8, 2010 – 10:00 am  
New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission  
5550 San Antonio Dr. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Call-in line: 1-866-769-5378, Passcode: 6504045

#### Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Tech Team Update
3. Water Quality Modeling Continuation Decision
4. Update on PHVA/PVA Modeling Efforts for New BA/BO
5. Joint Federal Interagency Conferences (URGWOM Presentation)
6. Colorado Kickoff Field Trip
7. Tech Review
8. '10 Preliminary AOP Results
9. Other Business
10. Next Meeting Date