

Approved Dec 4, 2007



San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program  
Hydrology Committee Meeting  
September 11, 2007

**Member/Alternates Present**

Pat Page, Chairman  
Andy Moore for Ray Alvarado  
Ron Bliesner  
Rick Cox  
Aaron Chavez for Randy Kirkpatrick  
Steve Cullinan  
Earl Dixon for John Leeper  
Dave Frick  
Bill Miller  
John Simons  
Pat Turney  
Brian Westfall  
John Whipple  
Steve Harris

**Not in attendance**

Mike Hammon  
Randy Seaholm  
Chuck Lawler  
Dale Wirth  
Jeff Cole

**Program Management**

Sharon Whitmore

Joann Perea-Richmann

Anne Davis

**Other Interested Parties**

Dave King  
Brent Uilenberg

**Representing**

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Keller-Bliesner Engineering (BIA)  
Water Development  
Water Development  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2  
Navajo Nation  
Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
State of New Mexico  
U.S. bureau of Indian Affairs  
State of New Mexico  
Water Development

Jicarilla Apache Nation  
State of Colorado  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
Navajo Nation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Region 2  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Region 2  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
Region 2

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

**1. Introductions and review and approval of agenda items**

- ❖ Add discussion of Tom Pitts memo dated 7-10-07
- ❖ Add U.S. Bureau of Reclamation letter on Model Issues

**2. Review and Approval of April 17, 2007 Meeting Summary**

- ❖ Approved with changes

**3. Review and Approval of June 12, 2007 Meeting Summary**

- ❖ Not approved – still working on some issues will be circulated to HC once they have been completed. Reviewed Program meeting procedures (page 32 of Program document) which states minutes will be finalized by the committees within four weeks of meetings.

**4. Review of Action Item Log**

- ❖ See attached log

**5. Budget and Status Report**

- ❖ Dave King reported that there was some acreage question from New Mexico's data that needed clarification; data has been received and they are in the process of updating it. There is still other data from 2005 that needs to be updated and were trying to make modifications to use Gen III for a run, but with it not being updated, they decided not to make the run.
- ❖ Reclamation reported that approximately \$16,000 of the FY2007 funds would not be expended as planned. Reclamation recommended that this money be earmarked for CADSWES (via an existing agreement) for future work on the model. At this time, Reclamation does not have an estimate from CADSWES for the work but committed to getting one from them and providing it to the HC. Reclamation suggested that the funds could go towards 1) pre-paying the SJRIP's portion of the CADSWES service agreement for general tech support in FY2008 (\$5,000), and 2) modifying RiverWare as per their long-term recommendations F3 to add the ability to incorporate soil moisture and implement ability to compute return flow-based incidental losses as an engineering method. The emphasized that as the end of the Fiscal Year approaches, time is of the essence. So, while the committee was not convinced at this time that the work proposed by Reclamation in #2 to improve the San Juan Basin Hydrology Model was appropriate, a motion was made and seconded to allow Reclamation to earmark the \$16,000 for this type of work with the understanding that the specifics of the work would still need to be worked out with the committee (including CADSWES providing a cost estimate for the work) prior to implementing.

A motion to hold the surplus funds for CADSWES as a placeholder was made by Rick Cox and seconded by Ron Bliesner. A vote was taken and the results were as follows:

Yes: Reclamation, BIA, Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Fish & Wildlife Service, New Mexico, Water Development NM (1/2)

No vote but present: Southern Ute Tribe made no vote until he talked to his Coordination Committee representative. He emphasized a need for prior notification of budget issues that would require this type of decision.

Not present: State of Colorado, ~~Navajo Nation~~, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management were not on the call to vote

Action: Pat Page will send out appropriate information to those not in attendance for their vote.

## **6. Update/Status on Gen3 Model Issues/Analysis and Schedule for Completion**

- ❖ Page indicated that the CC discussed the memo from Tom Pitts dated 7-10-07 and that each CC members is to get together with the representative from the HC and prepare a list of issues and questions.
  - Each list is to be sent to the Program Office via the CC representative by October 1, 2007.
  - The Program Office is to compile the issues and concerns and provide to the CC.
  - The CC will discuss during their October 29, 2007, conference call.
- ❖ Steve Harris asked if Gen III can be run if and when the CC directs the HC to run it without revised flow recommendations. Gen. III can be run now but the current flow recommendations cannot be met. King stated that baseline depletions between Gen III and Gen II are much different especially for CO.
- ❖ Page asked HC members once again to give their list of concerns to their CC representative. Issues fall into different categories and should be resolved by the appropriate entity. The group discussed examples. Technical issues such as methodology should be resolved by the HC, baseline data usage is a State issue, and policy issues such as the Service's use of model information for section 7 is not a HC issue. After the CC's works the issues through their process, the HC will have further discussions on the issues at the meeting in December.
- ❖ In response to a request for each states depletions in the model, Page indicated he will send updated information. He said it is also available from the website if you have Riverware decompression software.

## **7. Long Term Model O&M (memo is provided)**

- ❖ Page stated that the Bureau will continue to maintain the model. He explained that the draft memo from the Bureau to the Service outlines each agency's roles and responsibilities regarding the model. The CC suggested making the verbiage describing Program decision-making processes in Items #7 and #8 track with the actual verbiage on these processes in Program documents.. He indicated they was not looking for approval from the HC but was open to any comments/input. Rick Cox asked if the FWS will have the technical expertise to maintain this. Sharon Whitmore indicated there have been no decisions made on this yet.
- ❖ Pat stated the John Simons will be retiring next June and that his replacement will be shadowing him beginning part-time in October and then fulltime in January to work on the model. There is no official word on when David King will be retiring.

## **8. Hydrologic Conditions Discussion**

- ❖ Conditions are more on the dryer side than wetter.

## **9. Navajo Reservoir Operations**

- ❖ Fall release in late Oct – Nov to get to the 6000-6500 cfs ft range
- ❖ 5-day release @ 5,000 cfs
- ❖ Fish stocking will take place Nov 7 & 14

## **10. New Projects – Update from HC Members on any new projects on the horizon**

- ❖ None to report

## **11. Review new action items**

- ❖ Please see attached action item list t

**12. Other items of discussion continued from item #6**

- ❖ Regarding the memo dated June 2006 sent from Keller-Bliesner addressing concerns about baseline information and differences between Gen II and Gen III, has anything changed in the model since then?
  - King stated that in Dec 2006 they ran across some discrepancies with the CO depletions; above the San Juan Chama a couple adjustments were made at that time.

**Next Meeting:**

December 4, 2007, Farmington Civic Center, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**12. Adjourn**

HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM LOG  
(Updated September 12, 2007)

139	Committee will report any new projects which will be coming up. <i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Origination Date</i> 5-18-04	Hydrology Committee <i>Responsible Party</i>	Ongoing <i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
4	Add model runs and other information to the permanent hydrology website: <a href="http://uc.usbr.gov">http://uc.usbr.gov</a>	7/25/01	Erik Knight	Ongoing		
5	Model modification briefings.	7/25/01	Reclamation	Ongoing		
12	Any new data or methods incorporated into RiverWare or State Mod will be shared with the Hydrology Committee.	7/25/01	Reclamation	Ongoing		
34	Gage error analysis discussion: the Hydrology Committee still needs to determine whether big losses are due to daily deaggregation. The Committee has the option to re-evaluate losses once the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Generation model is complete. HC decided to live with gage error.	11/27/01	Reclamation	Ongoing	Postponed until StateMod analysis is completed	
105	USGS agreed to give a presentation annually to the Hydrology Committee regarding the effectiveness of the gage readings.	8/5/03	USGS	June 13, 2006	Annually	
136	Coordinate documentation for depletion differences for Gen 2 & Gen 3	5-18-04	Ron Bliesner & Dave King	Completed		6-12-07

HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM LOG  
(Updated September 12, 2007)

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Originatio n Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
140	Follow-up on (USGS) gage at Archuleta right-of-way	5-18-04	Pat Page	Pending		
141	Budget Report to include foot notes with explanation of expenditures.	11-9-05	Pat Page, Dave King and (HC comments)	Ongoing		
143	Ron will send Firm Yield Study 1989 Addendum and the model comparison results table to NM and CO on concerns with Gen3 .	09-12-06	Ron Bliesner	Ongoing		
144	BoR will work with NM and CO on their concerns with G3.	09-12-06	Pat Page/John Whipple & Ray Alvarado	Ongoing		
145	CO to provide John Whipple with the statistical relations for regressions to get the natural flows for the period outside of records for diversion points in Gen3	09-12-06	Ray Alvarado	Pending		
146	John Whipple requested historic and base line depletions	12-5-06	Ray Alvarado	Pending		
147	John Whipple requested that Generation II be run with Navajo Gallup project plus a block of 50,000 ac feet. Ron stated this was completed and in the table.	12-5-06	Keller-Bliesner	Completed		01-03-07
149	SJ Chama historic baseline depletion data will be requested from Eric Wilson in Colorado (done 6-13-07). <a href="#">Ray Alvarado will compile finding and forward to HC.</a>	06-12-07	Ray Alvarado	Pending 2 <sup>nd</sup> half		

HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM LOG  
(Updated September 12, 2007)

	<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Meeting/ Originatio n Date</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Revised Date</i>	<i>Date Completed</i>
150	Reported findings for San Juan Chama & methodologies provided to BoR. NOTE: NM prepared analysis to SJ Chama provided it to BoR for comments. Still waiting to hear from Albuquerque area office.	July 07	John Whipple	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> half		
151	Provide existing baseline data to HC, will forward updated data to include SJ Chama once the 2005 information has been incorporated	9-11-07	Dave King	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> half	9-14-07	
152	Send Tom Pitts memo regarding Model concerns	9-11-07	Pat Page	Completed		9-11-07
153	Email will go out to the HC to address a vote of putting a place holder on \$16,000 of 2007 funds to go to CADSWES for RiverWare	9-11-07	Pat Page	Completed		9-12-07
154	HC members and CC counterparts will discuss Tom Pitt's memo dated 7-10-07 and provide hydrology model issues/questions to Program Office to compile. CC will discuss during Oct. 22, 2007, conference call.	9-11-07	HC/CC/FWS	10-1-07		
155	Need to request cost estimates from CADSWES for further work, then forward to HC list serve	9-11-07	Dave King	11-15-07		
156	Provide a memo addressing the issues with the model in which the CC had concerns with, resulting from Tom Pitts memo dated 7-10-07	9-11-07	Reclamation	11-15-07		

Mr. David Campbell  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2105 Osuna NE  
Albuquerque NM 87113

Subject: San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program Hydrology Model

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The purpose of this letter is to document our understanding of the agreements reached in our meeting of June 19, 2007, and to further define Reclamation's current and future role in developing, maintaining and operating the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) Hydrology Model (Model). It is our intent that the following conditions be established and implemented:

- 1) Reclamation will continue its role in developing Generation 3 of the Model. Reclamation will cooperate with SJRIP participants in, but not assume sole responsibility for the development of any future Generations of the Model.
- 2) With Fish and Wildlife Service, Reclamation will Co-Chair the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program Hydrology Committee (HC).
- 3) The Program Directors Office will participate in each regularly scheduled meeting of the HC.
- 4) The Program Directors Office will provide administrative support to the HC. Support will include scheduling meetings, making arrangements for meeting locations and preparation and distribution of meeting summaries.
- 5) The HC decision making process will conform to the Program Document, i.e. two thirds majority vote.
- 6) Major decisions of the HC will be brought to a vote with the results documented in meeting summaries.
- 7) Dissenting opinions regarding the decisions of the HC will be brought to the Coordination Committee for resolution. If these issues cannot be resolved by the Coordination Committee the issues will be resolved via process defined in the Program Document. Reclamation will not be the arbiter for issues related to development of the Model or Model results.
- 8) All requests for Model runs will be in writing and directed to the attention of the Coordination Committee for consideration of action. The Program Director will direct Reclamation to proceed with Model runs. The results of the Model runs will be distributed by the Program Director to all Coordination Committee members.

- 9) Following successful development of Generation 3 of the Model, the Fish and Wildlife Service will provide a qualified staff person to assist Reclamation in maintaining and operating the Model in order to make informed decisions regarding Model development and Model results. San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program base funding will be provided to fund this position. Funding will be proportional to the amount of time required to assist in the operation and maintenance of the Model.
- 10) Fish and Wildlife Service will issue a letter clarifying how the Model will be used in conducting Section 7 consultations on projects depleting water in the San Juan River basin.
- 11) The Fish and Wildlife Service and Reclamation agree to communicate and cooperate to effectively discharge the responsibilities of the HC.

We appreciate your cooperation in clarifying our respective roles in the best interest of our agencies and the Program. Please advise if you do not concur with the above described conditions.

Sincerely,

Brent R. Uilenberg  
Technical Services Division Manager