

MINUTES OFF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT ASILOMAR, FEBRUARY 24, 1998

I. OPENING - The annual general meeting was opened by Jay Lund, Convener. Jay described what the Forum is, and what some recent activities were. He mentioned the technical workshops, the peer review of models, stakeholder's activities, and the potential of the Forum for technical and policy decisions. He mentioned that there are now 24 agencies and 110 individual members. He gave out the Forum's WEB address and invited people to dial in and see what the Forum is all about.

II. PEER REVIEW PROCESS - Wim Kimmerer described the current status of the peer review of various 1-D models (DSM 1 and 2, RMA Models, and Fisher Model 10). Contracts have been made with the outside experts Drs. Sobey and Morel-Seytoux. Requests have been sent by the Forum experts to the developers of the three models being reviewed, asking for data to test. Only one of the model developers has responded to date. The others have stated they are very busy at this time. This suggests that the Forum may need to change the way it is going about this.

III. GARAMENDI II UPDATE -

1. Greg Gartrell couldn't make it, so the report was given by Peter Vorster and Spreck Rosekrans. The Dept of the Interior (DOI) had asked for a series of workshops last June, and the Forum took an active role in these workshops. Spreck has helped in past workshops. The Forum's workshops have enhanced the role of the Forum to DOI. The workshops allowed for the free flow of ideas, even though two lawsuits have developed.

2. The Forum has learned the following:

- emphasize itself as a facilitator.
- act on a more timely basis
- let participants know they need to give their input on a more timely basis
- the Forum is providing a positive function for current controversies

3. An upcoming report on toxicity may be facilitated by the Forum. The Forum may facilitate on areas of technical disagreement. For example, there is a controversial part of the CVPIA dealing with the 800,000 AF of CVP yield for fish restoration. Two questions are on how much of the Delta water should go to irrigation, and how much to fish.

IV. WORKSHOPS - Nigel went over the past workshops held. He pointed out that there are three types of workshops, these being informational, problem-solving, and training types. He pointed out that the X-2 workshop to be held March 11 is full. Nigel mentioned that persons can nominate workshops by either filling out the forms at the back of the room, or to E-mail any suggestions in to him or the Forum.

V. MODELING PROTOCOLS -

1. This was presented by Rich Satkowski. The protocols committee evolved from a meeting held in March of 1997. He mentioned that the protocols would apply to both water and environmental problem solving, and to all models. .

2. A Mission Statement has been developed. The expected results of the Protocols are to:

- improve the construction of models
- provide better documentation
- provide easier public access

3. Rich went over the Table of Contents of the Protocols, and discussed the major steps in model development. There will be five ratings for models. He described his form "Documentary Modeling Results". He described the results of the protocols committee, their conclusions, and that the next step is for the Forum membership to decide if they want to accept the Protocols.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - John Williams reported that while the Forum is now a part of the San Francisco Estuary Institute, it is filling out forms to be an independent organization. The Forum can then seek foundation funding. John mentioned that he would like the Forum members to do much of the Forum's work, because that keeps people interested and also keeps administrative costs down. He would like to see a balance of emphasis in the Forum between hydrology, biology, and economics.

VII. BUSINESS MEETING -

1. A Quorum was declared. The agenda of the meeting was approved and seconded. The minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved and seconded.

2. Rich Satkowski discussed the status of the Forum membership. There was a small decrease in membership, but this was because individual members learned that they could be covered by their parent agency, and thus the individual memberships decreased a little. The decrease could also be due to less workshops held last year, with the result that fewer joined the Forum just to attend a workshop.

3. Margaret Johnston gave the Treasurer's report. The total account is close to \$100,000, with about \$20,000 in the peer review account and about \$80,000 in the general fund. The annual income is about \$30,000 per year, plus interest. The DWR, CCWD, and MET have given special funds for some services.

4. It was moved and seconded to allow the Steering Committee to approve the annual budget, because the general membership was not at the meetings when that was done. This passed unanimously. Rich Satkowski also asked for nominations from the floor for 1998 officers. The following were nominated and unanimously elected: Convener - Richard Denton; Vice-Convener - Spreck Rosekrans; Treasurer - Margaret Johnston; Secretary - George Nichol; Past-Convener - Jay Lund.

5. Steering Committee representatives were also selected, as follows:

Universities - Sam Bledsoe, Nigel Quinn
Environmental Organizations - Wim Kimmerer, Spreck Rosekrans, Peter Vorster
Consultants - Robert Alobot (?), Peter Baker
Water Use Agencies - Judy Garland (EBMUD), CCWD, Marco ^{Bell} (CALFED)
Other - Rich Satkowski

6. It was mentioned that the Hugo Fisher Award would not be given out this year because while several outstanding candidates were nominated, the models which they are developing have not been in use long enough to judge their final outcome.

VIII. NEW ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOP IDEAS

1. Nigel invited any criticisms of past workshops. He said he is interested in getting the word out to the biological community about the workshops, and to get their involvement.

2. Suggested Workshops:

- Optimization of Models (Jay, Lenore Thomas)
- BMP's for Environmental Water Use (Dwight Russell)
- Delta and Riparian Evapotranspiration (Peter Vorster)
- Information Transfer in the Regulatory Process (permitting processes, information flow, how to use information in the regulatory process (SWRCB, EPA)
- CALFED EIR/EIS Process
- Statistics and Modeling (Bruce Herbold)
- New Approaches for Sharing the Water (Spreck)
- Biological Modeling from a System Perspective Rather Than the Individual Species Perspective
- One Day Workshop on DWRSIM II Overview
- Training Session on Biological Models (especially those used by CFG)
- Bayesian (?) Statistics
- Biological Uptake of Toxic Substances

3. Nigel mentioned that the workshop session chairs should ask their participants what workshops they would like to see added.