

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For September 21, 2012

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

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check with DWR's Charles Brush when the new version of C2VSIM will be released, and whether there will be training – Erik• Send an email to the two peer reviewers to confirm which versions of the groundwater models and their applications are to be reviewed – Rich• Check with the groundwater model developers if they will allow the Power Points from the June workshop to be posted on our web – Ben• Prepare for a presentation to the SWRCB following the analytical tools workshop and route to the Steering Committee for comment – Elaine• Check to see how much time Elaine can have at her SWRCB presentation following the analytical tools workshop – Rich• Send out an email to the Steering Committee on the time and location for a lunch meeting at the Delta Science Conference to discuss Elaine's presentation at the SWRCB – Elaine• Work on language for a formal CWEMF peer review administrative process – Marianne, Ben, George
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to invest CWEMF's money into a fund that earns interest.• How to have the poster session at the next annual meeting.• Continue formulating the Strategic Plan.
Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four motions were made and passed regarding the establishment of on operating reserve fund.

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors report.
2. CWEMF trial balance as of Sept. 17, 2012
3. Status of organizational member dues
4. Operating Reserve Fund Proposal
5. CWEMF workshop status for September 2012 Steering Committee Meeting
6. Summary of Groundwater Peer Review Hours and Costs
7. 2013 Annual Meeting Proposed Plan
8. CWEMF Strategic Plan 2012-2013 Draft Outline for Steering Committee Discussion

1. **INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was opened with 10 persons in attendance, four 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** –The July minutes were amended, and then passed.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – There is \$116,300 total in our accounts. \$100,600 is in the general fund, and \$15,700 in our peer review fund. The tax forms for non-profit status for this year have been filed.

5. **ORGANIZATIONAL DUES UPDATE** - The \$5,000 in dues from the USBR has been received. The status of the other eight organizations appears in the handout.

6. **OPERATING RESERVE FUND (ORF) PROPOSAL** – Stacy, Elaine, and Marianne produced the ORF proposal. Our financial situation has stabilized over the past several years, so we can now set up an ORF. There was lots of discussion, mostly centered on whether to have funds sufficient for one year operating expenses or for one and one-half years. The amounts discussed were for \$35,000 or \$52,500 respectively. This fund would not be used for any special projects, which would be kept separate and considered separately by the Steering Committee. The operating reserve fund would be our third fund (the general fund and peer review fund being the other two), and would be tracked by the treasurer rather than be a third fund at a bank. *(There was some side discussion as to whether we should keep our funds in some type of stable account that could earn us some interest. It was mentioned that CUWA keeps their money in a local agency investment fund that is stable and earns a little interest. When the economy improves we should consider putting our money into a fund that provides some interest. Put as a Parking Lot item.)*

It was decided that the above issue required four separate motions and votes, and the topic and result of each vote is as follows:

- a. Establish the ORF with \$35,000 with money taken from the general fund – Passed, with one abstention.
- b. Set goal of ORF for one year at \$35,000 – Passed with one nay.
- c. Regarding the rate of increase, accept the language as given in the ORP proposal – Passed unanimously.
- d. Accept as written the withdrawal criteria in the ORP – Passed unanimously.

7. **MODEL USER GROUPS** – One group, DSM-2, is currently active. Paul Hutton was featured in their recent newsletter. Marianne mentioned that the quality and quantity of the DMS work presented in the newsletter was impressive.

8. **TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS** -

- a. Delta Island Consumptive Use Workshop – Was held at UCD and went well. There were three presentations, and the workshop was well attended with many new people in attendance.
- b. C2VSIM – Erik Reyes will check with Charles Brush on when the new version will be released, and whether there will be training.
- c. IRWMP – This is on hold for now. They want to be able to showcase some successes. They will cover how the DWR gives grants in this area.
- d. HEC-5Q – Remove for now. But perhaps reconsider in future as the USBR has shown considerable interest.

e. Habitat Restoration – Save this topic for the annual meeting when we meet with the IEP. So remove from the technical workshops list.

f. Ecosystems Services Market – Put on hold pending future considerations, as the people who would be involved have to come from a long distance.

9. GROUNDWATER PEER REVIEW – In July questions had arisen as to what models and applications should be covered. This has been settled. It was questioned today whether version control had been determined. It was mentioned that the model versions and application versions that existed as of the date of the June workshop should be those used, and both reviewers need to use the same versions. Rich will send an email to the two reviewers to verify the versions to be used. We need to send a progress report to the USBR by the end of October. George Matanga is retiring, and his HGS duties are being taken over by Kirk Nelson. The IWFM presentation is posted on the website, but not the HGS or MODFOW presentations. Ben will check to see if the other presenters will allow their Power Points to be posted on our web. If so, he will get them posted.

10. STATE WATER BOARD WORKSHOPS – Three workshops are being held on Delta topics. The first workshop has been held (low salinity zone) and had a full house at the Water Board auditorium. The second workshop will be held on Oct. 1-2, on Bay-Delta fisheries. The Water Board has realized that while the workshops are good, the Board wants more detailed information on the topics covered. So the Board is putting together some policy questions that they hope can be addressed at the next Delta workshops. Also, some mention was made as to perhaps the Board can work with the IEP on monitoring concerns in the Delta, with the Delta Stewardship Council on policy concerns, and with the CWEMF for modeling and related monitoring concerns. The third workshop will be on analytical tools for evaluation of hydropower and water supply effects in the Delta, including current status and future needs.

Fred passed out copies of the presentation he made at the first SWRCB Delta workshop. Fred felt that the past flow recommendations issued by the SWRCB and the USFWS should be followed by the SWRCB. Fred felt that this did not come out clear at the past low salinity zone workshop. Fred feels that we don't know how flow impacts the Delta's water quality violations and exceedences (in magnitude and frequency) except for dissolved oxygen in the lower San Joaquin River. It was stated that ~~Past work has shown how~~ southern Delta exports may pull~~pulled~~ San Joaquin water to the pumps and impacts the dissolved oxygen in the San Joaquin River at Stockton. If flow is greater than 1500 cfs in the San Joaquin, there is rarely a dissolved oxygen problem at Stockton. So the effect of flow on water quality (dissolved oxygen) is known here, but this is not common throughout the Delta. Also, the proposed tunnel will change the entire flow regime in the Delta, and how so is not now known.

The question arose as to whether a water quality model exists for the Delta that could be used to answer the questions of how flow changes will affect those water quality parameters which have current violations and exceedences. It was mentioned that DSM-2 can do some water quality parameters such as nutrients including ammonia. It was mentioned that additional data collection may be needed to allow estimates of how the other violations and exceedences may be affected by changed flows. It was mentioned that past objectives during data collection are often

inconsistent with modeling needs. Fred feels that a model that can model mass transport and chemical/physical/biological transformations is needed.

Regarding the third workshop on analytical tools, this will be good for CWEMF visibility. Marianne will be on the workshop panel. Paul suggested that our Executive Director ask for time at the end of the workshop (the SWRCB normally allows time for public input) to describe CWEMF and its mission and what it can offer in the way of future modeling needs. Say we could be available, but would need funding. Say we can do workshops, peer reviews, and get modelers together to determine future modeling needs for the Delta. Don't promise too much at first. Elaine was given time by the Steering Committee today (12 hours from her regular compensation) to prepare for and do this effort. Elaine will develop a presentation, and pass it around the Steering Committee for comment. Rich will check on how much time Elaine will have (whether 3 minutes, 5 minutes, or what) and let Elaine know. (Basically, Elaine will say here is what we do, and here is what we can do.) Fred suggested not to just say something that is later forgotten, like many suggestions made to the Water Board, but to have a back-up document or letter to follow up with to the Board. It was suggested to have a lunch meeting at the upcoming Delta Science Conference to discuss this further. Elaine will send an email to the Steering Committee and schedule the lunch meeting.

11. ANNUAL MEETING – Mike already has a watershed restoration modeling session set up for the annual meeting. Marianne and Elaine suggested having a planning group to help with the annual meeting, consisting of a session committee (Marianne and Ben volunteered), a lunches and reception committee (Bill and George volunteered), and an awards committee (Paul and George volunteered, and usually we have a few more who will volunteer), to spread the work around.

There was some discussion on the poster sessions. At the last annual meeting we had two poster sessions: a CWEMF-only session (on Tue) and a joint-IEP session (on Wed). The room we used was \$800, but will now cost \$900. We were able to borrow poster boards from IEP, so there was no additional costs for the boards. For the joint-IEP poster session, most CWEMF people had left before it began Wed evening. It was mentioned that we might have had just 6 posters in the poster session (clarification: a subsequent email from Stacy showed that we had over twenty posters in the CWEMF-only session and only 6 or so remained up for the joint-IEP session.) Most folks seemed to feel that a poster session is a good idea, but that we need to have it fit in better (flow well) with our daily routine. We will discuss whether to continue having both poster sessions or should we just have the CWEMF-only session (i.e., not do the joint-IEP poster session) at our next Steering Committee meeting.

“[Note, the original discussion at the SC meeting implied we were considering dropping the CWEMF-only poster session, but a subsequent email with Marianne indicated that it was the joint-IEP poster session that was being considered for elimination.]”

Elaine is still trying to collect \$4,800 in registration fees from the State Water Resources Control Board for the past annual meeting. We need to strive to collect registration fees before the annual meeting as much as possible.

12. STRATEGIC PLAN – Ran out of time. Do at next Steering Committee meeting.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** – Marianne, Ben, and George are to work on language for a formal CWEMF peer review administrative process. This is so when agencies contact any of us asking for how the process works we can give them an approved and consistent response.

14. **ADJOURN** - 12 Noon. Next meeting is on Nov. 16.

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Marianne Guerin	Convener	RMA
Elaine Archibald	Executive Director	CWEMF
Ben Bray	EBMUD	Vice-Convenor
Stacy Tanaka	Treasurer	Watercourse Engr. Inc.
George Nichol	Secretary	Public Member
Paul Hutton		MWD
Bill Smith		MWH
Josue Medelin		UCD
Erik Reyes		DWR
Fred Lee		GFL Associates

On Phone: Mike Deas, Jobaid Kabir, Rich Satkowski, Tara Smith

Proxies: Hubert Morel-Seytoux