

Draft Memorandum

To: URGWOM Technical Team Members
Date: August 25, 2025
Subject: Notes of August 19, 2025 URGWOM Technical Team Meeting

These notes summarize the items discussed during the August 19, 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 Bureau of Reclamation 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 April 15, 2025 meeting agenda includes general updates on ongoing URGWOM related activities from the NM Interstate Stream Commission, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the US Geological Survey, the Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental Systems (CADSWES), Hydros Consulting, Inc. and a report on the URGWOM Technical Team field trips. Lucas hosted the meeting at the request of Kiara who was unable to attend the meeting.

Lucas reported that Reclamation has incorporated the River Forecast Center's ESP (Ensemble Streamflow Prediction) traces into URGWOM forecasts. The traces will provide forecast data for all URGWOM locations and local inflows for the entire year. The forecast made using the ESP traces appears reliable and he is addressing issues with transferring data between the ESP traces and the Bureau's HDB. He discussed streamlining the ESP data input process during the model set-up. Lucas is also working on blending the ESP traces with historical data. Lucas will discuss these matters with CADSWES off-line.

Prakash reported that the Corps of Engineers is working on the Corps' FY 2026 subconsultant contracts and that they have been using URGWOM to simulate the operation of Cochiti Reservoir during high flows. The simulation results indicate that under the assumed hydrologic conditions the reservoir will fill and a 7,000 cfs maximum controlled release will result in a smaller spillway peak flow than would a 4,000 cfs maximum controlled release. The Cochiti Lake Water Control Manual provides for a maximum controlled release of 7,000 cfs. This is an ongoing investigation.

David reported that CADSWES is completing work tasks under their work orders with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers.

Cibi reported on work being completed by Hydros for the NMISC. Hydros has been studying the evaporation trends at reservoirs in the middle valley. A review of the RG Compact Commission data and URGWOM DSS file database indicate a drop in readings when compared

to previous years' data beginning in 2012. Data for Caballo Reservoir in 2014 was reviewed but show no apparent trends in the data. At Elephant Butte Reservoir, a review of the temperature detrended evaporation data indicates a discrepancy beginning in the 1990s. Work on this study is ongoing and a report on the study results is expected soon.

Hydros also reported on work being undertaken under their Corps of Engineers work order. This involves the development of slot descriptions within the model that are related to the rule that controls the current slot operation. Hydros is also reviewing the model to eliminate any unused or dormant slots.

Miller presented to the Team reports on the July, 2025 URGWOM Tech Team field inspection trips. The Team travelled together in a bus to and from Albuquerque.

There were 18 participants on the July 8, 2025 trip. The Team visited sites along the Rio Grande from San Acacia Dam to River Mile 60. Irrigation and drainage facilities of the MRGCD and the Bosque del Apache were inspected, with emphasis on those facilities that are simulated in the URGWOM model. Representatives of the Bosque del Apache and MRGCD were in attendance, and they explained the role of the structures in the system and their operation. A copy of the July 8, 2025 trip report for this inspection has been placed on the URGWOM SharePoint Site.

There were 21 participant on the July 29, 2025 Tech Team field inspection trip of the facilities of the MRGCD Belen Division, from Isleta Dam to US Highway 60. Water diverted from Isleta Dam serves all land in this reach through the use of canal and drain interconnects. The interconnect structures are operated to send water to the Rio Grande to maintain aquatic habitat in this reach of the River. The Team also visited the River Mile 163 River Restoration Project in Los Lunas which involved the removal of 110,000 yards of material from bars and terraces in the river and placement on the riverside spoil levees. Bureau of Reclamation and MRGCD representatives provided information about the sites and responded to questions from Team members. A copy of the July 29, 2025 trip report for this inspection has been placed on the URGWOM SharePoint Site.

The date for the next meeting of the Technical Team is September 9, 2025, beginning at 10:00 am. The meeting will be an online meeting.

There being no additional matters to be brought before the Team, the meeting was adjourned at about 11:05 am.

ATTENDANCE LIST
URGWOM TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING

August 19, 2025

NAME	REPRESENTING
Prakash Kaini	USACE, Albuquerque District
Jade Finch	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Yining Bai	NM Interstate Stream Commission
Cindy Stokes	NM Interstate Stream Commission
William Miller	Southwest Water Design/USACE Contractor
Brian Westfall	Keller Bliesner Engineering / BIA contractor
Kyle Shour	Tetra Tech/USACE Contractor
Genevieve Allen	Bureau of Reclamation
Lucas Barrett	Bureau of Reclamation
Andre Ritchie	NM Water Science Center, USGS
Dave Moeser	NM Water Science Center, USGS
Jeb Brown	NM Water Science Center, USGS
David Neumann	CADSWES
Cibi V. Chinnasamy	Hydros Consulting
Nick Mander	Hydros Consulting
Ahmed Mashaly	NM WRRI
Ashenaf Madebo	Colorado Department of Water Resources
Juan Fernandez	Bureau of Reclamation