

August 13, 2004

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

**Draft**  
**MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

For July 30, 2004

(This meeting was held at the DFG Yolo Basin Wildlife HQ in Davis.)

**I. SUMMARY**

**A. ACTION ITEMS**

- Invite new CALFED Science Advisor to a Forum Steering Committee meeting in the future
- Contact Rich to make sure that announcements on DSM-2 activities and User Group meetings are on the Forum's web site – Tara
- Get more input from Chuck Armor regarding how the Asilomar CWEMF/IEP overlap affects them – Rich
- Check into the potential for some San Joaquin River workshops – Tara and Nigel
- Work with Kevin Wolf to determine possibility of having workshops for minimizing conflicts and optimizing opportunities between San Joaquin Valley TMDLs – Nigel
- Check into the models being proposed or used for the Stockton Dissolved Oxygen study, to see if a peer review of the models is possible - Nigel

**B. MOTIONS PASSED OR TABLED – None**

**C. REFERENCES HANDED OUT**

1. Executive Directors Report
  2. Initial Draft Outline for a Final CWEMF Report on a Strategic Analysis Framework for California Water Problems
  3. Agenda for next workshop "Application of Hydrosphere for Conjunctive Simulations of Surface and Subsurface Flow and Transport".
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**II. MINUTES**

**1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME** – The meeting was opened with 10 persons in attendance, and 3 proxies held. A quorum was declared. Kevin Wolf was introduced, and he will make a presentation later in the meeting.

2. **SECRETARY'S REPORT** – The minutes from the June 16, 2004 meeting were approved. (Revised minutes from the March 19, 2004 meeting will be considered for approval in the next meeting.)

3. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – \$64,000 is in the general fund.

4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – (The Executive Director was away ill, but the following items were discussed from his prepared report.)

a. **Asilomar** – There was discussion on how best to have the overlap with the IEP. What would be most beneficial for both organizations? Nigel will contact Chuck Armor regarding how the overlap affects them.

b. **DSM-2 Users Group** – Tara would like to establish more contact with the SWRCB regarding the use of DSM-2. Make sure our CWEMF web site lists the DSM-2 work group's meetings and efforts. Tara will contact Rich to check on these items.

5. **LONG-TERM WATER MODELING PLANNING** – Jay handed out his draft outline for a Final CWEMF Report on a Strategic Analysis Framework for California Water Problems. He would like to strive for a draft proposal by September. The Framework document could be put on the CWEMF web site, and may eventually become one of the Forum's technical papers. A question arose as to whether the Forum should have front pages for its technical papers, but the decision was postponed for now. We should invite the new CALFED Science Advisor to a Steering Committee meeting, and brief him on what we have done. The meeting could happen when the draft report is available.

6. **TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS** –

- a. Long-Term Planning – The next workshop is tentatively scheduled for October.
- b. Hydrosphere Modeling – see handout. Scheduled for September.
- c. ESA Recovery Planning – To be scheduled soon.
- d. Delta Improvement Package – Paul has several potential topics.
- e. Upper Jones Tract – tentatively scheduled in the fall
- f. San Joaquin River – Tara and Nigel will check into this.

Kevin Wolf made his presentation at this time. He has some affiliation with the San Joaquin River Stockton Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Stakeholders Group. He mentioned that the Stakeholder's group is concerned on how the development of other TMDLs in the San Joaquin River drainage area will affect the dissolved oxygen condition at Stockton. Basically he is interested in what CWEMF workshops might be beneficial to help to reduce potential conflicts or to achieve mutually beneficial effects between the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL and the other TMDLs being developed or to be developed in the San Joaquin Valley. He asked what funding the CWEMF might need to conduct these workshops, as he suggested that CALFED may be a source of funding for this. His message was that one has to be careful when formulating the solution for one TMDL in that the resulting effect does not produce an adverse effect on another TMDL. Some examples he presented are as follows:

- Be careful that when formulating a satisfactory salt and boron TMDL in the Valley that the end effect does not create adverse conditions for the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL (salt and dissolved oxygen issues need to be linked).
- Be careful when formulating a pesticide or sediment TMDL for the Valley that it does not create adverse conditions on the Dissolved Oxygen TMDL (pesticide, sediment, and dissolved oxygen issues need to be linked). For example, planting cover crops to reduce erosion to reduce sediment loads in the San Joaquin River may end up putting more organic load and fertilizer into the River that may depress the dissolved oxygen at Stockton. Kevin mentioned the myriad of other links between environmental parameters that could produce similar unintended consequences.
- Removing more pesticides from the San Joaquin River will be good for a pesticide TMDL, but that may allow more algae to grow in the River and thus have a bigger algae load to die-off in the Stockton area with its current dissolved oxygen problem.
- How will the operation of tail water recovery ponds throughout the valley, operated for the salinity and boron TMDL, affect the flows at Stockton needed for flushing out dissolved oxygen deficit waters?
- What “real” changes in land use practices in the valley are going to occur in response to the salt and boron TMDLs, and how is this going to effect dissolved oxygen concentrations at Stockton?
- In handling watershed loads, how do you evaluate a load reduction alternative?
- What are the data gaps in answering the above questions?
- What watershed computer model can be used as a decision support tool to tie all of the above questions together, and as a management tool in the future? If the stakeholders buy in to the suggestions that result from a workshop, then they could set up financial assistance for more workshops. CALFED is interested, and may help fund.
- Can CWEMF workshops help in thinking through all of the above items?
- What could a workshop(s) accomplish toward all of the above? What guiding principles are needed?

Some Steering Committee discussion ensued after Kevin’s presentation, as follows:

- What has the Chesapeake Bay watershed used for decision support tools?
- Can Carl Chen’s WARMF (?) model or Hydroqual’s model act as a decision support tool?
- Start out by seeing who used what elsewhere. What has the Mississippi River/Gulf Nutrients problem, and other watersheds, used for a decision support tool?
- First someone needs to formulate hypotheses and develop conceptual models.
- There is a lot of food for thought here, and objectives such as this are the CWEMF’s purpose.

- We informed Keven that the CWEMF was receptive to moving forward on obtaining more information on this idea and some workshops. Nigel will work with Kevin in obtaining further information.

The subject of what would be the CWEMF's costs for this arose, as Kevin needed some preliminary figures to take back to his group and possibly do some budgeting. We informed Kevin that we are mostly volunteers, and most of us would be involved in workshops for free. However, we do have a need for some income for such expenses as paying our Executive Director, occasionally bring in speakers from far places (travel, per diem), etc.

(Secretary's Note: These would be timely and visible workshops. At a recent public hearing of the SWRCB on the San Joaquin River Stockton Dissolved Oxygen TMDL mentioned above, the upper management of DWR, USBR, MWD, and several other agencies made a presentation on the potential conflicts between different San Joaquin Valley TMDLs, and how possibly the conflicts could be minimized or even made symbiotic if water supply and drainage operations throughout the valley were managed to do so. They said they controlled the assets within their group to do this, and stood ready to do so. So if we can have a workshop or group of workshops to find out how valley-wide modeling or related activities might be applied to assist in the above, this may assist them in their operational efforts to make it happen.

Also, a recent grant from the SWRCB to the East San Joaquin Water Quality Framework Group has as its purpose to organize and coordinate, on a regional basis, the efforts of parties with an interest in improving water quality. A CWEMF workshop may help to provide input on modeling needs and possibilities to them.)

## 7. MODEL USER GROUPS -

- CALSIM 2** – Now meets every two months. Mention was made to be sure to watch for questions that are posed on the electronic bulletin board, and to be sure to answer them. They are developing themes to focus on.
- DSM-2** – Meets quarterly.
- IGSM-2** – They are doing updates, and applying GIS. There are two on-going applications.
- Danish Hydraulic Institutes's **MIKE** – Restoration people use this.

8. **PEER REVIEW** – There is about \$34,000 in the peer review fund. Possible future peer reviews may be for the Strategic Analysis Framework for California Water Problems, or for the Stockton Dissolved Oxygen models. Nigel will check into the models being proposed or used for the Dissolved Oxygen study.

## 9. WEBSITE ENHANCEMENTS -

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS –

- Forum Presentations at CALFED Science Workshop** – The abstracts submitted last month for the two potential presentations were discussed, one presentation will be about the Forum's mission and progress to date, and one about the progress toward the

Strategic Analysis Framework results. All were in agreement regarding the first presentation. Regarding the second presentation, after some discussion it was decided to contact Rich and retract the abstract. It was thought that what could be said now about the Strategic Analysis Framework could be included in the first presentation regarding the Forum's mission and progress to date.

b. **Job Advertising** – There was some discussion on whether to have web links to other entities that advertise jobs, or have one that just applies to modelers. Further discussion was postponed indefinitely for now.

**11. NEXT MEETING – Sept. 17, starting at 9:30 AM. It will** possibly be in Davis at DFG's Yolo Basin Wildlife HQ.

**12. ADJOURN – 12:30 PM**

Respectfully Submitted  
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

**ATTENDANCE**

Nigel Quinn  
K.T. Shum  
Rob Tull  
Lisa Holm  
George Nichol  
Tara Smith  
Jay Lund  
John Williams  
Lloyd Peterson  
Kevin Wolf

UC LBL, Convenor  
EBMUD, Vice-Convenor  
Past Convenor, CH2M-Hill  
Treasurer, CCWD  
Secretary, SWRCB  
DWR  
UCD  
Past Executive Director  
USBR  
Wolf & Associates

Proxies: Mike Deas, John Headlee, Rich Satkowski