

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

**MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

For January 20, 2017

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

Decisions	
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask the moderators to emphasize the time limit to their speakers – Elaine</li><li>• Send an email to the membership asking for information on those members who may have passed away this past year – Elaine</li><li>• Bring an example time chart to the next Steering Committee meeting - Tariq.</li></ul>
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (Located at end of minutes.)</li></ul>
Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Director’s report.
2. Minutes of the November 18 Steering Committee meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Trial Balance
4. Workshop Status Report
5. Summary of Sessions for the 2017 Annual Meeting
6. Annual meeting sponsors
7. Hubert’s paper “River Seepage Conductance in Large-Scale Regional Studies

1. **INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was opened by Ben Bray, as Josue was absent. There were 7 persons in attendance, 7 persons on the phone, and 1 proxy. A quorum was declared.

2. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Completed the 1099 forms. Prepared letter agreement for website update. Did annual meeting preparations. Elaine’s comments related to the topics below are presented below with those topics.

3. **SECRETARY’S REPORT** – Some corrections to the minutes were discussed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended, and the motion was seconded and passed.

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT** –

- a. There is a total of about \$286,300 in our funds, consisting of \$225,000 in the general fund, \$16,100 in the peer review fund, and \$45,200 in the operating reserve.
- b. We are in good financial shape.

5. **TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS**

a. **Workshops in the Planning Stage** –

(1) Randy Hanson of the USGS would like to have a MODFLOW OWHM workshop in the Fall.

(2) Natural Flows and Unimpaired Flows for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

**b. Workshops in the Conceptual Stage**

(1) CalLite and CALSIM

(2) Measurement and Data Issues

(3) Coupling Behavioral Modeling and Hydro/WQ Modeling. DSM2 has particle tracking capability for neutrally buoyant particles, but needs behavior rules for non-buoyant particles.

**6. CWEMF WEBSITE UPDATE –**

a. Tariq gave a demonstration on the new website as it is developed to date.

b. A question arose as to whether our website should cover modeling activities in Southern California and the lower Colorado River system.

**7. 2017 ANNUAL MEETING –** Moderators for the annual meeting sessions are needed. If papers are submitted they can be up to 8 pages in length. Ben and Hubert volunteered to be moderators, and Mike Deas volunteered to moderate Grab Bag Session #4. Phil Isenberg will be the keynote speaker. Should we give him a range of topics to speak on, such as what we should be doing in modeling? Should we have a theme? We will vote on what the theme should be. For the student session this year the students will be in groups, with one moderator in each group.

For the poster session, Samson would like to have 10 posters for flood management. Four posters can go on each board. Normally we have five boards, so there is room for 20 posters. The five boards cost \$750 to rent. If we need more boards we can keep that option open for now. We discussed how we might give recognition to past members who have passed away. How can we find out who they are? Elaine will send an email to the membership asking for information on those members who may have passed away this past year. We discussed using five minutes during the award ceremony to recognize those members who passed away. What criteria should we use for who was a past member? It was decided to set the bar low so we can include everyone who has participated. Use Power Point to make this recognition.

It was decided to keep the business meeting at the Cliff House. The question arose as to whether we should use a chip card reader with Pay Pal to make on-site payments at the annual meeting easier to process. The cost is \$150 to buy the reader. This reader can also be used to collect payments at workshops.

Having the speakers stay on schedule is sometimes a problem. Tariq will bring an example time chart to the next Steering Committee meeting. Moderators should ask the speakers in their sessions to rehearse their presentation and check the time before they come. Elaine will ask the moderators to emphasize the time limit to their speakers.

**8. AWARDS –** A web link was given for voting on the nominees for awards. This vote should be done over the next weekend.

**9. MODEL USER GROUPS –** The DSM2 User's Group has met. The IWFM-IDC group met on Dec. 1, and had five presentations and an attendance of 45 persons. This group meets once a year.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS –**

a. Vice-Convener - We need a vice-convener nominee, hopefully before the annual meeting. The next meeting will be on March 3.

b. Calculation of Leakage Coefficients for MODFLOW –

(1). Some members of the Steering Committee have talked to others since the last meeting on their thoughts on having a potentially improved method for the determination of the leakage coefficients used, as proposed by Hubert. These others thought it was a good idea but could not give financial commitments to addressing this issue at this time.

(2) The advantage of Hubert’s method is that it can be applied to large scale and regional efforts with reasonable accuracy. Other methods would have to resort to small scale time and space efforts (fine grid) to achieve similar accuracies, and this could be costly.

(3) It was thought that perhaps the best way to proceed is to have a workshop on Stream-Aquifer Interactions. Modelers from the USGS, DWR, and other agencies could present their methods for modeling these interactions, and then Hubert could present his research findings as one of the presenters. Hubert’s method has just been published in the National Groundwater Association Journal, but a workshop would give additional details that a Journal article could not.

(4) Hubert emphasized that he is not out to criticize other methods of determining stream-aquifer interactions, but to present an alternate method that may be of advantage to others in their use of MODFLOW. He could possibly demonstrate his method in the workshop.

(5) This may lead to a follow-up workshop, or in some agency financing the further development of this alternate method. This could possibly be the development of a subroutine outside of MODFLOW, consisting of a computer program and manual, which would calculate leakage coefficients and bring them into MODFLOW. A preliminary cost estimate to cover some of the expenses would be about \$5,000.

**11. NEXT MEETING – March 3, 2017.**

**12. ADJOURN – 12:15 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted  
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Elaine Archibald	Executive Director	CWEMF
Tariq Kadir	Vice-Convener	DWR
Ben Bray	Past Convener	EBMUD
Stacy Tanaka	Treasurer	Watercourse Engineering
George Nichol	Secretary	Retired (Corps/SWRCB)
Hubert Morel-Seytoux		Hydroprose
Anne Huber		ICF

On Phone: Fred Lee, Mike Deas, Holly Canada, Tara Smith, Kevin Long, Erik Reyes, Rich Satkowski

Proxies: Josue to Ben.

Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-Year Budget – Prepare a draft.</li><li>• Peer Review Process - Development of peer review administrative process.</li><li>• Investment Policy - Development of investment policy.</li><li>• Financial Transparency – Determine how best to show our financial transparency to outsiders.</li></ul>
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