

Oct. 2, 2000

BAY-DELTA MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For August 25, 2000

(This meeting was held at the CH2MHILL Office in Oakland)

I. SUMMARY

A. SPECIAL NOTE

1. The Steering Committee has voted to change the name of the Forum to the "California Water Modeling Forum". This item will next be presented to the entire Forum membership for their consideration.

B. ACTION ITEMS

2. Spreck Rosekrans – Contact Dave Luecke of the Environmental Defense to see if he would be able to be the Forum's keynote speaker at Asilomar.
3. Spreck Rosekrans, John Williams, and Rob Tull – Draft and forward a letter to the CALFED Science Conference manager to see if the Forum can have a poster space or table space to present the Forum's activities at their conference in October.
4. Richard Satkowski, Rob Tull, Judith Garland, John Williams, and Spreck Rosekrans – Help prepare the poster or man the table at the CALFED Science Conference if the Forum is given space. Update the Forum's brochure after the name change is decided.
5. John Williams, Rob Tull, and Pete Smith – Negotiate a time change for the contract with Prof. Sobey to finish the Phase 1 Hydrodynamic peer review.
6. Nigel Quinn, Hubert Morel-Seytoux, and Rob Tull – Volunteered to be the oversight committee for the UCD Water Temperature Review.
7. Nigel Quinn, Hubert Morel-Seytoux, Rob Tull, and Spreck Rosekrans – Volunteered to be on the peer review committee for the upcoming "Integrated Ground Water-Surface Water Model" peer review.
8. Rich Satkowski, Paul Hutton – Check on room availability in Sacramento for Hubert's upcoming workshop.

C. MOTIONS PASSED

1. The Steering Committee acted on direction from the membership at large to recommend that the Forum extend its activities to cover the entire state of California, and to call itself the “California Water Model Forum”.

2. The Forum’s charges for Asilomar were raised to \$80 for members, and it was decided to combine this with the \$16 off-site fee, so the total would be \$96. For non-members the total fee would be \$126.

3. A motion was passed to obligate \$10,000 to start the peer review of the “Integrated Ground Water – Surface Water Model”.

D. REFERENCES HANDED OUT

9. Executive Director’s Report, dated 24 August 2000.

10. Proposed Name Change for the Bay-Delta Modeling Forum, dated June 9, 2000. Proposed logos also handed out.

11. List of All Workshops Held, by Subject Matter and by Year, for the period of 1995 to April, 2000.

12. List of ACWA’s Associate Members, and Public Agency Members.

13. Mike Deas draft report on temperature modeling.

II. MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Done by Rob Tull. Proxies held as follows:

John Williams held for Bud Abbott

Rob Tull held for Andy Hamilton and Pete Smith

Rich Satkowski held for Kevin Long

Spreck Rosekrans held for Peter Vorster and Richard Denton

So 12 members present, and 6 proxies held, = 18. A quorum was declared.

2. SECRETARY’S REPORT – The minutes of June 9, 2000 were approved.

3. TREASURER’S REPORT - John Williams presented the new budget spread sheet. John worked up the numbers for the income and expenses for the period of July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. Currently, in August, the Forum is \$6,529 in arrears, but funds are coming in from the recent workshop with the SWRCB, and from late dues. John is using “Quicken” to show our finances. Dues notices were sent out at the end of July.

The following discussion ensued, without any final decision being made. Have people pay their individual dues (\$30) at Asilomar during check-in. Have a check-off box on the Asilomar form, so people can claim their individual dues reimbursement from their employer. Having all individual members pay their dues at the same time will make tracking easier. Whoever didn’t

come to Asilomar will then later get billed for their annual dues. Or, alternately, bill all individuals in July, and if a person hasn't paid by the following Asilomar meeting he can pay his dues then.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT & ASILOMAR 2001 PLANNING –

a. IEP - John Williams has met with the Interagency Ecological Program people recently on Asilomar.

b. BDMF Fee Increase For Asilomar - We discussed increasing the Asilomar charges, to cover more the costs involved. Last year the BDMF member charges were \$68, plus \$16 for Asilomar off-site registration (= \$84). There was some discussion on not including the Asilomar off-site registration charge in the BDMF charges, or to just add the two charges together. It was discussed to raise the BDMF member charges to \$80, and adding the \$16 Asilomar off-site fee to this. This would make a total of \$96 for members. Non-members would pay a total of \$126. A footnote on the sign-up form would state that this fee includes the Asilomar off-site registration. (DID WE VOTE ON THIS ASILOMAR INCREASE? I DON'T SHOW A MOTION OR VOTE IN MY NOTES. I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH. I THOUGHT WE HAD VOTED ON IT AND IT PASSED???) The Asilomar personnel will have a list of who has paid the off-site registration fees when our members go to buy their lunch passes.

c. Break-Out Sessions – DWR has proposed several sessions, as follows: (1) using DSM-2 Real-Time Modeling for 2-3 week forecasts (going from planning mode to real time mode requires considerations); (2) How the DSM-2 calibration work team could work together with IEP, DWR's Environmental Service Office, and USGS (this could be pertinent to current UCB peer review); (3) San Joaquin River modeling work, with Nigel Quinn, CALFED, Carl Chen, SJR TMDL process, the SJRIO model, on extending DSM-2 up the San Joaquin River; (4) Sushil on CALSIM; (5) Possibly something on neural networks.

d. Selection of Topics and Speakers – Use list servers to notify all in the Forum, so potential speakers can respond. We need economic modelers to make presentations. John Williams will get the list of Asilomar topics out. We need to see what topics we want.

Eldridge Moore can't make it as keynote speaker. He recommended someone (a consulting geologist). The objective of the keynote speaker is to be both informative and entertaining. Spreck suggested an Environmental Defense person (Dave Luecke) who works on the Colorado Basin. This would tie into the Bay-Delta work, because both Colorado River water and Bay-Delta water are blended in Southern California for their domestic water supply.

There was some discussion on having four concurrent sessions. There were no negative comments. Would there be any conflicts was a question. Right now there are three tracks, as follows: (1) environmental modeling track; (2) economic track; and (3) biological track.

There is currently \$500 in the Fisher Award fund. We need to figure out how to raise money for this. Lyle Hoag originally advanced the money for the Hugo Fisher Award.

5. CALFED SCIENCE CONFERENCE – We would like to get the BDMF involved in this. Possibly with a poster session. But the poster session is full. Perhaps we could have an information table, but there apparently is no room. Perhaps we should send a letter in to CALFED, to see if we can get room for a poster. Spreck volunteered to draft such a letter, send it to John Williams for his input, and to Rob Tull for signature. This poster was presented as a motion, seconded, and passed unanimously. A question was raised as to whether the Forum's brochures are up to date in case we get a table. It was decided to wait until we see if we are going to change our name before updating our brochures.

The following volunteers will help with the CALFED science program in any manner possible (ie poster, table), and to update the brochures when the time is appropriate: Rich Satkowski, Rob Tull, John Williams, Judith Garland, and Spreck Rosekrans.

6. PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES –

a. Hydrodynamic Models – RMA results are in. DWR results almost in. CCWD about ready to send their results in. The results are a little late to Prof. Sobey. August was clear for him, but now classes are to start. RMA has submitted their revised runs on the first tests, as well as doing the second tests. So an extension of the schedule is needed. When Sobey receives all of the comments we will need to get a schedule of completion from him. Question: will Prof. Sobey's report be something we can put on the web? Will it be too big for a pdf file? Perhaps we can at least get an executive summary to put onto the web. We need to be clear with the professor of the products we want, so we don't have to end up re-formatting his report. Have his products available on a BDMF accessible format. It is the Forum's goal to have the report available to all who want it. So it was stressed we need to request to the professor to prepare the report in a format easy for the web. A motion was made and seconded for John Williams, Rob Tull, and Pete Smith to negotiate a time extension with the professor, with the goal of having the final report done by Asilomar time. Passed unanimously.

b. Temperature Models – John Williams has a draft report from Mike Deas for the water temperature modeling study, which he handed out. It was mentioned that more people are needed for the oversight committee on this study. Hubert Morel-Seytoux, Rob Tull, and Nigel Quinn volunteered for this.

c. Carriage Water – Preparation continues on this. DWR submitted a proposed workshop plan on this, and CCWD still needs to submit their workshop plan. There was a question on whether the SWRCB was interested in this workshop.

d. IGSM Model – Nigel mentioned there are about 40 people in the users group. The model has some problems in its code. DWR is doing a model code review. Compare this model to MODFLOW. For the Forum to get involved it will take about \$20,000 to start, which would consist of \$15,000 to UCD and \$5,000 to external reviewers. A question arose as to whether consultants and CALFED could put up some money. Benchmark testing was discussed. Much discussion ensued as to how the Forum needs to have a clear description of

how the \$20,000 would be used. We need to decide what our benchmark tests should be up front. The discussion included the concerns of how the Forum can keep closer tabs on the peer review process. A brief structure proposed was as follows:

Steering Committee

Peer Review Committee

Forum Technical Review Team

Prof. Fogg

2 students

external reviewers

Hubert suggested the following process to get started:

14. decide on benchmark tests
15. get reviewers to look at
16. then decide budget
17. ask Prof. Fogg if he can do for the above dollars.

(Hubert cautioned that benchmark tests may not tell you anything about the adequacy of the model. You have to construct benchmarks carefully.)

A motion was made to obligate \$10,000 now, and another \$10,000 later if acceptable. This was seconded and passed unanimously. Rob Tull, Nigel Quinn, and Hubert Morel-Seytoux volunteered to serve as the peer review committee on this. John Williams said he could participate after September, and Spreck said he will volunteer someone later. In the meantime, the Forum should also look for money from others. Someone mentioned that we should also now make a lessons learned file from our first peer review.

It was mentioned that the first peer review was to analyze existing problems in the models. This second peer review is a different approach, which is how to improve a model being developed. Someone asked how external reviewers would be used, as external reviewers do not tell you how to correct a model, only if it works or not. DWR and USBR are the two main users of IGSM. Lloyd Peterson of the USBR mentioned that the USBR has no big projects using IGSM at this time.

18. WORKSHOPS –

a. Model Integration Workshop at LBL – Has international speakers.

b. Rick Oltman's Workshop – Should we contact Rick and see if he would agree to having the Forum associated with his workshop?

c. Hubert's Workshop – No date has been set yet. Possibly have in latter October, possibly on the 17, 18, or 20. Rich Satkowski will check room availability at the new Cal EPA building, and Paul Hutton will check for the DWR auditorium.

d. Geomorphic Watershed Modeling Workshop – John Williams tentatively suggested to bring Mike Church down for this workshop. More discussion will follow at the next workshop.

7. FORUM NAME CHANGE PROPOSAL – It was discussed how changing the Forum’s name to cover the entire State of California would bring in more agencies, agencies which have wanted to become members so they can be covered by peer reviewed models. However, being outside of the Bay-Delta area, their management often questions why they should join up. An ACWA list of members was handed out, showing the number of potential agencies which might want to benefit from the Forums activities.

It was mentioned that at our last general business meeting at Asilomar the Steering Committee was given the green light go ahead and make a recommendation as to whether we should expand our geographical coverage and make the name change. So today a motion was made and seconded to make this determination. The vote on this item passed by a vote of 17 for and 1 against. Spreck made the suggestion that we vote for the name change by assimilative voting, where we slowly vote out names we don’t want. Then everybody votes on the two names remaining. The end result was that 10 members wanted the name “California Water Modeling Forum”, and 8 members wanted the name “California Bay-Delta Modeling Forum”. So our next course of action is to present this topic for voting to the next Asilomar business meeting, stating it is the Steering Committee’s recommendation to extend our peer review activities statewide and call ourselves the “California Water Modeling Forum”. A motion was also made, seconded, and passed 17 for and 1 against to have a by-line to the name.

8. OTHER BUSINESS – A letter of appreciation will be sent to Lenora Thomas for her support of the Forum. Lenora’s withdrawal from the Forum left an opening for Vice Convenor. Lloyd Peterson of the USBR was voted in unanimously today to become the Vice-Convenor.

9. NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – October 10, 2000, 0900 – 1230. Rob Tull will check on the availability of the CH2M-Hill offices in Sacramento.

ATTENDANCE:

Lynda Smith	MWDSC
Lloyd Peterson	USBR
John Williams	BDMF
Nigel Quinn	LBNL/USBR
Spreck Rosekranz	Environ. Defense
Rob Tull	CH2M-Hill
Judith Garland	EBMUD
Rich Satkowski	SWRCB

George Nichol
Peter Baker
Paul Hutton
Hubert Morel-Seytoux

CVRWQCB
Stillwater Sciences
DWR
Hydrology Days Pub.

Respectfully Submitted,
George Nichol
Secretary, BDMF