

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For March 26, 2010

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

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get the institution membership list on our website consistent with those institutions which are paying their dues.
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Put together a job announcement for the position of Executive Director – E.D.• Put together a list of tasks that the Executive Director has worked on for the past few years – E.D.• Send out description of USBR/Corps program on water management under climate change to Steering Committee for comment – E.D.• Send an email to the Steering Committee (then general membership) giving advance notice of the 2011 Asilomar dates and announcing the registration increase – E.D.• Fill out the DUNNS form for seeking the matching grant with the USBR on groundwater model peer review – E.D.• Check status of institution dues payments and report back – Stacy• Send out an invitation in May asking for volunteers to the finance subcommittee for the July meeting – Stacy.
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A motion to raise the registration dues for Asilomar was passed.• A motion to have the 2011 annual meeting at Asilomar was passed.

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report.
2. Press Release for Career Achievement Award winner (Richard Denton).
3. Joint USBR/Army Corps Letter: “Invitation to Non-Federal Organizations Involved in Water and Water-Related Resources Management to Contribute Perspectives”.

MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM – The meeting was opened with 13 persons in attendance, and 3 proxies. A quorum was declared.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT –

a. **Climate Change and Water Working Group** - The E.D. described the purpose of the Reference 3 letter above from the USBR/Army Corps, which is to gather information on the tools and information needs of their agencies as regards better incorporating global climate change information into their management of water and water-related resources. The letter pertains to us in that it asks organizations if they want to provide input as seen from the

perspective of their needs. The USBR/Army Corps will later put out a report of their findings, which will communicate a collective expression of needs from the water management community to the climate research community, thereby fostering closer collaboration and expedited application of research results. The E.D. will send out a further description of this proposed activity to the Steering Committee for comment, for the purpose of determining if and how CWEMF should participate as an organization. After completion of the report the ball will be passed from the USBR/Army Corps to NOAA and the USGS which will be tasked with identifying research strategies to meet these needs.

b. Future Steering Committee Meeting Dates - The E.D. announced the tentative Steering Committee dates for the remainder of the year to be:

- May 28
- July 23
- Sep. 24
- Nov. 19
- Jan. 21, 2011

c. Executive Director Resignation - The E.D., after serving for seven years, announced that he plans to resign when a new E.D. has been selected. He plans to continue in CWEMF as a member. He will put together a job announcement for advertisement for the position. At the suggestion of the Steering Committee he will also put together a list of the tasks that he has worked on over the past few years, so individuals interested in applying for the position will know what the typical tasks are. The Convener stated that a search subcommittee will be set up. Mention was made of the superb job that the E.D. has done over these years. Other E.D. comments are worked into the narratives below.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT – The minutes for the Jan. 14, 2010 meeting were approved.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT –

- a. There is \$41,000 in the bank (\$12,000 in River City Bank, and \$29,000 in Sterling Bank).
- b. Our financial position is better this year than last. Several institutions are back in good standing regarding their dues payment. Stacy will check on all institutional payments and report back. The decision was made to make an effort to collect the dues from past institutional members whose names appear as CWEMF members, or else to remove them from our list.
- c. Contact Stacy if interested in being on the new budget subcommittee. The goal is to draft up a 3-year budget. The subcommittee will meet in January and July of each year. Stacy will send out an invitation in May to invite interested members to the July meeting.

5. 2010 ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS -

- a. **Number of Participants** - There were 150 participants, which included 12 students, from 56 organizations. (There were 117 participants in 2009, and 170 in 2008). Six of the students were given housing scholarships by CWEMF. A thank-you letter was sent to the keynote speaker.
- b. **Press Release** - A press release was sent to Contra Costa media to announce the selection of Richard Denton as the Career Achievement Award winner.
- c. **Expense Problem and Solution** - We had to pay about \$400 off-site fee to Asilomar, for participants who did not stay in the Asilomar conference grounds, and about \$3,400 for rooms

which we had reserved but which were not used (this is the result of a balancing act that goes on each year: we have to assume how many will be staying on the conference grounds and have to assume high because the size of the meeting rooms that we will be pre-assigned are dependent upon how many persons we have pre-registered to stay on site. We are competing with other organizations who also want those larger rooms).

The Steering committee feels that we have to correct this problem. The question arose as to how we can get more people to stay on site so as to reduce these losses. Some members want to stay off-site because they don't have to double-up in rooms and they have a TV. The question arose as to how many on-site registrants equals a larger meeting room. We lucked out this year in getting the large Fred Farr and Kiln rooms because other groups had dropped out.

So, how can we change things so that it becomes more inducive and cost-effective for people to stay on-site. We could rent out the Asilomar rooms ourselves, and pay a lump fee to Asilomar. We could send out an email to the general membership, explaining the situation. Should we have a larger fee for those staying off-site, but don't make it look like a penalty. Some consultants have to work in the evening and may need the internet connection in the motels across the street. After deliberation a motion was made to have the 2011 registration set at \$275 for on-site and \$275 + \$100 for off-site, with each having a \$50 late fee. This passed unanimously. (For one day attendance the fee for on-site will be \$150 and for off-site will be \$200. The late fees will still apply). The E.D. will send out a message to the general membership giving advanced announcement of the 2011 Asilomar dates (so as to help preclude late fees) and what the registration fees are and why (the dates are Feb. 28-March 2, 2011). (The E.D. will first send the above message to the Steering Committee for their review and comment.)

d. **Net Income** - We took in \$32,000 and paid out \$17,800, for a net of \$14,530 (this does not account for the E.D. time and travel costs).

e. **Helpful Contributions** - The contributions for the two evening social events from CH2M-HILL and MWH AMERICAS were helpful to CWEMF in meeting its Asilomar expenses. WATERCOURSE ENGINEERING again contributed to the equipment needs for the poster session, which was about \$900 this year. This is much appreciated. Perhaps we could ask those persons from other companies who attend Asilomar if their company would be interested in future such donations. Another idea floated was to ask companies for, say, a \$1,000 donation, and that would cover one free on-site room and one free registration. Send any additional ideas to Paul.

f. **Session Development** - Should we prescribe sessions, or ask people what sessions they are willing to present. When we did the latter we got only two responses this past year. The E.D. handed out a list of tentative sessions (p. 5 of E.D. Report) for 2011 Asilomar. Start thinking about who could lead those sessions. A tentative motto is "Bringing Together the Disciplines".

g. **Relating to IEP** - How can we relate better with IEP sessions? Should we have a workshop with IEP one month before Asilomar on elementary modeling, what CALSIM does, etc.? Don't schedule our sessions of interest to IEP so that they overlap their own sessions. Try to model and monitor issues that IEP may be having, to the extent possible. Make an appointment with the new IEP Director.

h. **Annual Meeting Site** - A discussion ensued about where to hold future annual meetings. What are the capacities of the other sites. Would a joint meeting of CWEMF and IEP overwhelm those sites? Delta problems are requiring interdisciplinary solutions, so it is good that CWEMF and IEP hold their meetings jointly to the extent possible. Much discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of the alternate sites, without any alternate site being on a level with Asilomar. A

motion was made and seconded to have the 2011 annual meeting at Asilomar, but with the stipulation that this would not always be the case. To the extent possible other workshops will be held in Sacramento to decrease the time and distance of travel.

6. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

a. **Economic and Reliability Aspects of Delta Facilities** - Spreck is still planning to have this workshop this Spring. This workshop will focus on the technical aspects of the topic.

b. **Groundwater Workshop** – The planning for this is moving forward by Tariq. Matt Zidar will be the moderator. Perhaps this workshop can also be used to get information on the three San Joaquin Valley groundwater models to the people who will be doing the comparability peer (see item 7a below).

c. **Biological Modeling** – Possibly have this as a joint workshop between CWEMF and IEP, possibly with each contributing one-half day to their modeling topic of choice.

d. **Delta Water Quality Modeling** – On hold for now, but the time for it may be coming up soon. This workshop proposed previously by Fred Lee, or series of workshops, would be directed toward how models might be used to address how future alternate water diversions through the Delta may affect existing water quality violations, impairments, and TMDLs there. Perhaps this workshop(s) will help relate the recent NAS biological report to Delta flows.

7. PEER REVIEW –

a. **Central Valley Groundwater Models Comparability's** - Michael talked about the possible matching grant for peer review of the comparability of groundwater models between the USBR and CWEMF (See the previous review proposal put together by Michael and Nigel. The review would be of the capabilities and applications of three models currently being used in the Central Valley, these being IWFM, MODFLOW with the Farm Package, and HydroGeoSphere.). A major purpose of the review is to develop information primarily intended for the non-expert audiences who have a need to be informed about each of these model's capabilities with respect to simulation of a wide range of water resource management issues in the Valley. The USBR grants office needs some input from us quickly, as the cut-off date is rapidly approaching for the USBR. A DUNNS form (we have a federal DUNNS number) needs to be filled out, and the E.D. is currently working on this. The funding works out like this: (a) \$20,000 from the USBR, (b) \$10,000 from the CWEMF peer review fund, and (c) \$10,000 in kind contributions from CWEMF. The question arose as to whether the groundwater workshop mentioned in item 6(b) above could serve as part of CWEMF's in-kind contribution.

b. **Nebraska Request** – A groundwater modeler from the USGS in Nebraska (Mr. Wilson) wants to know if they can use our peer review process. We were all supportive of this.

8. **MODEL USER GROUPS** – The DSM-2 group has been meeting regularly. The IWFM group is starting to get active in mesh development, and a user interface has been developed.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS** – None.

10. **ADJOURNED** – 1:00 pm. Next meeting is on May 28, 2010, at Solano Irrigation District Office in Vacaville.

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Paul Hutton Convener
Rich Satkowski Executive Director
Marianne Guerin Vice Convener
Stacy Tanaka Treasurer
George Nichol Secretary
Michael Tansey
G. Fred Lee
Jay Lund
Lucinda Shih
Mike Deas
Erik Reyes
Ben Bray
Hubert Morel-Seytoux

MWD
CWEMF
RMA
Watercourse Engineering
SWRCB
USBR
G. Fred Lee & Associates
UCD
CCWD
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DWR
EBMUD
Hydroprose Int. Consultants

Proxies: Rob Tull, John Williams, Tara Smith