

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

# MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For Sept. 16, 2011

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

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| Decisions         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>  |
| Action Items      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ben check with Levi Brecke on a possible climate change session at the annual meeting.</li><li>• Fred and George check with the USEPA on their webinar presentations.</li><li>• Paul will check about the possibility of having a former Sacramento Bee person be a speaker at the annual meeting.</li><li>• The Executive Director will talk to NGP personnel to see about the possibility of NGOs joining CWEMF at a special NGO rate.</li><li>• Marianne and Ben talk to groundwater modelers to see if they have additional thoughts on input to our groundwater peer review Questionnaire.</li><li>• Marianne will send out a letter to the General Membership informing them of CWEMF activities over the year.</li><li>• Have a lunch meeting at the Nov. 18 Steering Committee meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan</li></ul> |
| Parking Lot Items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developing a Strategic Reserve Fund.</li></ul>   |
| Motions           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A motion to amend the current Executive Director contract and to extend it for another year was passed.</li></ul>  |

## REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report.
2. First Amended Agreement Between CWEMF and Archibald Consulting for Executive Director Services
3. Possible Annual Meeting Sessions 2012.
4. Workshop Status
5. Summary of Comments on the Biological Opinions Briefing
6. Sample Letter to go out to potential Peer Reviewers
7. Requirements for the three CWEMF Awards
8. List of Steering Committee Members

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**1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was opened with seven persons in attendance, three persons on the phone, and eight proxies. A quorum was declared.

**2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – The USBR has a contract with CWEMF for dues for the next five years, for a sum of \$5,000 per year. The web site has been updated. The biological opinion power points from the recent CWEMF briefing are now on the CWEMF website. Other portions of the report are added to the related items below.

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** –Passed unanimously.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** –

a. Current Funds - There is now \$53,900 in the general fund, and \$18,300 in the peer review fund, for a total of \$72,200.

b. Strategic Reserve Fund – There has been no action on this yet. The goal will be to start with getting together a reserve fund that will last for one year. Develop a target value to present to the general membership. Put as a parking lot item for now.

5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AGREEMENT** – The Executive Director and Convener will sign the amended contract agreement for May and June of 2011, and the contract for the full fiscal year (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012). A motion was made and passed unanimously for this.

6. **ANNUAL MEETING** –

a. General - Consider sessions on Dimensionality Needs in Delta Modeling and on Flow Splits. Mike Deas said he could do a session on water temperature modeling. Ben mentioned a multi-dimensional modeling session, perhaps with Mike McWilliams. Ben will check with Levi Brecke of the USBR about the possibility of a climate change session. Jubaid suggested that Ben coordinate with Michael Tansey on this. Jay has said that he could do three sessions. Don't do Callite without DWR. The USEPA is putting on lots of webinars. Could we use some of those webinars as sessions at Asilomar? Fred and George will check on what the USEPA has.

b. Calibration and Validation - One session could be on what constitutes a valid hydrologic and salinity calibration. Two potential speakers are in mind. From this workshop put together a white paper on "Issues On Calibration and Validation for Delta Models".

c. Deciding on Asilomar – Asilomar now has internet access in all individual residence rooms, but not the meeting rooms. If we meet at Asilomar, we would need about \$12,000-\$15,000 to cover our expenses. We need to determine how many participants and rooms we would need to reserve to break even on this. Perhaps we should get 25 rooms (one-half of last year's) and lock in the date. Put the students in the lowest cost rooms, to fill the rooms up. It was mentioned that the main reason that CWEMF is known is because of its meetings at Asilomar, with the networking afforded in the evening. Even if the annual meeting is held at Asilomar we want to have a session at the IEP annual meeting in Sacramento if possible.

d. WEAP Training - Ben has talked to David Perky on training on the WEAP Model (this would be a 3-hour overview). Interested persons would download the model prior to coming and bring their own laptop.

e. Keynote Speaker – Consider Bill Karl of the Sacramento Bee. He writes about water and power. Paul will check on this.

7. **TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS** –

a. Biological Opinion Briefings - The biological opinion briefing was a success. 130 people attended and six new members were gained. An income of \$2,300 was obtained. The purpose of the workshop was to educate. Work is underway for the Nutrient (Nitrogen) Dynamics in the Delta briefing. It was mentioned that in addition to nitrogen that phosphorus could be an issue, or the N/P ratio could be important. Future meetings on this issue could include Irwin von

Nieumeyer of the USBR. Possibly have a second nutrient session at the annual meeting, to include phosphorus, and consider Irwin and the USGS as speakers.

b. Delta Water Quality Workshop – This is anticipated for next Spring, and is planned to cover items from the BDCP and the Delta Stewardship Council. A requirement is that if Delta flows are altered, then water quality changes must be determined. D1641 affects flows, and therefore water quality. It does not appear that the water quality issues have yet been addressed by anyone. Possibly have the workshop after the BDCP plan is presented. Should such a workshop be condensed or be an entire day? Or, possibly have a one-half day workshop on the issues that need to be addressed, and then follow up with a workshop on the issues. Fred feels that one issue in Delta water quality modeling will be the kinetics involved in the chemical and biological transformations.

c. Consumptive Uses – Tara or Nigel or Lisa?

d. Flood Modeling – Possibly have a December or January workshop. This could complement or promote the annual meeting.

**8. ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FOR NGOs** – The Executive Director will talk to NGO personnel to see what the interest of NGOs would be in joining CWEMF at an NGO rate.

**9. PEER REVIEWS** – There are five possible peer reviewers selected by the peer review committee. A Questionnaire was made up by the committee describing to the reviewers what questions should be addressed in the review. It is anticipated that two reviewers will be selected to increase the breadth of knowledge involved, to share the workload, and to have the reviewers complement each other. The intent of the review is to focus on how well the models address the groundwater policy issues of interest to decision makers, stakeholders, and the involved public. Marianne and Ben will talk to local modelers who have been involved in groundwater policy issues to see what additional input they can add to the Questionnaire. It is desired that the developers of the three models interact with the peer reviewers during the review. In addition to saying what the models can do, say what they cannot do. It was suggested that the final report might follow the previous Water Temperature Peer Review format.

**10. AWARDS** – It was decided to send the nomination packets out earlier in the year, such as with the session announcements. Marianne will be sending out a letter to the general membership explaining why things happened as they did over the year, and the letter will mention the awards nomination opportunity.

**11. MODEL USER GROUPS** – The DSM-2 User Group is an active group. The DSM-2 group has a newsletter. WARMF has started a User Group, and WEAP has a User Group.

**12. CWEMF STRATEGIC PLAN** – Discuss this at the annual meeting with the general membership. Try to get IEP collaboration when developing the plan. IEP wants to get into the interpretation of data, so this would be interfacing with modeling goals and could be a part of the plan. Possibly have a session at the annual meeting on data interpretation methods. Have a lunch meeting at the Nov. 18 steering committee meeting, to discuss the Strategic Plan.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS** – How does modeling interface with legislation and policy? See “Lawyers Guide To Modeling”. Next meeting is Nov. 18. Adjourn 12 noon.

Respectfully Submitted  
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Marianne Guerin  
Elaine Archibald  
Ben Bray  
Stacy Tanaka  
George Nichol  
G. Fred Lee  
Paul Hutton

Convener  
Executive Director  
Vice Convener  
Treasurer  
Secretary

RMA  
CWEMF  
EBMUD  
Watercourse Engr. Inc.  
Public Member  
G. Fred Lee & Assoc.  
MWD

On Phone: Rich Satkowski, Lucinda Shih, Jobaid Kabir

Proxies: Mike Deas, Nigel Quinn, Peter Vorster, Nazrul Islam, Eric Reyes, Jan Lund, Rob Tull,  
Tara Smith