Draft Memorandum

To: URGWOM Technical Team Members

Date: August 14, 2024

Subject: Notes of the August 13, 2024, URGWOM Technical Team Meeting

These notes summarize the items discussed during the August 13, 2024, meeting of the Upper Rio Grande Water Operations Model (URGWOM) Technical Team. The meeting began at 10:30 am (MST) and was conducted as a virtual meeting hosted by the Corps of Engineers using Webex. Lucas Barrett chaired the meeting. All those participating in the meeting introduced themselves and their names and affiliations are listed on the last page of these meeting notes.

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

Nick reported that he will be on leave for a few months later this year and he introduced Cibi V. Chinnasamy who recently began working with Hydros Consulting and will be assisting with work on the URGWOM model.

Lucas reported on Reclamation URGWOM related activities including the final AOP model run (without updated forecasts) for Elephant Bueet operations for the remainder of the year. Reclamation is also working on the Rio Grande Basin Study, and they anticipate that the hydrologic forecast traces developed by University of Massachusetts for use in the Rio Grande Basin Study model runs will be ready soon. Lucas anticipates that the University representatives will be ready to present the results of their investigation to the Technical Team during the October Team meeting.

Lucas also reported that all seven of the URGWOM training modules developed by Reclamation (John and Sarah Branum) have been completed and are ready for use. The training modules are posted on the Corps’ URGWOM web page.

Kiara reported that she has recently been appointed the URGWOM Project Manager and that the Corps of Engineers has no matters to bring before the group during this meeting.

Madison reported that the Interstate Stream Commission has no items to bring before the group at today’s meeting.

Miller summarized the salient stops and actions of the Technical Team during the July 8-9, 2024, URGWOM Tech Team field trip of the features of the San Juan-Chama Project and other facilities in the Chama, NM area. The purpose of the trip was to provide Technical Team members with the opportunity to become familiar with the features of the San Juan-Chama Project. Twenty individuals participated in the trip, representing five state or federal agencies and three URGWOM contractors. The trip stops were focused on water resource facilities that are simulated in URGWOM. In addition to the stops at El Vado Dam hydroelectric plant and the stream gage below El Vado Dam, all of the diversion, transmission, and storage features of San Juan -Chama Project facilities were visited. The Technical Team also held a meeting on the evening of July 8, and discussed the Reclamation URGWOM Training Modules, the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project, and the development of the San Juan-Chama Project water loss rates.

During the field inspection trip, the Team learned that Heron Reservoir has two outlet works conduits, a low flow valve (<25 cfs) and a high flow valve (>100 cfs) and that it is not possible to release water at rates between about 25 cfs and 100 cfs. At the meeting, Lucas reported that the URGWOM rules do not include this gap in outlet works release capacity. He will update the Heron operating rules to reflect the actual valve capacities when time allows. He reported that El Vado Dam outlet works may have a similar gap between the outlet conduit capacity and the hydro plant penstock capacity.

The Team also learned about the extent of effort required to keep the three San Juan-Chama Project diversion headgates clear of deposited sediment and debris so that the project is able to divert water to the extent it is available. This requires considerable effort by Reclamation crews and equipment to maintain deliveries, which have been successful and resulted in the reliable delivery of available water supply.

The next meeting of the Technical Team will the September 10, 2024, beginning at 10:00 am.

There being no additional matters to be brought before the Team, the meeting was adjourned at about 11:00 am.

ATTENDANCE LIST

URGWOM TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING

August 13, 2024

