

MEETING NOTES
UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER OPERATION MODEL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
ALBUQUERQUE AREA OFFICE
JUNE 18, 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.

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:

- 1) Middle Valley model upgrade:
 - a) Development of new method for calculating open water surface and wetted sands evaporation loss is being developed by CADSWES;
 - b) Craig is performing model calibration as part of PHVA modeling efforts;
 - c) New seepage lag method incorporated into planning model and run time has decreased (Edie noted that bug in logic has been fixed).
- 2) Lower Valley development:
 - a) GIS boundaries for ground water objects corresponding with river and riparian geometry have been developed and circulated for review;
 - b) Conjunctive use simulation methods are being developed.
- 3) Monthly time-step model:
 - a) Rules related to simulation of San Juan-Chama Project diversion from the San Juan River basin have been updated;
 - b) Next step will be to validate results of monthly model using RiverWare model results;
- 4) Real-time water operations model: plan of development and extent of model scope are to be developed in cooperation with Bureau of Reclamation and CADSWES.
- 5) PHVA Work Group model: Craig has been working steadily to complete this model effort (see discussion below).
- 6) URGWOM Web-page: Roberta Ball has developed a draft version of the web-page and it is available for review and comment.
- 7) Water quality modeling investigation: Scott Anderholm has completed a draft report on availability of data and models and the need for water quality simulation. The draft report has been sent to Steering Committee members.
- 8) New model methods development – CADSWES: The Team had discussed with CADSWES a list of new methods to be developed by CADSWES.

Mike summarized Scott Anderholm's draft report on Water Quality Modeling, which contains an inventory of existing water quality models and a tabulation of water quality parameters suggested for modeling, all in response to a questionnaire circulated to interested entities. The Committee then discussed the availability of water quality data in the basin (including data collected and maintained by EBID and the Fish and Wildlife Service) and the status of existing continuous data collection programs.

The Committee explored the nexus between the river and reservoir operation function of the RiverWare model and water quality. The relationship between this operation and water quality improvement in the middle valley is not clear, although the relationship between reservoir and river operation and salinity loading in the lower valley may be an area that requires further exploration. Mike Roark recommended that the Technical Team follow-up with the establishment of a working group to explore in more detail the opportunity for the use of RiverWare in the simulation of water quality enhancement.

Craig updated the Steering Committee on the status of the PHVA model runs through the use of PowerPoint slides. His review focused on calibration efforts to improve target flow compliance and simulation to match observed river drying dates. The presentation was in the form of streamflow data residuals at locations between Cochiti Dam and Elephant Butte Reservoir, for the irrigation season, the non-irrigation season and for the entire year. Craig also presented model simulation results through the use of flow-duration curves and "dry day" hydrographs. He stressed that calibration work on the planning model will continue.

Mike Roark reported that the review of model rules and update of model rules documentation is continuing. The middle valley upgrade provides a good opportunity for the ongoing review and update of model rules.

The Committee received a report on the status of ongoing database and DMI updates. This is mainly a maintenance issues as the database requires continuous updates as historic data become available. The Corps will be adapting the upgraded middle valley model into the water operations model and the accounting model.

Marc presented through the use of hydrographs of flow and reservoir storage levels a comparison between the model simulation results using the May 1, 2009 runoff forecast and observed flow data as of June 1, 2009. Marc stated that the model forecasted the release of 44,000 acre-feet of supplemental water for endangered species in the middle valley during 2009.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for September 10, 2009 at the Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office in Albuquerque.

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at noon.

Attendance List
URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting
June 18, 2009

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Michael Roark	US Geological Survey
Conrad Keyes, Jr.	Corps Consultant– PdNWC
Bert Cortez	USBR, El Paso
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
Marc Sidlow	Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
Bill Tai	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Derrick O’Hara	USBR, El Paso
Jennifer Wellman	Pueblo of Santa Ana
John Sorrell	Pueblo of Isleta
Todd Tillman	USBR, Albuquerque
Via telephone:	
Edie Zagona	CADSWES
Charles Lujan	Ohkay Owingeh