

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For May 28, 2010

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

Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send out the job announcement for the Executive Director vacancy – George• Send out an email asking for volunteers for the finance subcommittee – Stacy• Send any comments to the Executive Director on CWEMFs tasks and funding needs for the groundwater peer review – All hands
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Directors Report.
 2. CWEMF Executive Director Annual Meeting Duties (as experienced by the current Executive Director)
 3. Groundwater Peer Review In-Kind Tasks
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MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM – The meeting was opened with 10 persons in attendance, three persons on the phone, and 3 proxies. A quorum was declared.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT – The Executive Director has reserved the Asilomar site for the annual meetings for the following dates:

- Feb. 28-March 2, 2011
- Feb. 27-Feb. 29, 2012

Many of the Power Points for the 2010 annual meeting talks and posters have been posted onto the CWEMF website. Work has continued on obtaining a grant from the USBR on the upcoming peer review workshop on groundwater models.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Passed unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT – There is a total of \$42,000 in our accounts (\$24,000 in the general fund, and \$18,000 in the peer review fund). Looking back over the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, we will end the year with a net loss of \$5,000. (This is better than last year, and is why we raised the Asilomar registration dues and membership dues at the last Steering Committee meeting.)

The newly-formed fiscal sub-committee of the Steering Committee will have their second meeting during the week of July 12 (after the fiscal year ends). One of the fiscal subcommittee's goals is to develop a three-year running budget. Another goal is to formalize the invoicing process, set the due dates for dues payments, and make clear what year the dues are being paid for (one caution mentioned is that different companies may want to pay out annual costs such as these at different times during the year according to their internal business practices, so take this into account). Formalizing the invoicing process will be an aid to the Executive Director. Stacy will send out an email to Steering Committee members asking for additional volunteers for this subcommittee.

Kevin Long has modified our CWEMF web site to show the following current organizational members: MWD, DWR, CCWD, USBR, EBMUD, SWRCB, HDR, MWH-America, and CH2M-Hill.

5. INTERVIEW PANEL FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – People volunteering to serve on this panel are Nigel, Peter Vorster, Rich, Marianne, Mark, and Paul. Tara, Stacy, and George volunteered to serve if needed. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for early July. The job announcement will be sent out in early June to persons on our mailing lists and to additional consulting firms in the area, with the message to share the announcement with others who they think might be interested in applying. The Executive Director has made up a list of the annual meeting duties that he has performed over the past few years. This list will help the interview panel explain the duties to those being interviewed. He also mentioned that the intensity of the Executive Director's work varies over the year, increasing substantially as the annual meeting approaches.

6. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS –

- a. Flood and Weather Modeling Workshop – Consider have a session at Asilomar, plus a regular workshop after Asilomar.
- b. Evapotranspiration Modeling – This was an idea for a future workshop Nigel and Tara are interested in this. This could involve software being developed by Google.
- c. Delta Water Quality Modeling Data Needs – This tentative workshop would include what Delta data will we need in water quality modeling, and what are the data gaps.
- d. Scaling Workshop – This was an idea for a future workshop. This workshop would address the problems associated with applying local data or information over a larger area – local to regional. Some data doesn't seem to scale very well. The UCD Chemical Engineering Dept. has been working on scaling.
- e. Statistical vs Cause-and-Effect Workshop – This was an idea for a future workshop. It would cover the appropriate use of statistics when cause and effect relationships are being sought. This has caused some problems in the development of the national nutrient criteria.
- f. General discussion – Some discussion ensued on how to set up workshops. Should they be designed in a top-down approach, or a bottoms-up approach? How should models be applied to address the ammonia problem in the Delta. How should boundary conditions be set up for nutrients, pesticides, and sediment for the WARMF model? How can we get groundwater and watershed models talking to each other.

7. **PEER REVIEW** – The USBR documents have been prepared for processing the grant for peer review of the three common groundwater models being used in the Central Valley. This review will be on capabilities and approaches in using the models, not on applications. The target audience is decision makers and managers rather than technical people.

When CWEMF prepares its budget which will be sent to the USBR to show how much we are contributing for our required percentage effort to match the grant, be sure to show the actual money we will be spending, the hourly rates, who will be doing the work, etc. The table in the Executive Director's report is good, but go into a little more detail. The USBR is giving us a grant, so we have to show that we can put forth the expertise required of a grant. The USBR will be putting up \$20,000 (a fixed amount), and if we determine that CWEMF will be putting up more than this go ahead and show it as this will show the USBR that they are getting good return on their money. Give any comments on the CWEMF efforts needed in this modeling effort to Rich by next Wednesday, June 2.

There was some discussion on how the workshop will be structured. Will there be one or two workshops? Should a first workshop be a presentation to the peer reviewers, followed by a second workshop where the results are presented to the decision makers and managers? How many peer reviewers will there be? How shall we determine their payment? Besides the peer review of the three groundwater models, will the workshop be expanded to include other groundwater model applications? Can we get a CWEMF white-paper deliverable from this peer review, like we did for the water temperature modeling?

8. **MODEL USER GROUPS** – The DSM-2 group is continuing with their meetings. They have been looking at the Delta gates, and some ecosystem modeling is coming up. The IWFM meeting was postponed.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS** – None.

10. **ADJOURNED** – 12:00 NOON. Next meeting is on July 23, 2010, at Solano Irrigation District Office in Vacaville. This meeting will consist of the normal Steering Committee meeting plus the Executive Director interviews. The next Steering Committee meeting after this is on September 17.

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	
Ben Bray	

MWD
CWEMF
RMA
Watercourse Engineering
SWRCB
USBR
G. Fred Lee & Associates
EBMUD

Nigel Quinn
Mark Gowdy

LBNL
SWRCB

On Phone: Lisa Holm, Peter Vorster, Eric Reyes
Proxies: Mike Deas, Lucinda Shih, Hubert