

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Draft

For March 18, 2008

(This meeting was held at the Contra Costa Water District Office in Concord.)

Decisions	
Action Items	Michael – Briefly summarize the capabilities and limitations of the various groundwater models discussed, and forward to Tara. George – Check on the possibility of obtaining continuing education credits (CEUs).
Parking Lot Items	
Motions	

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report
  2. Asilomar annual meeting comments.
  3. Workshop status.
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## MINUTES

1. **INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was opened with 13 persons in attendance (or on the phone), and 3 proxies. A quorum was declared.
2. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT** – Most items mentioned here were placed into the topics shown below.
3. **SECRETARY’S REPORT** – The minutes for the January 18, 2008 meeting were approved.
4. **IRS STATUS/TREASURER’S REPORT** –
  - a. The Treasurer was absent. The ED reported that there is \$39,150 in our general fund, and \$31,600 in our peer review fund. It was noted that while CCWD gives us \$5,000 each year for peer reviews, we have not had a peer review done for several years.
  - b. Tara has talked to Lisa. Lisa has an appointment with a new accountant. We will have a transitional treasurer. Last year’s cleanup of the funds paperwork is almost complete. We will hire a book-keeper, which will help. Our books are completed up to November of 2007, and are being reviewed by an accountant. Our FY ends on June 30.

## 5. 2008 ANNUAL MEETING –

**a. Awards** - Mrs. Fischer and Lyle Hoag had been invited. Four new Fischer awards and two new career achievement awards were ordered prior to the meeting (so we currently are left with two Fischer awards and one career achievement award left for next year).

**b. Participation** - 174 persons participated, from 66 organizations. There were 25 sessions. It was mentioned that our conference rooms were too small, because Asilomar erroneously had a smaller count for us. We had 70 persons stay on-site. There were 13 students, of which 12 received scholarships (i.e room, board, and registration) from CWEMF. Can we offer car-pooling in the future for the students? Consider making a list of volunteer drivers that the students can contact in the future. Make sure to give enough advance notice on the scholarships and car-pooling possibilities. The scholarships will be offered again next year.

**c. Fees** – We took in \$21,200 in registration fees, and \$2,500 from 50 new members. So we had an income of \$23,700, and expenses of \$17,000, for a net profit of \$6,700. The question arose as to whether we should increase our registration fees, as Asilomar has raised their fees.

**d. Results of Evaluations** – Thirty participants prepared after-the-fact electronic evaluations. The average score was 4.3 out of 5.0. See the E.D.s report for the individual comments.

**e. Call for Presentations** – For next year, should we advertise in a periodical such as the Estuary Science Journal (seems to be a journal closely allied to what we do)? If so, should we announce that we are only interested in California projects? Should we announce that papers/topics can be submitted for regular presentations, for pop-up talks, and/or for poster session?

**f. Pop-Up Talks** – Positive feedback was received for the pop-up talks. Have a 3-slide limit, with the slides submitted early enough to be loaded onto the session moderator's PC.

**g. Overlap of CWEMF and IEP** – How should this overlap occur at Asilomar to best serve the needs of both organizations? Should CWEMF go from Monday through Wednesday, with IEP going from Wednesday through Friday? Then Wednesday would be the overlap day, and CWEMF could arrange to have those sessions of most interest to IEP on Wednesday, with IEP responding in kind. One question arose as to whether the CWEMF should just stay away from those areas that the IEP might cover. It was mentioned that this might not be the best, since the incipient DRERIP conceptual models are showing the strong contact between water flow and environmental effects.

**h. Concurrent Sessions** - There is still the frustration that people are missing too many good sessions that are given concurrently. Try to keep the themes separate in the concurrent sessions. Try to minimize concurrent sessions.

**i. Poster Session** – The room this year was too small. Try to have a larger poster session. Emphasize this more in the call for presentations. Consider having the poster presenters give pop-up talks on what their poster covers, right before the poster session begins, to help prepare the audience for the poster's contents. Should we have the posters

available the next day also for viewing? Will this be too noisy for the next day sessions occurring in the same room?

j. **Follow-Up Workshops To Support Asilomar Sessions** – In the annual evaluation form, put in a place to ask for what follow-up workshops the persons would like to have for the upcoming year, to amplify what was presented at Asilomar.

k. **Mini-Annual Meetings** - Should we have mini-annual meetings at Napa or Lake Tahoe?

l. **CalFed Modeling Training** – Calfed will have some beginning modeling training beginning in April. Let our members know.

m. **Continuing Education Credits/Professional Development Hours** – George will check to see if our annual meeting sessions or workshops can qualify for CEU or PDH credits that some persons need over the year to maintain their professional accreditations.

## 6. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS –

a. **Shared Vision Modeling** – Rich Juricich is organizing this workshop. Set for April.

b. **Watershed Modeling with HEC-HMS: Overview and applications**. George is organizing this workshop. Set for May 28.

c. **Conceptual Model Workshop** – Marianne is organizing this workshop. DRERIP, a conceptual modeling effort for the Delta. Potentially this summer.

d. **Cal-Lite and DSM-2** – A potential workshop in June, for 3-4 days.

e. **Groundwater Modeling** – Charlie Brush of DWR is organizing this workshop. Several organizations are co-sponsoring this with CWEMF. Nigel is also involved. This will be a chance to get to members from the groundwater area. Cost to be \$50 + cost of lunch + cost of publication duplications. Tom Harder will present the effect of dairies on groundwater.

f. **CalFed Delta Workshop** - Steve Culberson is organizing this CALFED workshop. This workshop will be in April or May.

## 7. PEER REVIEW –

a. **IWFM Model** – Tariq and John Dongul have been working on this. Items discussed were the need to match the expectations of the peer review with the funds available, who is the audience of the review, and will the review be on the construction of the model or its applications.

b. **REALM** – Consider having a real-time peer review. Have an “interest group”, rather than a “peer review” group, so that the review does not hinder DWR from doing what they have to do.

### c. **GROUNDWATER MODELS** –

(1). While MODFLOW has not been officially peer-reviewed, it has been “peer reviewed” in the sense that it has been used by many for years and accepted by the profession through use.

(2). Four groundwater models were discussed today, these being CVR2, MODFLOW, IWFM, and HYDROGEOSPHERE. How do these compare? What applications can be made with these models? Michael gave a brief summary of the capabilities of each. Some do solute transport and some do not, some do particle tracking and some do not, etc. Michael will write up a summary of the capabilities of each model and forward that

to Tara. CWEMF would like to know the capabilities and limitations of each. The models interact with streams and aquifers. Which models incorporate the “plugging layer”? Michael and Nigel will discuss these items.

**8. MODEL USERS GROUPS –**

**9. OTHER BUSINESS –**

a. Webinars – This has capabilities that we might want to use in the future. For example, we could have a 3-hour webinar session on what modeling is. Should we try it on a trial basis? What are the connections that have to be made between computers? Have to get the time zones right. The cost to have webinars may be \$1,000 per year.

**10. ADJOURNED – 2:00 PM.** Next meeting 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  
Lucinda Shih  
Rob Tull  
Hubert Morel-Seytoux  
Stacy Tanaka  
Paul Hutton

Convener, DWR  
Executive Director, CWEMF  
Past Convener, EBMUD  
Secretary, CWEMF  
GFL & Associates  
CCWD  
CH2M-Hill  
Hydroprose Consultant  
Watercourse Engineering Inc.  
MWDC

On Phone:  
Marianne Guerin  
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RMA  
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Proxies: John Williams, Peter Vorster, John Headlee