

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For May 18, 2012

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

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2013 annual meeting will be held at the Lake Natoma Inn
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notify Michael Tansey of the status of the groundwater peer review – Rich Satkowski• Amend the Executive Director contract for the new compensation rate – Marianne Guerin• Start coordinating with the IEP for a joint annual meeting again next year – Convener and Executive Director• Check availability and capacity of Sudwerk's restaurant in Folsom for evening social events – Bill Smith
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In July have an agenda item on the State Water Board's upcoming Delta workshops• In July give status of Strategic Plan – Executive Director
Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the Executives Director's compensation – passed• Have the 2013 annual meeting at Lake Natoma Inn - passed

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors report.
 2. CWEMF trial balance as of May 14, 2012
 3. CWEMF workshop status
 4. Table of annual meeting income and expenses
 5. Annual meeting 2012 survey results
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1. **INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was opened with 12 persons in attendance, three persons on the phone, and one proxy. A quorum was declared.

2. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Elaine had posted her report electronically before the meeting. Her comments are included in the topics discussed below.

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

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – There is \$84,500 in the general fund, and \$18,400 in the peer review fund. We will have a net profit of about \$34,000 this fiscal year.

5. **CWEMF STRATEGIC PLAN** – The objective will be to look forward a few years in the plan, and to find other resources available to us. Elaine will brief us more on this at the next Steering Committee meeting.

6. **MODEL USER GROUPS** – The DSM-2 group will be meeting in June. A 2-hour workshop on Delta Island Consumptive Use will be held in July at UCD.

NEW TOPIC ADDED TO AGENDA: RECENT STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD HEARING –

The Water Board had a hearing on an update to the Delta's Water Quality Control Plan. The topic was on the flow criteria. Inflows to and outflows from the Delta were discussed. The CWEMF was mentioned. There will be a series of workshops on developing new flow criteria. Two interesting topics discussed were: (1) Bruce Herbold of U.S. EPA mentioned to the Board the workshops that CWEMF has had on the Delta, and that CWEMF could probably develop additional workshops that would be beneficial on Delta matters, and (2) Mark Bradley of the Delta Stewardship Council offered staff to help the Water Board in some of their workshops.

The Water Board will have four workshops between August and October, 2012. These workshops are as follows:

Aug. 22	Changes in salinity in the Delta
Sept. 5	Salmonid Fishery in the Delta
Sept. 6	Organisms in the Delta
Oct. 1-2	First day on Analytical Tools for Determining Hydrodynamic Effects; Second day on Hydropower.

Brock Bernstein will be the Board's facilitator on these workshops. There will be additional workshops later. Put this as an agenda topic for July. Dr. Peter Goodwin of the Delta Stewardship Council ~~has~~ contacted Elaine for information on the 2012 Annual Meeting. He reported on it in his report to the Delta Stewardship Council.

7. **ORGANIZATIONAL DUES UPDATE** - There are still some outstanding dues, although most have paid. There was some discussion on how personnel from non-profit organizations might be able to attend the annual meetings without making direct payment, as it was reported that they are short of cash in these economic times. Possibly this might be handled on a case-by-case basis. However, the general consensus seemed to be that since the CWEMF is just recovering from being in the red for several years that we have to be careful on setting a precedent that will reduce our income. The scientific contributions made by non-profit organization personnel was duly noted.

8. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS –

a. There will be two workshops in June, as follows: (1) June 8 will be on WEAP Model training at the USBR office in Sacramento. So far 21 people have signed up (class can hold 30). There is a good mix of people. SEI will have two instructors. Students will download the software ahead of the workshop; (2) June 18 will be the first groundwater peer review workshop. It will be at the CalEPA building in Sacramento. Ben will facilitate the workshop.

b. There will be a Delta Island Consumptive Use workshop at UCD in July. Josue Medelin will be involved in this workshop.

c. Ben has checked out possible future workshop locations at the Sacramento City Library. Some of their rooms are free, and some have charges. Also the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo has rooms and a cafeteria.

d. Peter Vorster has suggested a workshop on Measurement and Data Issues.

e. There is some interest on having a mercury workshop.

9. GROUNDWATER PEER REVIEW – The groundwater peer review team met with the two reviewers. An agenda for the first peer review workshop has been prepared. At the workshop the models will be presented by the following persons:

IWFM Model	Tariq Kadir and Cam Dogrul
HGS Model	George Matanga and Ed Sudicky
Modflow Model	Randy Hanson and Claudia Faunt

The workshop will be held in the Klamath Room at the CalEPA building in Sacramento. The room has a capacity to hold 100 people. There will be no fee, as it is a presentation to the peer reviewers rather than a training workshop. Those interested should pre-register by email. The speakers had requested a change to the workshop name to be “Integrated Surface-Subsurface Models”. A motion was made and seconded and passed (unanimous) to change the name. Rich will modify the name on the workshop flyer and Kevin Long will send it out. Ed Sudicky will be coming from Ontario, Canada, and Jobaid said the USBR would cover the cost of his travel. A motion was made, seconded, and passed (with one oppose and one abstention) to have coffee (only) at the workshop in the morning, with funds up to \$200 coming from the peer review fund.

Dr. Thomas Harter of UCD has signed his contract. He has post-docs to help in the review. Rich will send an email to Michael Tansey of the USBR on the status of the peer review and contracts.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS COMPENSATION –

The Executive Director’s compensation has been set at \$25,000 for the past several fiscal years (July 1-June 30). During those years the funds have been spent prior to reaching the end of the fiscal year. The Steering Committee realizes it has underestimated the hours needed for the position. An additional \$5,000 is needed this fiscal year to fund the Executive Director position from the annual meeting (April 2012) up to June 30, 2012. The Steering Committee discussed adding \$5,000 to this year’s contract for this, and setting the Executive Director’s base pay at \$30,000 for next year. Stacy will give an updatel at each Steering Committee meeting on how much money remains for compensation for the Executive Director. A motion was made to add \$5,000 to this year’s Executive Director’s contract, and to have the base compensation changed to \$30,000 for next year, subject to the Steering Committee coming up with the funds. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. A one-page amendment will be added to the contract to accomplish this.

Also discussed was the need to curtail or filter the amount of work that is sent to the Executive Director. The question arose as to how to filter the amount of work. Should all work requested go through the Convener for approval? No resolution was made yet on how this is to be done.

Perhaps more volunteer help from the CEWMF members will help here. For the most part the Executive Director's duties involve the annual meeting and the Steering Committee meetings.

Regarding the Executive Director's funding for future peer reviews, funds furnished by those requesting the review should include funds for the Executive Director's time. This year the time spent for the Executive Director came out of the CWEMF peer review fund.

It was suggested that we need to have a better peer review administrative process, to include a written procedure. This procedure would include such things as clarifying the time frame of the review and the funding needed. Say that we are here to help with the reviews, but that we need funding support.

11. ANNUAL MEETING

Elaine went over the details of the annual meeting. A total of 188 CWEMF members attended the meeting. The costs for the 2011 meeting at Asilomar and the 2012 meeting in Folsom were compared. Income, expenses, and revenue were compared. We made about \$9,000 more in income at Folsom than at Asilomar, attributed to more people coming to Folsom because it was easier to get to. At Folsom, the income was \$67,520, the expenses were \$17,265, so the revenue in was \$50,255 (however, some of the registration money due in is still outstanding). There were many on-site registrations from people who decided to come at the last minute, or who came for just one day. The sponsorships from the engineering companies was very helpful in helping us meet our financial goals.

This was an experimental year to us at Lake Natoma Inn. Questions arose as to how did people like the joint poster session with IEP? Opening the bar in the poster room distracted from people attending the business meeting next door. Should we have the bar in the business meeting room to draw people in? Food and refreshments were a big issue. Some comments were made on the adequacy of the box lunches. Running out of coffee early received some negative comments. Only one type of beer was served at the evening socials. The wine may not have been of the best quality. One of the meeting rooms was small. Perhaps we should have the evening social at the Studworks' pub just across the bridge from the Inn, as this would be more scenic with the river view and expand on the types of adult beverages available. It was mentioned that the large social room at Studwerks can hold 80 people. Bill Smith will check on this. The goal here is to try to get people networking with each other, which was one of the successes of Asilomar.

Stacy reported that the survey results collected electronically after the annual meeting showed that more attendees favored Lake Natoma Inn vs Asilomar. Most CWEMF members liked meeting with IEP. Should we coordinate with them again next year? The IEP especially liked our sessions on Delta turbidity and climate change. Most attendees thought the information they gained would be helpful on their job. Should we give feedback to IEP on how we thought the meeting went? Let's thank the IEP for the use of their posterboards.

Our big picture concerns for next year are: (1) how to do the evening sessions, (2) how to have lunch, dinner, and refreshments, (3) how to get a larger second room, and (4) how should we handle the posters. Next year (if we are at Lake Natoma Inn) try for a larger room than the small Folsom Room that we used. The other larger room we had was very good. If we meet with IEP

again how should we handle the poster session for the overlap night, as many CWEMF members did not stay this time.

There was some discussion on how much of the Executive Director's time was used up this past year in working with both Asilomar and Lake Natoma Inn for the annual meeting. In order to save the Executive Director from the unknowns and time consumed with where to have the annual meeting next year, a motion was made and seconded to go back to Lake Natoma Inn for the annual meeting. This passed unanimously. The IEP will be meeting in April 2013 at Lake Natoma Inn, and we should try to coordinate our meeting with them.

12. PREVIEW OF ISSUES FACING CWEMF'S BUDGET COMMITTEE – This was covered in Item 10 above.

13. OTHER BUSINESS - None

14. ADJOURN – Had a working lunch, adjourning at 1:30 pm. Most stayed for the budget committee meeting that followed.

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Marianne Guerin
Elaine Archibald
Ben Bray
Stacy Tanaka
George Nichol
Mike Deas
Paul Hutton
Bill Smith
Tara Smith
Rob Tull
Kijin Nam
Josue Medelin

Convener
Executive Director
EBMUD
Treasurer
Secretary

RMA
CWEMF
Vice-Convenor
Watercourse Engr. Inc.
Public Member
Watercourse Engr. Inc.
MWD
MWH
DWR
CH2M-Hill
DWR
UCD

On Phone: Lucinda Shih, Jobaid Kabir, Rich Satkowski

Proxies: Hubert Morel-Seytoux