

June 22, 2004

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

Draft
MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For June 16, 2004

(This meeting was held at the Bonderson Building in Sacramento.)

I. SUMMARY

A. ACTION ITEMS

- Asilomar 2005 – The Executive Director will reserve a time-slot.
- Delta Improvements Package workshops – Nigel and Paul will check into potential workshops on pieces of this package.

B. MOTIONS PASSED OR TABLED – None

C. REFERENCES HANDED OUT

1. Executive Directors Report
2. Treasurer's Detailed Accounting Sheet of all Forum Funds, 1995-2003
3. Agenda from the May 24, 2004 Workshop on "Screening and Decision Support Tools" (as a lead-in to this afternoon's workshop on same topic.)
4. Agenda for this afternoon's workshop, entitled "Long-Term Analytical Tools and Data Development and Use"
5. Copy of an abstract submitted to the upcoming CALFED Bay-Delta Authority Science Conference
6. A new revised fact sheet about the mission of the Forum
7. Excerpts from the Forum's web page.
8. A print-out of the Water Education Foundation's "School Programs" program.

II. MINUTES

1. **INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME** – The meeting was opened with 9 persons in attendance, and 5 proxies held. A quorum was declared. Matt Zidar from WRIME was introduced.

2. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** – The minutes of the last meeting were read over and there was some discussion of corrections needed. The Secretary will make those corrections and resubmit the minutes to the Steering Committee next week.

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Lisa handed out a spreadsheet that showed in detail the Forums income and expenditures going back to the beginning of the Forum (see handout). She has used the software “Quicken” for this purpose.

4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** –

a. **Annual Meeting** – The IEP is not yet sure on whether they will be attending Asilomar in 2005. They will find out on July 1 at their meeting. They do not have any problem with us overlapping their sessions. Rich will arrange for the CWEMF to have a 3-day meeting at Asilomar in 2005.

b. **Technical Workshops** – Rich met with Kamyar of DWR on the Long-Term Planning needs of the California Water Project. See the handout. The April Long-Term Planning workshop went well. While long-term planning of screening and decision tools was the main item discussed, the question arose as to what should be the CWEMF's role on the short term.

c. **CALFED Science Conference** – Rich submitted two abstracts to have CWEMF inputs for the upcoming CALFED Science Conference. These abstracts are:

- CWEMF's involvement in Long-term Planning Needs for Modeling and Analytical Tools
- A Description of What CWEMF Is and Does

d. **Website** – Our website has had 8,600 queries since its inception. This averages about 54 queries a day.

e. **New CWEMF Brochure** – Rich has made a new CWEMF brochure. He will also supersize it so it can be presented as a poster at such functions as the CALFED Science Conference.

5. **LONG-TERM WATER MODELING PLANNING** – The sub-committee is working out well. There will be a workshop this afternoon on this topic, which will consider the assembly of comments received from the general membership last February at Asilomar and other comments received from individuals later on. Our objective is now to prepare an outline for the final draft on this topic. Several workshops will be held to refine this draft by October. The goal is to then have a final draft ready to present to the general membership at Asilomar in February 2005. There was some discussion to post the comments received to date on the web, without the names of the originators, but to first check with the originators to see if it is OK.

The question arose as to who is the audience of this document we are preparing. The answer was that there is a potential for diverse audiences. One audience may be the Bulletin 160 Advisory Committee, which has both technical and institutional sides. The document may pull disciplines together, such as from ground water, surface water, economics, agricultural, etc.

The question arose as to how this Long-Term Planning effort differs from our past “Model Protocols Manual” effort? That document asked what modeling we should be doing. The answer was that this new effort is a more comprehensive and updated version. The earlier document addresses the “how to” in modeling, and this effort includes also the “what to” and “why” in modeling developments. We will use ideas from the earlier document as a starting point. The strategic framework will pull these ideas all together.

Questions were raised if it would be appropriate for the Forum to discuss this effort in the CALFED Science Conference in October. The Steering Committee will revisit this question before the Conference, when materials for presentation are better defined.

6. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS –

a. **DWR Delta Modeling Section Annual Workshop** – This workshop will present the Section’s work in the previous 12 months and the materials in its annual “D-1485” report. This workshop will be primarily for modelers, but the introduction and overview will be less technical. Scheduled for August 17 in the Bonderson Building Hearing Room..

b. **Long-Term Planning Workshops** – Jay Lund discussed a plan for several workshops before the CALFED Science Conference.

c. **TMDL Workshop** – Possibly on July 29. Awaiting confirmation from U.S. EPA. (Tim Wool of EPA has since confirmed. The location will be the CAL-EPA Building in Sacramento.)

d. **ESA Recovery Planning Workshop** – This has been postponed until possibly September.

e. **Other Possibilities** –

(1) **Levee Break** – This workshop will present results from both numerical modeling and field measurements of flow, salinity, dissolved organic carbon, and pathogens of the catastrophic levee break in Jones Tract on June 3.

Agenda could include a discussion in water project operations as a result of the incident. Possibly in October/November.

(2) **CALSIM II** – A follow-up to the CALFED Peer Review Report.

(Note: It was asked when DSM-2 and CALSIM 2 training would be given. Is it possible to do this every other year? Probably not, as it is time-intensive and we are in a time of limited resources. Someone mentioned that the tutorial aspect of DSM-2 Users Group is very good.)

(3) **Delta Improvements Package** – This is a large effort, and could be divided into several workshops. For example, CALSIM 2 usage, South Delta improvements modeling, efforts on Franks Tract, how to meet Vernalis standard, DSM-2’s extension into the San Joaquin River, salinity, TMDLs, San Joaquin Drainage EIR, etc. Nigel and Paul will look into these.

7. **MODEL USERS GROUPS** – The posting of simulation results is being considered. Nigel will discuss more when he returns. There is still a plan to have a CALSIM 2 User’s Group. (Announcement for the first meeting of the CALSIM II Users’ Group on July 1 was made later that week.)

8. **PEER REVIEW** – Potential models for review include relationship between salinity and flows, artificial neural networks, the CART (?) process. However, it does not appear that it is the right time to peer review any of these models.

9. WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS -

a. **Posting of Jobs** – The question arose as to whether we want to put job listing on our web site. There were pros and cons on this. The topic arose because a consulting firm recently asked us to do a posting for an opening that they had. Some consulting firms have openings on their web site. Should we have a trial? Should we limit it to our own membership agencies? Should we just limit it to modeling jobs? Check with Kevin Long to see what it would take. Is it too time consuming? It would have to be continually updated as jobs are filled. Is it easier to just put links in our web site to other's sites that have job openings? No decision was made, and the discussion is tabled until next meeting.

b. **Student's Water Link – Students Education** – There was some discussion on how the CWEMF could become involved in the training of water related activities to students. It was mentioned that the Water Education Foundation (WEF) has a "Schools Program" for teaching students at all academic levels about water. It was decided to put a link to the WEF site on our web page.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS** – The WRIME Modeling Clearinghouse was discussed. Matt Zidar from WRIME was at the meeting. See his handout. The following discussion ensued. Having a modeling clearinghouse is one of the missions of the Forum. It was suggested that we work with Matt to find out more details and what the cost would be to the Forum. How can one keep track on all of the various models being used throughout the State. Would the effort be on groundwater models first, then on surface water models? What incentive would there be for modelers to give this information to a clearinghouse? Should this effort be put into the Long-Term Model Planning Strategy discussed above? Maintaining such a clearinghouse would not be a static effort. Who funds this type of work? Should it be called a cleaninghouse or a registry, since we are not clearing anything? Send an email to members to see what they think, check with CALFED, and get feedback. Perhaps DWR's DPLA would have some interest in this. Because of the considerable amount of effort, both in setting up and in updating, a clearinghouse would require, and the uncertainty in the willingness of individual agencies to provide information, the Forum's sponsorship will be delayed pending further discussion and information-gathering.

11. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - July 30, possibly in Davis.

12. **ADJOURN** – 12:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Rich Satkowski
K.T. Shum
Lisa Holm
George Nichol
Tara Smith

Executive Director, CWEMF
EBMUD, Vice-Convenor
Treasurer, CCWD
Secretary, SWRCB
DWR

Hubert Morel-Seytoux
Paul Hutton
Jay Lund
Matt Zidar

Hydroprose
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WRIME

Proxies: Nigel Quinn, Rob Tull, Mike Deas, John Headlee, Lloyd Peterson