

**SVRP Hydrologic Project  
Technical Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 20, 2004  
Post Falls, Idaho**

Attendees:

Dr. Dale Ralston  
Bryony Stasney  
Stan Miller  
John Covert  
Lloyd Brewer  
Dale Marcy  
Bob Haynes  
Sue Kahle  
Mark Savoca  
Guy Gregory  
Helen Harrington

Minutes

Introductions and housekeeping issues were discussed. Committee members will take turns taking minutes. Draft minutes will be circulated to attendees for additions, corrections and editing before the final minutes are approved for the record.

Mark Savoca suggested two roles for the TAC:

- 1) Reactive: Other study groups will present documents and look to TAC for substantive suggestions;
- 2) Proactive: Other study workers will solicit guidance from TAC to gain better understanding of a specific aspect of the study.

The committee discussed this proposed roles and agreed they were worthwhile roles for the TAC. The committee discussed how to fulfill those roles and the difficulties in being proactive if the TAC isn't aware of the activities of the other groups. Bryony suggested a chat room be developed that would provide TAC and other groups the opportunity for workers to have ongoing discussions open to everyone. The TAC felt the key to being proactive would be to have a forum to discuss things. Also, a chat room format would help with the transparency of the process.

**ACTION ITEM:** TAC will propose to the MAC that mechanisms be put in place to allow the TAC to fulfill their role. Specifically, the TAC will propose that a chat room be established. Mark, John and Bryony volunteered to develop a draft

proposal. Mark will draft up a document and distribute to John and Bryony for review.

The discussion expanded into a discussion about the availability of data, draft reports and accessibility of GIS data. Issues brought up included a concern about the chat room being readable, but not writable, by the public.

Mark Savoca and Guy Gregory discussed the structure of the project. Guy presented a diagram of the interaction and relationships among the study groups. A representation of the diagram is attached. The TAC members discussed their role from the external perspective. There is an attitude that some external groups look to the TAC to ensure that study is scientifically sound.

Mark discussed the status of the FY04 Work Plan. Current activities include:

- 1) Compiling and reviewing existing data;
- 2) Field Work:
  - a. Ongoing monitoring of monthly wells and 8-10 wells have been instrumented with continuous recorders;
  - b. Synoptic measurements will be made on approx. 300 wells during week of September 12;
  - c. Seepage runs will be done in early September to identify gaining and losing reaching of the Spokane River.

**ACTION ITEM:** Sue requested that TAC members review the bibliography. She asked that references be added to it as well as copies of the documents be provided for any listed that aren't shown as having a copy in the USGS archive.

Helen discussed the upcoming coordination teleconference between the modeling and data teams. The modeling team had an initial meeting on August 10 and the data team will discuss the data currently available and what additional information data team should compile.

Bob led a discussion about the modeling team and basis for the structure. The reason for the modeling team was because WADOE and IDWR are water management agencies, and the project is not for the purposes of division of water. However, at least in the case of IDWR, models have been a tool to help make management decisions in politically sensitive areas. USGS is experienced in facilitating development of scientifically defensible and accurate tools. USGS will document and illustrate the performance of the model; the agencies will determine the ultimate use of the model for management decisions. The project is not intended to produce model scenarios to evaluate management options.

Additional discussion about organizational structure developed regarding the need for the various teams and committees to provide useful input earlier rather than later in the process. Specifically, it will be critical that the TAC provide

scrutiny of the proposed activities and ensure that the key questions that need to be answered will be proposed. The final product must be rigorous and robust.

TAC suggested that the modelers contact previous modelers to obtain honest, detailed discussions about the limitations of the existing models. TAC suggested that one-on-one would be the most effective method to have an open, candid exchange.

Mark discussed the plan for publication of reports. The MAC has also addressed this issue. Dale Ralston discussed the need to have some kind of interim publication route to get reports out in a timely manner. It is anticipated that there will be a parallel review by the signatory agencies. The plan is that the Peer Review Team (PRT) will review activities quarterly so there won't be any surprises. Devin Galloway, USGS, has been tasked to overcome the delays that have occurred with USGS in the past.

Avista is planning on opening the Post Falls dam gates on September 7, and they are bleeding off the lake slower than normal. The timing on this will determine the upcoming seepage run measurements. As an aside, someone mentioned that Avista might have some temperature data that might be useful.

Vacarro has been doing thermal profiles using a thermister trolling behind a boat. This method may be useful to the project to develop links between temperature and ground water inflow to delineate surface-groundwater exchange.

Stan mentioned that he doesn't believe that the distribution of ground water recharge is equal throughout the reach between flora and Myrtle Point. There needs to be an identification of the areas of significant contribution; thermal profiling may be useful to gain information about the Green Street area.

Regarding current funding, the \$500,000 received for the first year must be spent by September 30, 2004. The \$80,000 contribution from WADOE can be carried over into the next fiscal year.

Regarding future funding, Congress has earmarked \$500,000 for FY05 to continue SVRP study. The states are pursuing EPA grants of \$500,000 each through the chambers of commerce and local entities. EPA has earmarked these amounts in their budget, but the final outcome is not determined. The FY05 budget is based on a budget of \$1.5 million for FY05 (\$500,000 USGS and \$500,000 from each state from EPA). All work tasks in FY05 are in direct support of the model: data collection and model construction.

**ACTION ITEM:** TAC needs to review and submit comments about the FY05 Work Plan to Mark. Review for omissions or modifications.

A recommendation was made that a one-day session be planned for the TAC to hold a detailed discussion of the basin hydrology. The purpose would be to help pinpoint the questions and data needs. TAC members should consider their professional contacts and who might be useful to invite. It was also suggested that a separate gathering be considered for the discussion and bringing together of geophysical knowledge and needs. These sessions would help the TAC provide guidance to the modeling team. The TAC decided that the next meeting would focus on a conceptual geohydrologic framework related specifically to the FY05 work tasks. Topics for discussion should help to tighten up the work plan.

The TAC discussed future meetings. The preference is for face-to-face meetings. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at the Washington DOE office in Spokane.