

MEETING NOTES
UPPER RIO GRANDE WATER OPERATION MODEL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,
NM ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

August 12, 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. That report is summarized as follows:

- a. Documentation of the middle valley upgrade work is nearing completion and will be ready for the October Technical Review; a new open water and wetted sand loss method is nearly ready for use in recalibrating the model; the Team is considering condensing crop data into a single surrogate crop or using a weighted average crop consumptive use to reduce data requirements and improve model efficiency;
- b. Work in the monthly model development has revealed that the ET Toolbox is calculating reference ET value about 30% greater than several other commonly accepted methods. Two conference calls with Al Brower were held to discuss the issue and the ET Toolbox now will also use the Penman-Monteith reference ET computation method;
- c. Model rules review and improvement is continuing along with documentation of the rules update;
- d. The Technical Team participated in a field trip on July 26th – 28th of areas of the San Luis Valley in Colorado for use in developing that portion of the basin into the model;
- e. A work order has been issued to Zhuping Sheng and Phil King for the continued development of water operations model below Caballo Reservoir;
- f. A draft design plan for development of a real-time water operations model has been developed and circulated to the Team for review;
- g. River and reservoir alternative operations simulation modeling for the PHVA work group is continuing;

- h. The development of extinction depth curves and other data necessary for the new open water and wetted sands loss method is continuing;
- i. The Corps has contracted for the development of a watershed model of the Rio Grande basin in New Mexico which will be maintained by the Weather Service when it is completed; current activities include setting up sub-basins within the model; a separate Team effort for a watershed model is being developed using HEC-HMS modeling platform;
- j. The Team has been discussing procedures for the regular updating of the URGWOM database, which will be required for the real-time modeling and current model activities;
- k. Draft user's manuals for the Accounting, Forecast, Water Operations and Planning models have been developed and circulated to Team members for their review.

Craig Burroughs reported that he continues to work on modeling scenarios for the PHVA workgroup. He presented a series of PowerPoint slides depicting the timing and location of middle valley river channel drying, by month, for the ten year model run period. This spatial depiction would be useful in side-by-side comparison of alternatives.

Craig led a discussion on the development of the real-time and watershed models. The watershed model, which requires an accurate forecast, is the subject of parallel efforts by Riverside Technologies, Inc, (under contract with the Corps) which will be operated and maintained by the Weather Service, and an in-house HEC-HMS model. The HEC-HMS model initial effort involves the simulation of the Rio Chama basin above the La Puente gage. The real-time model will be based on the physical layout of the middle valley, although a full system model will be required to simulate deliveries from upstream reservoirs; no rules or accounting will be used. A means to provide data on a real-time basis will also be required. Development steps include making changes to existing model, data acquisition methods, model development and testing.

Craig presented a series of slides showing an overview of the planning model user's manual. This manual does not include any RiverWare training and will be completed and available for the October Technical Review Committee meeting.

Craig reported on the salient points gleaned by the Technical Team during last month's tour of the San Luis Valley. This portion of the basin would be added to the model in order to simulate the hydrology of the entire basin in Colorado, not relying on historic hydrographs of flow arriving at the Lobatos gage. The tour was led by representatives of the Colorado Division of Water Resources. The tour included the

mainstem Rio Grande (District 20) and focused on Rio Grande Compact administration, direct flow use, reservoir storage administration and groundwater administration. The features of the Closed Basin Project were also explained and visited. The Conejos River system (District 22) was also toured, focusing on direct flows administration of uses on the Conejos River, the Rio San Antonio and the Los Pinos River. The principal storage feature, Platoro Reservoir, was also discussed. Craig also presented the potential Colorado portion model layout and identified the data required for model development.

The Steering Committee discussed the proposed agenda for the October 14, 2010 meeting of the Technical Review committee. Suggested agenda amendments presented by the Committee will be incorporated into a revised draft agenda.

Under other business, Chris Banet reported that the BIA has discussed the accounting of Prior and Paramount Indian storage and release with the six middle Rio Grande Pueblos and the BIA was advised to proceed with the model update to include a demand of 83,700 acre-feet per annum. Nabil reported that the NMISC believed that this demand value exceeded the actual demand for 8,847 acres of Prior and Paramount land. Reclamation also requested that model changes be deferred until questions regarding the demand could be resolved. A meeting between BIA, NMISC and Reclamation will be set up in an attempt to resolve the matter.

Conrad reported on the following events:

- September 15th meeting of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council at IBWC office, 3-5 pm;
- September 15th Paso del Norte Watershed Council citizens forum at IBWC office, 6:30-8:30 pm;
- September 15th Paso del Norte Watershed Council technical meeting at IBWC office, 1:30 pm;
- Coalition on storm water MOU signing August 17th at EBID Office (Signatories include Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Sierra and Dona Ana Counties, local Flood Authorities and the Village of Hatch);
- August 31st meeting of Interim Legislative Committee to address storm water authority for Southern Central NM area;
- November 9th Paso Del Norte Watershed Council meeting in Anthony, NM

The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee is scheduled for November 11, 2010, at the US Fish and Wildlife Ecological Services Field Office, Albuquerque, NM.

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

URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting
August 12, 2010

Attendance List

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Nabil Shafike	NMISC
Cyndie Abeyta	Fish and Wildlife Service
William J. Miller	Consulting Engineer
Mike Roark	U. S. Geological Survey
Marc Sidlow	Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
Stephen Kissock	Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
Craig Burroughs	BH & H, Inc.
Derek O'Hara	Bureau of Reclamation, El Paso
Via telephone:	
Hillary Brineger	NMSU / Dept. of Agriculture
Conrad Keyes, Jr.	Corps Consultant
John Sandoval	Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque
Chris Banet	Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque
Ed Palasko	National Weather Service
Eddie Zagona	CADSWES



Steering Committee Meeting
August 12, 2010 – 10:00 am
North Conference Room – US Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological
Services Field Office, 2105 Osuna Road NE, Albuquerque, NM

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

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Tech Team Update
3. Update on PHVA/PVA Modeling Efforts for New BA/BO
 - a. Spatial Depiction of Drying
4. Real-time/Watershed Model Development Update
5. Draft User Manuals and Updated Rules Documentation
6. Colorado Field Trip Summary
7. Technical Review
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting Date