

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Draft

For July 18, 2008

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

Decisions	
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare Problem Statement for a Delta Model Guidance Document – Paul• Determine how much of our treasurer/tax duties we want a bookkeeper to do – Tara and Stacy.
Parking Lot Items	
Motions	

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report
 2. Earning Certification Renewal Credit (PDH, CEU) From CWEMF Technical Workshops
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MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM – The meeting was opened with 10 persons in attendance (or on the phone), and 4 proxies. A quorum was declared.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT –

- a. For the past annual meeting at Asilomar, the E.D. got back \$200 for the discrepancy on off-site meals.
- b. We had a smaller main meeting room assigned to us at Asilomar because their management had a smaller head count for our attendance than we actually had. In the future make sure that Asilomar knows our true attendance count, so that we have more chance of getting the Chapel or Fred Farr room as our main conference room. The larger groups in attendance get the larger conference rooms.
- c. It appears that the USGS ground water model MODFLOW has not been peer-reviewed formally. Steve Phillips of the USGS is checking on this. Most other items mentioned by the E.D. were placed into the topics shown below.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT – The minutes for the past meeting of March 18 and May 16 were reviewed and approved.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT –

Lisa gave the treasurer's files to Stacy, and a hard drive with information to the E.D. There is \$18,150 in the peer review fund, and \$48,130 in the general fund, for a total of about \$66,000.

5. TAXES

a. All delinquent tax returns were mailed in to IRS yesterday. We are awaiting the results of our explanatory letter to the IRS as to why we became delinquent.

b. Tara and Stacy will be determining how much we want a bookkeeper to do. Should we use the software program Quick Book, which is a software program for non-profit organizations? Can we download this from a website?

6. ANNUAL MEETING THEME

The topic of drought was mentioned as a possible theme. Having no theme was also mentioned. It was mentioned that any theme selected should reflect the bulk of the sessions being presented. No selection was made at this time.

7. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS –

a. *Past Workshops* - Three technical workshops have been held since our last Steering Committee meeting and these were the CalLite, HEC-HMS, and Central Valley groundwater models. The Power Point presentations for this latter workshop are being put onto our web site.

b. *DSM-2* – To be held in September.

c. *DRERIP* – The Delta conceptual models. Perhaps we could get some, but not all, of the models presented at a workshop. Nothing firm now.

d. *CALSIM-3*

e. *SJR Restoration Flows*

f. *Sampling to Support Fish Modeling*. Random sampling. CALFED possibly interested. Monitoring and modeling for fish.

g. *San Joaquin Valley Salinity Modeling* – Possibly something in the future. George and Nigel.

h. *Future Workshops* – Possibly have on-line training on our web site. Put class onto our web site. Have presentations and tutorials. Make a common interface for tutorials, using our web site as one-stop shopping.

i. *WARMF* – CUWA may be interested in a workshop supporting the application of the WARMF model to the San Joaquin River and Sacramento River. Nigel is interested, and Paul said he would help. The modeling of methyl mercury there may be of interest.

j. *Delta Nutrients* – Not ready for a follow-on workshop yet, because the problem of how the channels and flows are going to be configured in the future has not yet been determined. This will affect where the nutrients will flow to and how they will react in the Delta. For example, a Peripheral Canal will affect the nutrient distribution differently than transporting water through interior channels. Delta nutrients are a drinking water issue (THMs and taste and odor). CALFED wants a review on these. RWQCB 5 wants a

workshop on the Deep Water Ship Channels effects on the (dissolved oxygen?) TMDL. DWR may be modeling the Peripheral Canal effect.

k. *Data Visualization* – Tara is heading up. Marianne and George volunteered to help. LLNL has data visualization groups. On hold for now until more information becomes available.

8. EDUCATION CREDITS FOR ASILOMAR WORKSHOPS (added to agenda)

George described how some engineering licenses (i.e. the American Academy of Environmental Engineer's Board Certified Environmental Engineer or Diplomate, Water Resource Engineer) require that one obtain certain types of training over time in order to retain that license. This training is either called Professional Development Hours (PDH) or Continuing Education Units (CEU). One way to obtain some of the required credits is through attendance at engineering or scientific workshops. There was some discussion on how these credits could be awarded for our Asilomar sessions and other technical workshops, and therefore be one more service that CWEMF could add to the engineering community.

9. PEER REVIEWS

a. **Nigel's Trip to England** – Nigel went to Europe for a modeling seminar. Europe has three large modeling constituencies, these being the Danish Hydraulic Institute, the Delft Center in Holland, and the Wallingford Center in England. They emphasize the linking of their models and the sharing of data between models without having to re-populate the data into a new format. They have developed a standard template for this, supported by all. Would CWEMF be interested in starting toward this effort, as an organization? Our models in the U.S. share, but not too well. Our models need to develop linkage. Should we invite someone from Europe to come to present something at Asilomar? One item that has to be addressed is Ontology, where modeling words and terms would have the same meaning in different models. Could we get a grant for starting this? Is this just applicable to public domain software?

b. **MODFLOW** – It was mentioned that we do not want to peer review MODFLOW, just to see if it has been peer reviewed.

c. **IWFM** – We have DWR's proposal submitted to CWEMF on May 16, 2008. Should the theory peer reviewed first? Can matching funds be obtained?

d. **USBR's Hydrogeosphere** – Michael Tansey sent an email before the meeting stating that there is an interest on the part of the USBR to add HydroGeoSphere to the groundwater model peer review.

e. **REALM** – Should this soon be considered for peer review?

10. MODEL USER GROUPS

a. **DSM-2** – Starting a two-page Newsletter (check with Tara on this).

11. OTHER BUSINESS –

a. **Guidance Document for Delta Modeling** – We have discussed this off and on over the past year, as regards the preparation of a document that can be helpful to persons selecting appropriate models to be used in Delta work. One item to be addressed would be when to use 1-D, 2-D, or 3-D models. Get the USGS involved. Paul volunteered to

make a Problem Statement addressing the situation, and send to the Steering Committee for comments. This Guidance Document may be similar in structure to our Modeling Protocols document.

b. Asilomar Speakers – Suggested names were:

(1) Omi (?)

(2) Scott Stein

(3) Gerald Hoffman – Legislative view, Chair of Water Committee, could speak on role of Legislature and modeling.

(4) Norris Huntley, historian, author of a history of California water supply.

c. Other Asilomar Speaker Topic Possibilities

(1) Data Visualization

(2) Model Linkage – Speaker from one of the European modeling centers.

12. **ADJOURNED** – 12:15 pm. Next meeting on September 19 at Solano Irrigation District.

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Tara Smith

Rich Satkowski

Stacy Tanaka

George Nichol

G. Fred Lee

Nigel Quinn

Paul Hutton

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