

Minutes
Bay Delta Modeling Forum
Steering Committee Meeting
January 25, 2001

10:00 Call to order (CH2M-Hill Office, Oakland)

1. There was no secretary's report, as Secretary is absent. The minutes of the past meeting have been distributed. There were no corrections or amendments to those minutes. (John Headlee of the Corps of Engineers will take today's minutes).
2. Sam Luoma, Cal-Fed Chief Scientist was present to both hear about BDMF activities and to state what he thought the BDMF might do in conjunction with the Cal-Fed Science Program.
3. BDMF Executive Director John Williams handed out a chronology of BDMF Workshops done from 1995 – 2000 and a two sided information sheet concerning the same, the organization's working groups, its model review activities, information about the BDMF membership, the fact that it had produced a protocol for the development and documentation of models and finally about its major event of the year, the annual meeting at Asilomar Conference Center.
4. John Williams stressed that the BDMF was a professional group where the respective members detach themselves from the various entities they work for and engage in an open interchange of ideas about modeling. Most of the work is accomplished through volunteer effort although the BDMF has an annual budget of \$40,000. The group's workshops are symposia that provide training in the various subjects covered. An attempt to draw in lecturer's from a wider area is made in the form of awarding traveling expenses to prospective lecturer's. An example of a working groups is Spreck Rosenkrans' group considering the issue of carriage water. One of the group's model reviews is just coming together in the form of the one-dimensional model review being conducted by Prof. Rob Sobey of U.C. Berkeley. Another product that is expected near term is a water temperature model user's guide that was motivated by a literature review that U.C. Davis conducted on temperature effects on salmonids. An example of a user's group is the IGSM group currently being led by Nigel Quinn of Lawrence Berkeley Labs.
5. Sam Luoma entered into the presentation resulting in the Cal-Fed Science Program portion of the meeting proceeding in a question and answer format. Sam wanted to know how the organization disseminated its works. Currently any publication is strictly electronic, the major seminal event is the annual meeting at Asilomar. In addition there is an e-mail server list sent to 150 listees and the Steering Committee's representatives disseminate the activities of the group to their respective organizations.

6. A question was posed by Hubert Morel-Seytoux as to whether the BDMF's products could be disseminated by the USGS, Sam Luoma's current/former employer. Generally the probability of that happening is not great given the fact that the products would not have been the product of USGS effort. However, there are multiple ways in which the Cal-Fed Science program might aid in the dissemination of the BDMF's products. One is through a technical series that could be distributed electronically. One of Sam's first priorities is a Cal-Fed Journal which would also be electronic and might be hosted by the Science World internet content provider which would provide papers at a proposed cost of \$10 each. The proposed Journal would be modeled on such organs as the Interagency Ecological Program's Newsletter, *California Agriculture* which although pictorial and populist in nature does contain scientific content, and to a lesser degree on California Fish & Game which is narrower in focus. The conclusion was that one of the main ways the Cal-Fed Science Program could assist the BDMF would be in the area of communications and dissemination of material, communications to include the financial sponsorship of workshops.

7. BDMF can propose projects and workshops to Cal-Fed that would foster unbiased review of models and dissemination of scientific material. Sam would like to see discussions that would define what is known and not known about our subjects; defining the boundaries of uncertainty. Cal-Fed will accept proposal at any time and, at least, in the initial phase informally. Sam is looking to publish two items per year on ecological restoration. Other topic could be published electronically even if they are not the subject of formal proposals. Sam said Cal-Fed needs to spread the word of setting up workshops and wants BDMF to help in this role. Another sponsor might be ABAG. One of the steering committee members stated that technical reports are hard to find e.g. U.C. has an awkward cataloging system and wondered if BDMF might not be able to get things posted on the web, or possibly as an IEP workshop section.

8. There are at least two sets of data needs: Scientific community; would like to have a factual disposition, again what we know and what we don't. Policy makers need to know what the questions are, what are the gaps, what are the risks, and how to use the information. The MWD representative wondered if there could be a policy confabulation after for instance the Delta Split Tail workshop. This is unlikely before 2/12 (some Cal-Fed date?)

9. Rob Tull expressed the opinion that we should have a representative on the Steering Committee from Cal-Fed.

10. Nigel Quinn suggested that there be some mechanism for real time data sharing. Sam wondered if a common database management system could be done. See the Asilomar topic (Ken Kirby) on this subject. Carl Jacobs and Jim Quinn involved? Nigel gave as an example the German's sharing of datasets on ozone.

11. Rob Tull asked that John Williams write up something that summarized these proposals. Rob requested that the minutes be routed to Sam. Sam said not to be shy about bringing forward any proposals: he can be reached best at his (USGS) “Bldg 13 (Menlo) e-mail address. He seems to have another e-mail address at sam@water.ca.gov.

Sam Luoma departed at this point.

BDMF BUSINESS MEETING

12. John Williams stated that the BDMF needs payments from the members of the Steering committee. Financially BDMF may currently have a deficit of approximately \$2500.

13. Asilomar: Prof. Rod Sobey will not be able to attend to present the report on the 1-D model review: Pete Smith will substitute for him. All on-site rooms have been taken, but there are still opportunities for “off-site” attendees who should get their registrations in soon. John Williams stressed that those who to attend must be members. Nigel Quinn asked if there might not be a one day rate for some of the presenters. This year the bar will be set up on a cash contribution basis.

14. Hubert Morel-Seytoux expressed a desire to have a face-to-face meeting with Rod Sobey/Pete Smith so that some of the kinks could be worked out on the 1-D model review. John Williams distributed some comments. Rob Tull expressed the view that some of the language needed to be smoothed out defining technical issues. Perhaps there could be a John W., Rob T. & Hubert meeting with Rod Sobey. It was recognized that the 1-D model review will not be a finished product by the time of Asilomar.

15. An issue as to the proprietary rights of the BDMF to the review (of the temperature study?) that Graham Fogg is undertaking should be (not be) relinquished to U.C. It was stated that U.C. might not accept our editorial inputs. If so it may be necessary for the Forum to author its our report on the project.

16. Rob Tull on Asilomar: Final agenda is going to press on 2/1/01. There will be an e-mail cut-off on nominations for the Fischer Award. Thus far there is one nomination, but nominations are still open.

17. Rich Satkowski’s logo for BDMF was presented. The new potential name “California Water Modeling Forum” will be presented to the membership at Asilomar along with the by-line “Providing Excellence and Consensus in Water and Environmental Modeling.” The general membership will be asked to vote on this change.

18. Progress report by Spreck Rosekrans on carriage water: The panel has been doing its homework. Kamiar has been involved. At Asilomar there will be a presentation on carriage water (and at some future date possibly a workshop).

19. New potential workshops: Geomorphology –John Williams. Nigel Quinn - Stream Restoration.

20. CalSim II workshop: There are more requests for the hands-on session than there are seats. It is observed that the sign-up process has been proceeding. Looks like another hands-on session will be put on in May. It was remarked in the past that there was a nominal charge to ensure that persons attended all the sessions. Apparently this will not be the case for this first workshop. The DWR representative stated that documentation for CalSim II is being gathered. DWR wants Cal-Fed or someone to facilitate CalSim II because DWR is getting requests from contractors, for instance, for piece-meal training sessions. Question was asked how the CalSim II user's group might be operated. It was observed that the Fischer Delta Model had one. John Williams asked if the Forum should not perform this function.

21. IGSM: Nigel Quinn: Rob Schwartz of DWR has moved on to the BuRec and there is currently a vacuum of leadership in the IGSM user's group. There is now a vers. 5.0 interface available on CD. At one time Lawrence Livermore was going to provide hardware to host the user group chats, but that opportunity may have passed. Could Cal-Fed maintain a server? This something for the agenda of the next Steering committee meeting.

22. Nominations for 2001: Kevin Long is agreeable to serve as Treasurer. Rich Satkowski is agreeable to being the Convener. George Nichol is agreeable to remain as the Secretary. Lloyd Peterson is agreeable to serve as Vice-Convener. Are there any other nominations? No others have been heard. The slate will be presented to the membership at Asilomar and nominations will be solicited.

23. Next meeting of the Steering committee: 3/22 at the Concord Water District. It will be a long meeting from 9:30 to 3:30 with lunch.

Notes submitted by John Headlee, Corps of Engineers.