Draft Memorandum

To: Kiara Takacs, URGWOM Project Manager

URGWOM Technical Team Members

Date: June 11, 2025

Subject: Notes of June 10, 2025 URGWOM Technical Team Meeting

These notes summarize the items discussed during the June 10, 2025 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 MS Teams. 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 10, 2025 meeting agenda includes updates on ongoing URGWOM related activities from the NM Interstate Stream Commission, the Corps of Engineers and their contractors, the US Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation for themselves and on behalf of the Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental Systems (CADSWES).

Lucas reported on the CADSWES activities because David Neumann was unable to attend today’s meeting. Lucas reported that CADSWES is working on Corps and Bureau work order tasks, RiverWare version 9.5 will be pre-released this week with the formal release later in July, and CADSWES will conduct rule-based simulation and introduction to simulation training classes during the week of July 21-25, 2025.

Lucas reported that the Albuquerque Reclamation office will have the services of a computer modeler as an intern who will begin work on URGWOM. Lucas will be hosting a post-NRCS forecast term review and the development of monsoon runoff forecasts on June 12, 2025 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm; Technical Team members are invited to participate.

Lucas presented hydrographs of streamflow and reservoir releases from model results based on the June 1, 2025 forecast. He described the development of monsoon rainfall runoff hydrographs, and the years used as a basis for the hydrographs used in the model under wet, dry and normal conditions. Salient points from the model run results include:

* San Juan-Chama Project allocations will be about 37% of a normal supply;
* The end of year content at Heron is forecasted to be about 15,000 acre-feet;
* Pueblo Indian Prior and Paramount water stored in El Vado and Abiquiu that is not used during the irrigation season will be released prior to the end of the year;
* El Vado continues to be operated under a storage restriction;
* MRGCD may exhaust their 2025 supply of San Juan-Chama Project water by early July;
* The channel of the Rio Grande may dry up in Albuquerque this year.
* The storage content in Elephant Butte Reservoir will drop to about 20,000 acre-feet before recovering to about 100,000 acre-feet by the end of the year. This storage level represents the lowest storage amount since 1954. Hydroelectric power generation capability will be impacted in 2025.

The Team briefly discussed the source of the negative inflow values from the model at Elephant Butte Reservoir, which could be the result of lack of precision in the use of the area-elevation-capacity tables and the measurement of stage and discharge below the dam. The application of evaporation rates from the evaporation pan onto the entire lake surface could also introduce some unreliable values used in the reservoir inflow computation.

Lucas will post the June 1, 2025 model results on Reclmation’s URGWOM AOP dashboard.

Prakash did not have any updates from the Corps of Engineers to bring before the Team at this meeting.

Miller presented to the Team proposed itineraries for two 2025 Tech Team field inspection trips. The proposed itineraries include one day (July 8, 2025) inspecting features along the Rio Grande between San Acacia and River Mile-60, located downstream of San Marcial. The second day (July 29, 2025) would include MRGCD facilities in the Belen Division and the ongoing river channel improvement work at River Mile 163. The Team would travel together in a van or small bus. Miller will circulate the proposed itineraries to Team members and ask them to respond if they are able to participate so that adequate transportation can be arranged.

John Craven reported to the Team on the results of the mass balance study that Hydros has prepared for the NMISC. The study included the reach between Cochiti and Elephant Butte Dam for the years 1975-2021. The study was performed using the model calibration configuration in RiverWare, which uses the data in the URGWOM DSS database. John described the inflows and outflows used in the analysis and presented a tabular summary of the results, which shows that the inflows and outflows (±change in storage) balanced to within 0.02% of each other.

Nick summarized the results of other investigations being undertaken by Hydros including:

* Updated scripts for the historic unregulated flow model for the 1950-2022 period; the updated scripts will be added to the model this week.
* Improved the ability to make adjustment to streamflow data using an upstream inflow object in lieu of manual adjustments;
* Will work to improve the ability to adjust the time period used in the “period of transition” that will smooth the data values between the actual flow data and the forecast flow (or storage) period data; the work may include the development of the ability to apply a variable time period.

The date for the next meeting of the Technical Team is July 8, 2025 The meeting will be the Technical Team field trip to the San Acacia – River Mile 60 reach of the Rio Grande.

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

June 10, 2025



