Draft Memorandum

To: URGWOM Technical Team Members

Date: March 14, 2024

Subject: Notes of the March 12, 2024 URGWOM Technical Team Meeting

These notes summarize the items discussed during the March 12, 2024 meeting of the Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM) Technical Team. The meeting began at 10:00 am (MST) and was conducted as a virtual meeting hosted by the Corps of Engineers using Webex. All those participating in the meeting introduced themselves and their names and affiliations are listed on the last page of these meeting notes.

The March, 2024 meeting agenda includes general updates on ongoing URGWOM related activities from the NM Interstate Stream Commission, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and their contractors, and a discussion of the Technical Team 2024 field trip.

Reynalden served as host of this meeting for the Corps of Engineers. He reported that George Schumann is no longer working with the Corps and that Prakash Kaini will serve as URGWOM Project Manager.

Lucas reported that a new area-capacity table for Nambe Falls Reservoir has been implemented in the model. The reduction in capacity due to deposited sediment is about 312 acre-feet since the previous sediment survey.

The Bureau of Reclamation has been actively working on the 2024 AOP model development and Lucas presented hydrographs of storage at major reservoirs and flow at the principal stream gages showing preliminary model results. In addition, Lucas reported:

* Reclamation adopted the 2014 runoff as the 2024 hydrograph pattern which shows two distinct hydrograph peaks; the first occurred in April and the second peak occurred later in the season reflecting snowmelt runoff originating in the Colorado portion of the basin.
* The San Juan-Chama Project contractors are expected to receive a full supply in 2024, based on a 50% forecast;
* No flood storage is anticipated in Cochiti Lake or Abiquiu Reservoir, based on the 50% forecast.
* Also based on the 50% runoff forecast, the storage in Elephant Butte Reservoir is anticipated to drop to approximately 50,000 acre-feet by the end of 2024.

Prakash reported that the Corps has been working on the preparation of the 2024 AOP model and coordinating with Reclamation in the model set-up and script development. The Corps model runs are based on the 2012 runoff hydrograph pattern which shows that most of the runoff occurred during the early season. The results of the model simulation prepared by the Corps does not differ significantly from the simulations prepared by Reclamation.

Cindy reported that the NMISC and Hydros Consulting are utilizing URGWOM training videos to assist with training of Reclamation and MRGCD personnel. Lucas reported that the first two interactive training videos, prepared by WEST Consultants, with the assistance of Hydros, are complete. Nick will make the videos available to the Corps of Engineers for their use.

Cindy also reported:

* Hydros is evaluating the use of historic pumping data from the middle Rio Grande in the URGWOM model in an effort to improve the model reliability. This exercise has not yet proved useful but the effort is continuing;
* The NMISC is using URGWOM to evaluate the impacts of and potential responses to Rio Grande Compact delivery shortfalls by New Mexico;
* Work on using URGWOM to evaluate the impact of land fallowing in the middle Rio Grande has been suspended due to the small amount of irrigated acreage currently in the fallowing program.

The Team briefly discussed the inconsistent use of lag time between the accounting and physical models in the Bernardo to San Marcial reach, which was discussed during the January, 2024 Technical Team meeting, but remains unresolved. Nick will contact Lucas to follow-up on this matter.

Miller briefed the Team on a proposed Technical Team summer field trip itinerary. The field trip draft itinerary proposes stops to inspect the facilities at El Vado and Heron Reservoirs, stream gages, San Juan-Chama Project diversion facilities in Colorado and the Azotea Tunnel outfall. The trip would be held in lieu of a regular Technical Team meeting in July or August, 2024. Miller will circulate the draft itinerary to Team members. Team members interested in participating in the trip were encouraged to contact Miller in order that trip planning may proceed.

Nick reported to the Team that Hydros, under their work order with the Corps, is updating the URGWOM data base including inflow and computed local inflow data, through 2023. Breanna reported that Tetra Tech is not working on any database updates at this time so there is no duplication of efforts.

Cindy discussed the completion of new regulating and measurement infrastructure on the lower end of the Low Flow Conveyance Channel and whether this facility should be added to the model. This matter will be brought back before the Team after everyone has had the chance to review the proposal.

The next meeting of the Technical Team will the April 15, 2024 beginning at 1:00 pm. The Team consensus is that the April meeting will be a virtual meeting.

There being no additional matters to be brought before the Team, the meeting was adjourned at about 10:55 am.

ATTENDANCE LIST

URGWOM TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING

March 12, 2024

