

CALIFORNIA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING FORUM

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

For July 20, 2018

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

Major Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send the new CWEMF wiki link to the Executive Director – Nicky Sandu• Let Nicky know the names of the nine people selected to edit the wiki – Executive Director• Send an email to the general membership asking for volunteers to serve as chairs of the permanent standing committees – Executive Director• Send out the charter of the Delta Stewardship Council’s IMSC committee to the CWEMF steering committee – Ben Geske• Look at the CWEMF strategic plan to see how it aligns with the DSP IMSC efforts – Ben Geske.• The ASCE has indicated they may give us an award for our involvement in the modeling efforts of California. Check into this – Shyamal• Prepare a letter to send to NOAA’s National Weather Service stating CWEMF’s support for their S2S weather forecasting – Convener and vice-convener.
Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Located at end of minutes.)
Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

REFERENCES HANDED OUT:

1. Executive Director’s Report.
2. Secretary’s Report
3. End of Fiscal Year 2017 Treasurer’s Report
4. Standing Committee Proposals
5. Technical Workshops
6. Delta Stewardship Council’s RFP Integrated Modeling Support
7. Request for CWEMF support letter to NOAA on weather forecasting

1. INTRODUCTIONS/DESIGNATION OF QUORUM – Introductions were made. Twelve persons are present, two are on the phone, and there is one proxy. A quorum was declared. The convener is absent on business, so the vice-convener will run the meeting.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Executive Director's Report – The Executive Director's report was submitted. His comments for this meeting are added to the comments below.

b. Secretary's Report – A motion passed to accept the minutes for the May 18, 2018 Steering Committee meeting. (The draft minutes for the 2018 annual meeting will be reviewed at the next Steering Committee meeting.)

c. Treasurer's Report – The 2017 fiscal year just ended on June 20, 2018. It is now time to take care of our tax status. A motion passed to accept the Treasurer's report.

ACTION ITEMS

3. WEBSITE –

a. Nicky showed his wiki prototype on the PC screen. It shows some of the CWEMF activities. It is available for all to see, but can be edited by only ten people now (Nicky plus 9 others to be chosen, for now, but the names can be rotated). The cost is \$10 per month for these ten people to edit. Nicky is looking for helpers. How should the wiki be organized and structured? Nicky can help people navigate through the wiki, but he will need help with the input. Nicky will send the wiki link to Paul, and Paul will let Nicky know the names of the 9 people selected to edit the wiki for now.

b. CWEMF will be acting as a neutral zone in allowing what is edited into the wiki. Getting experts to edit the wiki is the goal. The wiki should reflect the community's views, not just one person's view.

c. Regarding gathering expert's views, CWEMF can host the wiki as an independent non-agency. Disagreeing views can be shown. The inputs should only apply to models as used in California. Peer reviews can be linked in.

d. People should try the wiki, and bring pros and cons to the next steering committee meeting.

e. The Delta Science Program is working with Nicky Sandhu and Tetra Tech on a wiki for Delta modeling. The DSP has additional considerations outside of CWEMF's normal modeling activities, such as fish, biochemistry actions, and social-economic considerations related to water and water quality. The wiki may end up being the modeling inventory that the DSP has envisioned (also a task in the current Integrated Modeling Support contract with Tetra Tech), but it is still too early to know if this can achieve both CWEMF and DSP's needs. How can the DSP, CWEMF, and the rest of the modeling community best support the modeling wiki?

f. Nicky will continue to work on the wiki for the next several months, then he will review where we are at.

4. PROPOSAL FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

a. The Executive Director would like year-round leadership in five broad areas structured around the CWEMF strategic plan. The solution is to have permanent standing committees in each of these areas, with a chair for each standing committee, to keep the momentum going. Each standing committee may have several subcommittees, which may be permanent or cyclic. This will free up the Steering Committee to focus its energy during steering committee meetings on salient initiatives that come up.

b. We may not have enough volunteers to serve as chairs of the permanent standing committees. Paul will send an email to the general membership asking for volunteers to serve as chairs of the permanent standing committees. He will attach the strategic plan so members can see what areas they may be interested in (there are five main areas of the strategic plan). Each standing chair position will be for one year. The time commitment would be up to the individual chairs. They would select the subcommittees they need. The chairs would attend the steering committee meetings as needed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL INTEGRATED MODELING

a. The DSC has sent out an RFP for Integrated Modeling Support. The DSC has a steering committee (the Integrated Modeling Steering Committee, or IMSC) to oversee this effort, and Ben Geske will send out the charter of this committee to the CWEMF steering committee members to see how both steering committees efforts may mesh.

b. This DSC effort is doing what CWEMF has been wanting to do for some time, although the DSC effort is larger in scope. The Contractors to be selected will have the following five tasks:

- Task 1 – Coordinate and communicate with the DSC's IMSC;
- Task 2 – Relate the decision needs to management questions, foundational to identifying integrated model uses and improved model-management, and inventory models suitable for addressing a representative range of management questions associated with scenario planning and forecasting of alternative futures;
- Task 3 – Identify technological challenges and solutions for model integration, including data gaps;
- Task 4 – Identify best modeling practices;
- Task 5 – Prepare synthesis paper on State of Delta Modeling.

c. The question arose as to possible overlaps in what the above DSC efforts and CWEMF efforts. Where can CWEMF plug into these DSC efforts? Are there additional efforts that should be worked on?

d. A key item in the above DSC effort is how to link modelers with decision-makers.

e. Regarding the data needed for modeling, is data available for 1-D, 2-D, and 3-D modeling? Is data being collected in the right places? Efforts will be given to having good QA/QC data.

f. Ben will send an email to the CWEMF steering committee asking for our thoughts and ideas. Ben will look at the CWEMF strategic plan to see how it aligns with the DSP efforts.

g. The question arose as to whether CWEMF might get funding if our efforts align with those of the DSP.

6. CWEMF – IEP COORDINATION

a. The question is on the possible coordination of CWEMF and IEP annual meetings (overlapping one day). The IEP has a larger attendance than does CWEMF. Having both groups simultaneously at the Lake Natoma Inn would be a larger group than the Inn can handle (potentially 400 attendees). A new meeting location would probably be required. Costs and fees may be a problem, as CWEMF has to collect them as their main source of income, while the IEP is financially supported by the State.

b. Both groups should be surveyed as to their desires. The first meeting could not take place until 2021. Continue with this topic at the next steering committee meeting.

7. TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

a. Planning Stage

(1) Sea-level rise – Tentative winter 2019

(2) IDC – 2-days - Fall 2018

(3) IWFM – 4 days – Fall 2018

(4) MODFLOW OWHM – Winter 2019

b. Conceptual Stage

(1) CalLite & CALSIM

(2) Measurement and Data Issues

(3) Coupling Behavioral Modeling and Hydro/WQ Modeling

(4) Communications – Jay will help on this, as his watershed group is also working on this topic.

c. We may be adding a workshop on QA/QC and monitoring.

d. The ASCE has indicated they may give us an award for our involvement in the modeling efforts of California. Shyamal will check into this.

e. The USGS is planning to host a workshop for the Central Valley hydrologic model, once the updated model gets released, probably next spring. The USGS National Training Center hosts several training workshops in California each year. For example, a PEST++ workshop was just held last April. Possibly some of these workshops can be coordinated with CWEMF workshops.

8. MODEL USER GROUPS – The Delta modeling group held a meeting on DSM-2, discussing its consumptive use, QA/QC, and its new tools. This group usually meets quarterly.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The CWEMF has been asked to write a one-page letter of support to the NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) stating our support for their efforts to Congress for improving sub-seasonal to seasonal (S2S) weather forecasting. These forecasts are for lead times of two weeks to two years. With existing resources NOAA can make very little improvement in S2S forecasts within the next 5 – 10 years. Letters of support from outside users may help get resources to

make improvements sooner. In a letter of support just say we would benefit from improved S2S forecasting in our modeling efforts. Do not advocate. The steering committee today agreed to support this letter. The convener and vice-convener are to decide on the content of this letter, and send a draft copy to the steering committee by late July for their review and comment. This letter has to be sent to NOAA by early August.

10. NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – September 21, 2018.

11. ADJOURN – 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
George Nichol, Secretary, CWEMF

ATTENDANCE

Paul Hutton	Executive Director	Tetra Tech
Shyamal Chowdhury	Vice-Convener	USACE
Stacy Tanaka	Treasurer	Watercourse Engineers
Katherine Heidel		Tetra Tech
Nicky Sandu		DWR
Chuching Wang		MWD
Ben Geske		Delta Science Program
Steve Micko		Jacobs
Jon Traum		USGS – CAWSC
Anne Huber		ICF

On Phone: Mike Deas (Watercourse Engineers), Rich Satkowski (Public Member)

Proxies: Shyamal has Tariq’s proxy.

Parking Lot Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Year Budget – Prepare a draft. • Peer Review Process - Development of peer review administrative process. • Financial Transparency – Determine how best to show our financial transparency to outsiders. • Operating Reserve – determine how much we should keep in this Reserve. • Money Management – Determine how CWEMF should invest its funds.
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