

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Draft

For May 16, 2008

(This meeting was held at the Solano Irrigation District Office in Vacaville.)

Decisions	
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out announcement that Stacy Tanaka is the interim Treasurer – ED • Check if CALFED Science Conference is to include a session on how climate change may effect Delta salinity concentrations – KT • Write a brief summary comparing various groundwater models – Michael, Nigel, Hubert, George Matanga • Check on status of DHI’s groundwater model, to see if to include with above – Michael • Start action on DWR’s proposal for a peer review of the IWFM groundwater model – Tara. • Check if a workshop-type peer review can be done on the model being used for the Delta’s PPIC efforts – ED • Obtain more information on the use of continuation education credits - George
Parking Lot Items	
Motions	A motion was made and accepted to install Stacy Tanaka as the interim Treasurer until the Business Meeting at Asilomar in 2009.

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report
2. IWFM model peer review proposal
3. Workshop status.

MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM – The meeting was opened with 11 persons in attendance (or on the phone), and 5 proxies. A quorum was declared.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – The E.D. has found that Asilomar had made an error of about \$400 in overcharging us for our meals there, and Asilomar will be crediting us with that amount. The annual meeting Power Points are now on the web. The Survey Monkey has been working well for people to use to evaluate our meetings, and will be retained. An idea was presented that we should get “testimonials” from key agency people, to put onto our web site, to show that we are providing a valued service. Most other items mentioned by the E.D. were placed into the topics shown below.

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** – Hard copies of the minutes for the March 18, 2008 meeting were not available for review, and will be considered for approval at the next Steering Committee meeting.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – The CWEMF is pleased to announce that Stacy Tanaka agreed to accept the position of Treasurer on an interim basis, until the next election at Asilomar. A motion was made and passed to accept Stacy as the interim Treasurer. An email will be sent out to the membership announcing this fact. There is \$31,000 in the general fund, and \$18,150 in the peer review fund.

5. **TAXES** – Rich will obtain the tax information for the past year.

6. **TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS** –

a. **Past Delta Nutrient Workshop** – This had a large turnout, with 113 people, of which 34 were new members. We netted \$600. This Delta nutrient topic and related subjects may lead to future workshops. CALFED may be interested in us putting on a workshop on San Joaquin Nutrient Sources. The Power Points of this workshop are now on the CWEMF website. Fred Lee has written a synopsis of the workshop and that is also being put onto the website. There were 31 evaluations received after the workshop, giving an average score of 4.3. An interest survey for future related workshops was circulated with the evaluation form. The topic of most interest for a future related workshop is “How Future Delta Channel Flow Manipulations May Impact Delta Nutrient-Related Water Quality Characteristics”. A closely-related second choice was the topic “Nutrient Sources & their Control”.

b. **Past Shared Vision Planning Workshop** – CWEMF was a co-sponsor of this workshop. There were many good discussions. The Power Points are now on the CWEMF website. Some DWR funds may go towards helping CWEMF to improve its modeling protocols in this area.

c. **CalLite Model** – Potentially coming up on July 11.

d. **Delta Regional Ecosystems Restoration Implementation Plan (DWERIP) Model**
- On hold for now.

e. **San Joaquin River Restoration** – On hold for now, as the Legislative Bill is still being considered.

f. **Salinity Changes from Climate Change** – A climate change may result in salinity increasing in the Delta. Have a workshop on the modeling issues that may be involved with this. How will the different island breaches affect salinity intrusion differently? K.T. will check to see if the CALFED Science Conference will be covering this. Should we consider a white paper to address the questions that may be involved?

g. **Effect of Sea Level Rise** – Another potential workshop.

h. **Data Visualization** – Tara suggested this. There is a good book out on this subject by Edward Tufky.

i. **Flood Plain Modeling** –

j. **Delta Data Gaps Workshop** –

k. **Delta Hydrodynamics** – The recent CALFED workshops have been held on Delta hydrodynamics.

7. PEER REVIEW –

a. **Some Basic Thoughts On Peer Reviews of Groundwater Models** – A basic peer review may just include a review of the basic formulations, without looking at any model output. Comment on the applicability of the model for various uses. Are the surface streams decoupled from the aquifer? A suggestion was made to perform a documentation review of the various groundwater models that are available for use, much like the work that Mike Deas did for the stream temperature modeling.

b. **Comparisons of Some Existing Groundwater Models** – Michael, Nigel, Hubert, and George Matanga will write a brief comparison of the capabilities of the IWFM, MODFLOW, and HydroGeoSphere groundwater models. Michael will also check with the Danish Hydraulic Institute to see if their groundwater model should be used in the comparison.

c. **IWFM Peer Review** – See Tara’s handout of today entitled “Proposal for Peer Review of IWFM by CWEMF. This proposal is a request for CWEMF to carry out a nominal peer review of DWR’s Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM).

d. **MODFLOW Peer review** – MODFLOW has not had an external formal peer review, but its formulation and internal review by the USGS and subsequent wide use and acceptance by many tends to serve as a de-facto peer review of its development. Peer review of its application to a specific site is an independent matter, as is the case for all models. Do parts of MODFLOW need to be peer-reviewed?

e. **Delta PPIC Effort** – The tidally-averaged RMA model is being used for the PPIC work. The CUWA might be asking for a peer review of this model. Timing may be an issue. It was suggested that perhaps a quick workshop on this model and its use could serve as a peer review of sorts. Rich will check with John deGeorge on the availability of its documentation, and whether a workshop might be appropriate.

8. **MODEL USERS GROUPS** – The DSM-2 and IWFM user groups have been meeting. Some other user groups use the web site.

9. OTHER BUSINESS –

10. **ADJOURNED** – 12:15 pm. Next meeting on July 18 at Solano Irrigation District office in Vacaville.

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Tara Smith
Rich Satkowski
K.T. Shum
George Nichol
G. Fred Lee
Rob Tull
Hubert Morel-Seytoux

Convener, DWR
Executive Director, CWEMF
Past Convener, EBMUD
Secretary, CWEMF
GFL & Associates
CH2M-Hill
Hydroprose Consultant

Stacy Tanaka
Paul Hutton
Michael Tansey

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On Phone:
Lucinda Shih

CCWD

Proxies: John Williams, Peter Vorster, John Headlee, Jay Lund, Mike Deas