

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

# MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For August 28, 2009

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

Decisions	•
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review CWEMF's income and expenses over a couple of years to see what CWEMF's stable income must be – Paul and E.D.</li> <li>• Identify possible ways to increase CWEMF income – E.D.</li> <li>• Determine three possible themes for the 2010 annual meeting, which session topics are of most interest, and who is willing to moderate those sessions – E.D.</li> <li>• Discuss a possible Nutrients Process Model workshop – Marianne and Fred</li> <li>• Draft a letter to the USBR requesting cost-sharing for a peer review of San Joaquin Valley groundwater models – E.D.</li> <li>• Discuss a possible monitoring workshop – Peter V. and Marianne</li> </ul>
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More discussion on alternatives to Asilomar.</li> </ul>
Motions	

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report.
  2. CWEMF Annual Meeting Survey Options
  3. Treasurer's Report (for period of July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009)
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## MINUTES

1. **INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM** – The meeting was opened with 15 persons in attendance, and 3 proxies. A quorum was declared.
2. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT** – The E.D. transferred money to Sterling Bank. He scanned historic CWEMF documents and made CDs for posterity. Other E.D. comments are feathered into many of the topics below.
3. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** – The minutes for the past meetings of March 20, 2009, and May 29, 2009 were reviewed and approved.
4. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Stacy handed out a graph showing the cash flow for the years 2001-2008. The total revenue, total expense, and ending revenue lines were shown. There was some discussion as to whether CWEMF has a structural funding problem between income and expenses. It was decided that some review should be done to

determine what CWEMF's stable income must be in order to meet expenses. Paul and the E.D. volunteered for this task. The E.D. and others will also be thinking of possible ways to increase funding.

**5. 2010 ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION** – There was much discussion on where to hold the future annual meetings, due to travel expenses and agencies tight budgets. The E.D. presented a table showing various aspects of nine possible meeting sites. Prior to the meeting members had filled out an on-line survey where they indicated their preference for these sites. Most agreed that Asilomar is the best site. The distances to each site were of concern, as well as the seasonality of when people could get to the sites. Many believed that meeting locally would change the character of the meeting since people could come and go from work and, thus, reduce the beneficial networking of the off-site meetings. One compromise discussed was to meet alternately at Asilomar and a somewhat closer site to Sacramento and that this alternating could start in 2011. The two sites that seemed like good alternates are the Marconi and Stanford conference centers. Further discussion will occur at the next Steering Committee meeting, since we are past the agenda time.

The E.D. discussed the results of the member survey of sessions which were broken up into four categories: (a) Reservoir Operations and Water Supply Planning Sessions, (b) Hydrodynamics, Fisheries, and Habitat Health Sessions, (c) Groundwater and Integrated Modeling Sessions, and (d) Water Quality and Miscellaneous Sessions. It was suggested that the sessions should be selected by finding out what people want, and from those people, finding who is willing to be a moderator and put together a session. A discussion revolved around the question of how is the CWEMF relevant? Are we relevant to the crises at hand today? Do our modeling efforts make the management of resources better? Do we have the tools needed to be relevant? The E.D. was asked to determine three possible themes for Asilomar, and find out those sessions of most interest and who would be willing to lead them.

Peter Vorster said he would be interested in putting together another San Joaquin Valley restoration session, and thought that the BCDP and Delta Vision would be good additional sessions.

**6. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS** – The list of upcoming tentative technical workshops is attached to the end of these minutes. Additional workshop information is presented below.

- a. DSM-2 workshop – This will be held during Sept. 15-17.
- b. Real Time Water Quality Management
- c. Nutrients Process Model – Marianne will talk to Fred on this.
- d. Delta Water Quality Modeling – On hold for now. This workshop, or series of workshops, would be addressed 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.
- e. Ground Water Modeling – The E.D. said to plan for this in October. A large ground water modeling workshop is scheduled for November 4, so stay clear of that date.

f. **Monitoring** – Peter V. mentioned this as a possible workshop (or Asilomar session?). How important is measurement and monitoring? Does it make a difference? A model can show where data is needed at different places in the system, and where data may not be needed. Peter and Marianne will discuss this more.

7. **PEER REVIEW** – It was decided to go forward with a peer review of groundwater models. This would be the fruition of the groundwater model paper that Michael and Nigel wrote up several months ago (CWEMF Central Valley Groundwater Models Comparative Review) . While CWEMF can put up some funding toward such an effort, fund matching would also be needed from an agency or an organization. It was decided to ask the USBR for this support. If CWEMF can put up \$20,000 in funding and in-kind efforts, then the USBR would be asked to contribute \$20,000, for a grand total of \$40,000. Michael said he could take our request up to his management if he has a letter from CWEMF with this request. Any potential funding from the USBR would have to wait until the start of the new federal fiscal year starting Oct. 1, and assume there is no federal funding freeze. The E.D. will work with Paul and Nigel to come up with this letter to send to the USBR.

8. **MODEL USER GROUP** – Tara put out a Newsletter on the DSM-2 group.

9. **CUAHSI HIS PRESENTATION** – Nigel gave a presentation on CUAHSI HIS, a data-sharing concept that has been growing in many universities. The concept was started by a David Maidment of the University of Texas, Austin. (Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science Institute.) Much data has been collected over the years from students working on their masters and doctors degrees in the hydrologic sciences, but this data has not easily been available throughout the user community. This is mainly because the data has not been stored in a manner that is easily retrievable. To correct this situation the CUAHSI HIS data management system was started, and is now being used by 118 universities. It is in the public domain, and is starting to interface with other databases. Users register what data they have in a central location, similar to the Yellow Pages, and each user is responsible for his own metadata. CUAHSI HIS uses GIS, and interfaces with ESRI tools. Remote-sensing results can also be input. It links models and data. Its power is web-delivery. It uses standard ontology, and has a common data structure and uses HTML. See the CUAHSI HIS documentation on the web at: <http://his.cuahsi.org>.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS** – The email inputs from Spreck Rosekranz and Bruce Herbold on suggestions for future CWEMF workshops were discussed. Peter Vorster discussed the current status of the Wanger decision, and biological opinions. A brief discussion arose as to how CWEMF can help people understand what modeling numbers mean, and how to get information to our stakeholder communities.

11. **ADJOURNED** – 12:00 pm. Next meeting is on Sept. 25, 2009, at Solano Irrigation District Office in Vacaville.

Respectfully Submitted

George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Paul Hutton  
Rich Satkowski  
Stacy Tanaka

George Nichol  
Nigel Quinn  
Tara Smith  
Erik Reyes  
Lisa Holm  
Marianne Guerin  
Hubert Morel-Seytoux  
Lisa Holm  
Peter Baker  
Michael Tansey  
Rob Tull  
Lucinda Shih  
G. Fred Lee  
Peter Vorster

Convener, MWD  
Executive Director, CWEMF  
Treasurer, Watercourse  
Engineering Inc  
Secretary, SWRCB  
LBNL  
DWR  
DWR  
USBR  
Vice Convener, RMA  
Hydroprose  
USBR  
Stillwater Sciences  
USBR  
CH2M-Hill  
CCWD  
GFL & Assoc.  
The Bay Institute

Proxies: Steve Culberson, Jay Lund, Mark Gowdy

Workshop Title	Status	Workshop Lead	Other Contact(s)	Proposed Date	Comments
DSM2 Version 7 Training	2	Tara Smith		July, August, 2008	
Real-time WQ Management on the SJR	3	Nigel Quinn and Lisa			Nigel and Lisa will follow-up on a workshop - there's enough here for at least one
Process Models For Nutrient Dynamics in the Delta	3	Paul Hutton, Marianne Guerin		Early Fall 2009	Cover the current state of model development for nutrient dynamics. Include speakers with expertise on the important processes or measurements.
Dynamic Modeling of Soil Water: Salinity Build-up in California Soils		Marc Gowdy, Les Grober, Glen Hoffman	The State Board will let CWEMF know about timing for their workshop	Fall 2009	They have already embarked on the same effort....we (the State Board, lead up by myself primarily) are in discussions with them on how to join forces. If it continues in this direction there would likely not be a role for CWEMF, as it is already getting crowded with many big names. I would say remove that from the CWEMF list (which is already pretty long). I'll keep CWEMF in mind as we proceed with this effort.
Delta Water Quality Modeling: pollutant transport and transformations	3	G. Fred Lee		Spring 2010	Workshop will review the current understanding the modeling of Delta water quality pollutants transport and transformations that cause violations of water quality objectives and the impairment of the water quality related impairment of Delta beneficial uses. Information will be presented on the need to develop modeling approaches and water quality and water quality data needs to develop water quality models for the Delta. I feel that it would be better to plan on this workshop in the spring of 2010, this fall would be too soon since one of the key reports on Delta water quality issues will not be available till this fall
Modeling the Delta Smelt and Chinook Salmon Biological Opinions	3	Eric Reyes			Stalled - Eric will keep track
San Joaquin River Restoration Plan	3	Peter Vorster	Rich Satkowick		I think the SJR restoration workshop should wait a bit until perhaps we have done the first interim flow releases scheduled for this fall unless we want to put it into a larger workshop on decision support systems for real-time decision making for environmental flow releases.
CALSIM III	3	Sushil Arora	Eric Reyes	Fall, Winter 2009	MG follow-up with Eric
Groundwater Modeling	3	Brian Heywood	Rich Satkowick		Rich will keep track of this.
Design basis for a practical surface/groundwater model for conjunctive management	3	Hubert Morel-Seytoux		November 2009	Procedures combine analytical techniques with numerical ones, allowing for accuracy while minimizing computational burden. In this way the system can be simulated at the realistic operational time of the day
Sampling for Fishery Models	OFF	John Williams	Rich Satkowick		Ken Newman too busy for now - workshop on indefinite hold. (John Williams said that CALFED is interested in the workshop, which would be 4 hours in a classroom setting and then 4 hours in the field.)
HydroGeoSphere	OFF	George Matangas	Lisa Holm will check		Workshop occurred earlier in year.
Modeling Habitat Restoration	3	Mike Tansey	M. Guerin		Phil Williams Assoc (Michelle Orr, Principal)
Data Visualization	3	Tara Smith		?	
Sediment Transport	3	George Nichols			My hopes are for a workshop that would look at the effects of hydromodification (dams, low impact development requirements, urban runoff, debris basins) and storm water permits on the transport of needed sediments from the inland watersheds to the fragile coastal beaches and wetlands. I am not quite sure how to go about this yet. I might just start out with some single model presentations like HEC-BAS (which now contains the HEC-6 sediment transport capabilities) and other sediment transport models, and then build on that
Wadeable Streams	?	Peter Vorster	George Nichols		George will ask Peter if his suggestion was for the modeling of wadeable streams (hydraulic such as velocity and water depth, water temperature, habitat, etc), or for such other aspects such as the monitoring and assessment of aquatic streams, which in a way would support future modeling efforts. The term "wadeable stream" is a category of waterways that has a special significance other than just being able to wade across it. The EPA and SWRCB are doing special monitoring of wadeable streams for macroinvertebrates, algae, physical habitat, etc. to try to develop bio-criteria for them, rather than just have a narrative criteria that says "you must not do anything to hurt the biological habitat".

## Status:

1 = Schedule finalized or nearly finalized

2 = Detailed development underway

3 = Concept stage

4 = External Group