

February 19, 2003

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM
(formerly BAY-DELTA MODELING FORUM)

Draft
MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For January 10, 2003

(This meeting was held at the CH2M-Hill office in Sacramento)

I. SUMMARY

A. ACTION ITEMS

- **Asilomar Announcement** – Rich Satkowski and John Williams will put together an announcement of our Asilomar Conference, and distribute them at the upcoming CALFED Science Conference.
- **Fischer Award Presentation** – Rich Satkowski will send a letter to Dr. Dogrul announcing his award, and asking him to prepare a presentation for Asilomar.
- **Radison Luncheon** – Nigel Quinn will check with the Radison Hotel to see if they can support our luncheon function there.

B. MOTIONS PASSED OR TABLED

- A motion was passed to award Dr. Can Dogrul of the California Department of Water Resources with the Hugo Fischer Award for 2002.

C. REFERENCES HANDED OUT

- Announcement of Groundwater Resources Association of California course entitled “Model Calibration and Predictive Uncertainty Analysis Using PEST”.
- Executive Director’s Report

II. MINUTES

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME** – The meeting was opened with eleven persons in attendance, and four proxies held.

2. **SECRETARY’S REPORT** – The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – John William’s has been working on the document resulting from the Instream Flow Workshop held on Dec. 9-11, 2002. The

General Fund balance is \$54,800, and the Peer Review Fund balance is \$7,475. The recent IGSM Workshop gained us a few new members. So far there are 67 Forum members signed up for Asilomar. The State budget situation has been hampering sign-ups so far.

4. NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – There were four excellent candidates for this position. The Forum had a search committee of six to make the selection. Rich Satkowski was one of these candidates, and was selected as the search committee's recommendation to the Steering Committee for the position. A vote was now taken by the Steering Committee, and Rich was unanimously elected as the Steering Committee's candidate. Rich's name will be advanced to the General Membership for their considerations at Asilomar. Rich has worked long and hard for the Forum since its inception seven years ago. Rich will continue working part-time for the State Water Resource Control Board, and will perform his Forum duties as an independent person.

5. FISHER AWARD FOR 2002 – Dr. Can Dogrul of the Modeling Branch of the Department of Water Resources was nominated as a candidate for this award, based on his work on the IGSM Model. It was felt that much of the recent success of this model was due to his efforts. He was unanimously voted to receive the award by the Steering Committee. One member of the Steering Committee mentioned that he had not received an advance copy of the nomination letter for pre-review, and it was determined that in the future make sure that all nomination letters are given to all members of the Steering Committee for pre-review.

6. ASILOMAR PLANNING – Let's arrange to have announcements of the Forum's Asilomar Conference at the CALFED Science Conference. Rich Satkowski and John Williams will put together a flyer for this. The Groundwater Resources Association (GRA) has a web site. Can we announce the Asilomar conference on that? Our speaker this year will talk on stream restoration. Next year perhaps we will have Professor Eldridge on formation of the Delta. Possibly next year we can get a sponsor to pay for the adult refreshments. Chuching Wang will email more information on his session to John. At Asilomar the Past Convenor will say what the Fischer Award is for. Rich will send a letter to Dr. Dogrul asking him to prepare a presentation for Asilomar.

7. Workshops -

a. **IGSM Workshop Feedback** – This was a 3 ½ day workshop, where the alpha version (1.0) of the model was officially released. Nigel volunteered to work on the User Group of IGSM. This is an area the Forum could get involved in, in helping to support User's groups. There are normally two parts of a User Group, these being (1) user interface and (2) code development.

b. **CEQA Modeling Workshop** – K.T. Shum is going to draft a letter to Patrick Wright related to the EIR and CEQA modeling of the Delta. This workshop may be in April, and possibly co-sponsored with CALFED and others.

c. **North Coast Rivers Workshop** – This workshop is awaiting the conclusion of some other work going on there.

d. **Upper San Joaquin River Workshop** – In conceptual mode.

e. **Selecting Models Workshop** – This was briefly discussed as a potential workshop. It would cover how one goes about determining what type of model to use for a given situation.

f. **Luncheon Possibility** – A suggestion was made to have a noted person give a presentation on something like “The Future of Policy and Modeling”. This could possibly be someone like Greg Gartrell, Tim Quinn, or Steve McCauley. It was suggested that this might be done at a Sacramento restaurant, or at a location such as the Radison Hotel. Nigel will check to see if the Radison Hotel could accommodate a luncheon such as this, since this is not associated with a meeting to be held there.

8. **PEER REVIEW** - A discussion came up about the status of the CALSIM peer review. There has been a discussion between DWR’s Bulletin 160 staff, the UCD modeling workgroup, and others. It was decided to gather all of the technical concerns on CALSIM together for CALFED. This will be followed by an academic peer review of 5-7 experts, where they will spend 3-5 days listening, and then pass judgment on the theoretical side, but not the specialized knowledge side. They will talk to the Stakeholders, and independent outside people, such as the artificial neural network experts. CALSIM’s active development has made it difficult to peer review. CALFED may sponsor the peer review directly, as they have their own science group now. (They have been doing peer reviews for ecosystem restoration already.) The results of such a peer review may be recommendations for further improvements, not a pass/fail mark. CALFED’s first effort may be to gather concerns, and their second effort the peer review. The question arose as to whether our Forum could help on such items as the artificial neural network review. See the menu from the Stakeholders being developed for CALFED.

The discussion turned to what would be other promising peer review areas for our Forum, and the suggestion arose to do them for modeling protocols and guidelines. The Central Valley Regional WQCB may want a peer review of a watershed model. Perhaps peer reviews of models for watersheds would be a good area for us, too. Perhaps Hubert could work on a protocol for watershed modeling. For future peer reviews, we need a knowledgeable Forum person to follow that specific review. Money will be available to fund much-needed reviews. For much-needed reviews, time, not funding, is the essence.

9. **WEB SITE** – Kevin Long will be able to work up to four hours a month on the Forum’s web site. We need to sit down with Kevin and revamp our web site. We would like to put all of our documents, workshop notes, minutes, etc. onto the web. On the Executive Director’s correspondence have a title block that contains our web address. A good web site adds to and organization’s reputation

10. **NEW BUSINESS** –

PEST Workshop Possibility - Gordon Thrupp, of Papadopulos & Associates, told of an upcoming three-day workshop being presented in San Francisco by the Groundwater Resources Association (GRA) of California, entitled "Model Calibration and Predictive Uncertainty Analysis using the Parameter Estimation (PEST) Model. There was some discussion on having a shortened version of this workshop as a 1-day co-sponsored GRA-Forum workshop, in Sacramento, on April 28, possibly at the USBR building. Rich Satkowski will also check on the availability of a SWRCB conference room for this. A charge of \$100-150 was proposed for this one-day workshop. The speaker would be the person who developed the PEST model, Dr. John Doherty. With PEST one can apply state-of-the-art calibration and predictive uncertainty analysis methods on their everyday modeling applications.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS** – The next meeting will be a General Session meeting to be held at Asilomar. The next Steering Committee meeting will be at CCWD on March 21, from 9:30 AM – 1 PM.

12. **ADJOURN** – The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Nigel Quinn
John Williams
Rich Satkowski
George Nichol
Tara Smith
Rob Tull
Jay Lund
K.T. Shum
Lisa Holm
Chuching Wang (phone)
Gordon Thrupp

Convenor, LBNL/USBR
Executive Director
Past Convenor, SWRCB
Secretary, SWRCB
DWR
CH2M-Hill
UCD
EBMUD
CCWD
MWD
Papadopulos & Assoc.

Proxies: Deas, Peterson, Seytoux, Headlee