

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Draft

For September 20, 2007

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

Decisions	
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Williams to look into holding a salmon recovery workshop• The ED and Lisa will continue working with bookkeeper to clear up tax issue.
Parking Lot Items	
Motions	Appointment of a bookkeeper – more formal motion will be made next meeting when more details are available

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. None
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MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM – The meeting was opened with 16 persons in attendance, and 4 proxies. A quorum was declared.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – Rich Satkowski was unable to attend in person due to sickness – however he was able to participate by phone. The ED has reserved Asilomar for CWEMF for the years 2008, 2009, and 2010 – rooms appear to be similar to last year. The format will return to a Tuesday through Thursday conference. The rest of the Executive Director’s report is incorporated into the minutes below by category.

3. SECRETARY’S REPORT – The minutes for the August 10, 2007, meeting will be considered for approval at the November 16 meeting.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT – The treasurers report was postponed until next meeting when the accountant would have information to share with the committee..

5. TAXES –

- a. Tara provided an update on the tax situation. The Forum has not filed taxes since 2001 and was placed on a suspended list. As of the data of the meeting we are still on that list. The fine that was applied to the first year of delinquency was partly a problem associated with fiscal year designation. The IRS assumed a calendar year

fiscal year when they did not glean that information from our filing data. The Forum has paid the fine amount of \$3,000 to the IRS and we are petitioning to be refunded the same amount once the fiscal year issue is sorted out. The next issue will be to deal with the intervening years.

- b. The ED and Lisa are working with a local bookkeeper Carol Cronin to clear up the tax question. Carol, apparently is starting up her own business and has a lot of non-profit bookkeeping experience and close contacts with a non-profit tax accountant. The CWEMF books must be put into a standard format in order for the tax accountant to review them. There was some discussion and general agreement that hiring a professional bookkeeper was the way to go. John Williams made a general motion which was seconded and passed to hire the bookkeeper and have this person do the Forum's taxes and keep the books. More details of this hire will be made available at the next meeting.

6. 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

- a. The need for a theme was discussed once again at this meeting. The question was asked as to whether we need a theme, in that CWEMF is different from a professional society that has papers written around a theme. A theme can help to attract new people but also can deter people whose work doesn't fit with the theme. We were reminded that the majority of participants come to Asilomar to discuss new projects and continuing work on current models and analyses. There are several core sessions that will be held regardless such as CALSIM and DSM2 updates, groundwater etc.
- b. The following possible themes were discussed:
 - Modeling a new Delta: how much modeling remains.
 - The role of modeling in decision-making (for water supply, water quality, habitat)
 - River and Habitat Restoration
 - Delta Vision
 - Successes and failures of past modeling (20/20 hindsight)
 - Modeling to prepare for the future
 - How to make the Delta sustainable
 - Climate change, global warming
 - Meeting CA water demands.

In the discussion Mike Tansey suggested a theme connected to restoration. He has been working in the Trinity system and suggested such a theme might attract participants who don't typically come to our annual conference. There was general agreement that restoration was a topic that tended to attract a lot of people to workshops in the past. Peter Vorster brought up data processing and decision support as more general themes. Another suggestion was to find a general theme related to Delta and river issues.

No theme was agreed upon at this meeting.

- c. Technical Sessions

There was some protracted discussion on the topic of the joint session with IEP and the goal to bring more biologists into our sessions. Rich Satkowski mentioned that he was attending planning meetings with IEP to look for opportunities to hold joint sessions. Ideas included :

- Having managers from DRMS and Delta Vision participate in workshop sessions (round table discussions)
- Pay for some nationally recognized biologists or biological modelers to participate in a joint session with IEP. John Williams provoked some discussion on the distinction between marine (mathematical and theoretical) and terrestrial (more qualitative and applied) biologists. We may need to figure out which of these sub-populations we wish to draw in since they appear to have their own conferences.
- John reminded us that it was difficult to get the IEP participants to tack on another day to their 3 day conference owing to tight budgets within the State agencies.
- John Williams agreed to look into a workshop on salmon recovery and report back next session.

The following subjects were suggested :

- Particle tracking
- Habitat modeling
- Decision support and real-time management
- Overlap session on salmon /fish modeling
- Delta smelt action
- CALSIM-lite – screening models
- Restoration modeling
- TMDL/salt management

Student awards will be discussed at the next meeting on October 16, 2007.

7. STRATEGIC ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK LETTER TO CALFED SCIENCE PROGRAM

- Development on this is awaiting the selection of a lead scientist for CALFED. Tara will follow up with Steve Culberson on this. Steve further suggested that CALFED is seeking to support ways of getting engineers and biologists to work more closely together. They are open to suggestions and new ideas.

8. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS –

- a. Paul provided an update on current workshops that are still in the pipeline. He reported that George Nichol's last workshop was a great success with lots of new members joining the forum and substantial revenues.
- b. Paul introduced Fred Lee and briefly described his desire to hold a Delta nutrients workshop. Fred mentioned that he would like to see a link between water quality constituents and their criteria in a water body and toxicity. Fred would be interested in a workshop on this. If a workshop is held Fred said he could help put it on, and Marianne volunteered to help. Nutrient criteria also should be addressed. Fred

mentioned that watershed models also need to incorporate water quality better. Also mentioned was how to relate model results to toxicity.

- c. Paul described the other workshops.
- d. Nigel reminded Paul that he needed to compile the list of past workshops in 2007 for review and discussion during the annual meeting and also reminded him of the recent WARMF model training workshop which had almost 30 attendees and which was held at the US Bureau of Reclamation offices.

9. PEER REVIEW PROCESS –

a. IWFM –

(1) A committee that includes George, Hubert and Nigel was previously established for this peer review. Additional persons are welcome. Tariq Kadir had made a presentation at the previous steering committee meeting. Those interested should look at the previous minutes for details. This subcommittee will report back next meeting on any progress.

10. **MODEL USER GROUPS** – The DSM2 group is still active. The IWFM group has not met for the past 6 months but is still active. The Mike Model Users Group and the CALSIM User’s group are being suspended until we find someone to take them over and reactivate the membership.

11. ADJOURNED – 12:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Nigel W.T. Quinn for
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Tara Smith	Convener, DWR
Rich Satkowski (by phone)	Executive Director, CWEMF
Paul Hutton	Vice-Convener, MWDSC
K.T. Shum	Past Convener, EBMUD
G. Fred Lee	GFL & Associates
Marianne Guerin	CCWD
Michael Tansey	USBR
Peter Vorster	TBI
John Williams	
Rob Tull	CH2M-Hill
Lisa Holm	CALFED
Jay Lund	UCD
Steve Culberson	CALFED
Stacy Tanaka	Watercourse Engineering

Proxies: