

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

# MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

## Draft

For Sept. 19, 2008

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

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual meeting at Asilomar will be on Monday through Wednesday (Feb. 23-25, 2009), rather than Tuesday through Thursday.</li> <li>• The annual meeting fee has been changed to be \$200 (staying on-site) and \$250 (staying off-site)</li> </ul>
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the sessions for the CWEMF/IEP joint day on Wednesday, Feb. 25 – Steve Culberson</li> <li>• Arrange for Asilomar keynote speakers (Tom Quinn (MWD) and someone on Delta Vision) – Paul will contact Tom, and someone else will contact the other speaker.</li> <li>• Determine PDH/CEU educational credits for Asilomar - George and Rich.</li> <li>• Send out an email to the CWEMF membership asking for ideas for the upcoming Asilomar sessions – Rich</li> <li>• Give any ideas on data visualization training needs or desires to Tara – All.</li> <li>• Get group started on Guiding Principles document on Delta Modeling – Paul and volunteers.</li> </ul>
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Honorary Members – pending until annual meeting.</li> </ul>
Motions	

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report.
2. Blank Calendar for 2009 Asilomar Sessions.
3. List of Tentative Asilomar Sessions for 2009.
4. 2008 Asilomar Session List.
5. List of Recent Annual Meeting Themes

## MINUTES

**1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was opened with 15 persons in attendance (or on the phone), and 2 proxies. A quorum was declared.

**2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT** – The organizational member invoices have been sent out. The “Monkey Survey” software for receiving workshop evaluations has worked out well, and its contract has been renewed. Other E.D. comments are feathered into the topics below.

3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** – The minutes for the past meeting of July 18, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Stacy gave the treasurer's report. There is \$43,188 in the general fund, and \$18,150 in the peer review fund. Stacy will be working with a bookkeeper in the future.

5. **TAXES** – The IRS has not processed the tax paperwork yet.

## 6. ANNUAL MEETING

a. **Time Frame** – In 2009 our annual meeting will be held from Monday through Wednesday, rather than Tuesday through Thursday. Wednesday would be the joint day with IEP. Steve Culberson volunteered to help coordinate the CWEMF and IEP joint sessions on Wednesday. Page 5 of the E.D. report has the tentative schedule.

b. **Theme** - The theme was selected to be “Droughts, Floods, and In-Between: Modeling for a Changing Delta”.

c. **Potential keynote speaker** – Several excellent possibilities were discussed (Cliff Dahm, Phil Isenberg, Delta PPIC person, Delta Vision Panelist, Bill Riley or Richard Frank, plenary session with Cliff, Tim Quinn). It was decided to try to have Tim Quinn, and Bill Riley or Richard Frank, as dual speakers.

d. **Possible Asilomar Fee Change** – We have kept the Annual Meeting registration fee at \$180 for the past five years. We try to break even in costs. A problem has arose in that Asilomar assigns our main conference rooms according to the number of lodging rooms we reserve (which we must reserve ahead of time and guarantee payment of). However, if participants stay-off site in the nearby motels, some of our reserved lodging rooms may remain unfilled (which we must still pay for). In 2008, these attritioned rooms cost us over \$2,500. Consequently, the Steering Committee proposes a lower registration fee if one stays on site, and a higher fee if one stays off site. The Steering Committee decided on an on-site registration fee of \$200 and an off-site fee of \$250.

e. **Students** – We will announce that they can attend free. We will give them a voucher for staying at the Youth Hostel.

f. **Model Training** – Should we have a session on this?

g. **Obtaining Presentations Apriori** – Should we ask for the speaker's entire Power Point presentation when we ask for abstracts? It was mentioned this would probably be hard to get from most speakers. Getting the abstract has been about all we can hope for ahead of time since many speakers are working on their presentations right up to the session date.

h. **Education Credits** – Rich and George will determine what these can be. We will be offering these this year for the first time.

i. **Poster Session** – Pop-up speeches will be given to support each presenter's poster.

j. **Potential Brainstorming Session** – Rachael Hersh-Burdick of the Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, who attended our HEC-HMS workshop in June, emailed the ED with an idea for a brain-storming session at Asilomar . Under this idea, we would set up about groups of experts in various subject areas. Each group goes off and meets for about one hour and discusses needs in the ir areas. Then they come back and write up the results of their discussions. (For example, we could do this for the Guiding Principles of

Delta Modeling document. We could have a group on hydrodynamic modeling needs, water quality modeling needs, fish needs, restoration needs, etc.). No decision was made today on whether we would do this at Asilomar this year or not.

k. **Additional Ideas for Sessions** – Possibly a habitat restoration session, discussing Mono and Trinity Lakes, and the San Joaquin River. A session on the appendices to the Delta PPIC report. A session on where the PPIC is moving us to. A session on post-PPIC ideas. A session on Delta hydrology and sea level rise. A session on modeling for Wanger II, or OCAP. People with session ideas should send them to Rich.

l. **Idea for Future Year Sessions** – Paul mentioned that possibly in 2010, instead of us determining the sessions solely in the Steering Committee, we should put an announcement out asking for session recommendations to the CWEMF membership or to people wanting to present a paper or a special topic. Rich will send an email to the CWEMF membership asking for ideas for sessions, before the next Steering Committee meeting, for additional sessions and who else might want to put on a session. (It was mentioned that if we get too many people wanting to make presentations, we can always absorb them into our poster session.)

## 7. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS –

- a. DSM-2, version 7 – potential training workshop by end of summer.
- b. WARMF with emphasis on SJR application.
- c. DRERIP – still a hopeful in the future.
- d. SJ Valley – potentially
- e. Calsim III – Possible with Sushil in late Spring 2009
- f. Sampling for Fish – potentially with John Williams, and possibly tying in with Peter Vorster on biostatistics.
- g. SJR Restoration – have a workshop or a session at Asilomar? Peter Vorster.
- h. Calfed Workshop – help Steve Culberson. PPIC Extravaganza, Modeling a Changed Delta.
- i. Groundwater modeling workshop – the previous Central Valley workshop held in Berkeley led to some suggestions for future workshops. See page 4 of the E.D. report.
- j. Data Visualization – Edward Tufte, a data visualization expert, is here in the Bay Area in December. (Subsequent discussion mentioned that Steven Low in California, UCD, and USGS have data visualization knowledge and applications, too. The difference between graphics and animation was discussed.) Give any additional ideas on possibilities on data visualization training to Tara. (There was lots of interest on this topic.)
- k. Peter Vorster expressed his interest in biological modeling, and outreach to the biological community. This may be an area for future workshops.

## 8. PEER REVIEWS

a. **WARMF watershed model** – The SWRCB may desire a peer review of this model for the San Joaquin River. The question arose as to whether the theory of the model would be reviewed, or its application to the SJR. The review may or may not cover both the theory and application. The SWRCB may use its existing contract with UCD to arrange for a review. The CWEMF peer review guidelines will be used for this review. A

facilitator is needed, and Nigel has agreed to facilitate. It was mentioned that the WARMF alternate loadings to the SJR at Vernalis needs to be looked at.

b. **Utilization of Peer Review Funds** - A question arose as to whether peer review funds donated by an agency go directly to the model they want peer reviewed, or to a general peer review fund. The answer was that the donated funds can go directly to the peer review of the model they want, or if they have no preference it goes to the general peer review fund.

c. **IWFM Model** – The start on this review is still pending. CWEMF has about \$18,000 in seed peer review funds, of which \$10,000 has been set aside for the upcoming review of the IWFM model.

d. **Hydrosphere Model** - Michael Tansey suggested the possibility of a peer review of this USBR model and that the USBR may come up with some funding and people resources. There is no intent to compare this model to IWFM: rather, the intent is to come up with an informational document or white paper that looks at the capabilities and processes of each model. The discussion ended with Michael volunteering to write a proposal for developing a white paper that will look at the capabilities and processes of each model, and submitting it to the Steering Committee for review at the next Steering Committee meeting.

9. **MODEL USER GROUPS** – Postponed until next meeting.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS** –

a. **Guiding Principles for Delta Modeling** –

(1) Paul Hutton volunteered to head up the development of a white paper and scope of work for the development of this Guiding Principles document. Rich, Steve, Jay, and George volunteered to help.

(2) This document will be helpful to program managers and others. Pete Smith and K.T. had made a previous verbal presentation on guiding principles to CalFed that was helpful.

(3) This document will cover hydrodynamics and water quality, cost/benefit analyses, data needs, etc.

(4) Peter Vorster suggested tying this document in with the needs of a changing Delta.

(5) After the development of the white paper and scope of work, then the next step will be to find someone to write the document.

(6) It was mentioned that agencies may be turning to the CWEMF more in the future for Delta and Bay modeling guidance, and it will be helpful to be prepared for these eventualities with such a Guiding Principles document.

b. **Honorary Members** – Jay proposed a new class of CWEMF members, these being honorary for life, with no dues. These members would be nominated by the Steering Committee. Their length of prior service with CWEMF may be a consideration. It was mentioned that this idea will have to go to the full membership at the business meeting at Asilomar for approval.

c. **CalFed Science Conference** – Steve will be moderating a modeling session on Oct. 22 (Integrating Science and Management).

11. **ADJOURNED** – 12:30 pm. Next meeting on November 21 at Solano Irrigation District.

Respectfully Submitted  
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Tara Smith  
Rich Satkowski  
Stacy Tanaka

George Nichol  
G. Fred Lee  
Paul Hutton  
K.T. Shum  
Steve Culberson  
Jay Lund  
Hubert Morel-Seytoux  
Pete Smith  
Peter Vorster  
Michael Tansey  
Marianne Guerin

On Phone:  
Lucinda Shih

Proxies: Mike Deas, Nigel Quinn, John Headlee

Convener, DWR  
Executive Director, CWEMF  
Treasurer (I), Watercourse  
Engineering Inc  
Secretary, SWRCB  
GFL & Associates  
MWDSC  
EBMUD  
CalFed  
UCD  
Hydroprose consultant  
USGS retired  
Bay Institute  
USBR  
RMA

CCWD