

Model Run Subcommittee Meeting Notes  
2/27/2018

Attendees: Mark Davidson, Keri York, Carl Pendelton, Jim Phillips, Greg Loomis, Pat McMahon, Sharon Lee, Pete VanDerMuelen, Patti Lousen, Brett Stevenson, Justin Stevenson, Peter Anderson, Kira Finkler, Wendy Pabich, Amy Trujillo

Patti opened up the discussion with a question as to whether parties had concerns about sharing data among the group. Sharon Lee indicated that the South Valley Groundwater District has data that they are not necessarily ready to share. She indicated they want to talk with Carl and Rod about their studies before they talk with others in the Collaborative. The group discussed that the goal of the model runs was to develop strategies that would contribute toward the settlement of the water call.

Carl stated he thinks the model runs need to show what the other parties are going to do to establish a minimum flow at Station 10. What wells will be shut off, recharge or fallowing might take place to achieve these goals? The model run needs to show what upper valley users will need to do to get more flow at the gauge.

Mark is hoping the model can inform potential management scenarios that we can implement this year. Can we identify projects or management scenarios that will find 5-10 cfs and start implementing those?

Sharon and Carl wondered whether the timing of the model runs being determined by this committee now was appropriate. Sharon doesn't feel that the model is necessary because the SVGD has already run the data on recharge location and timing and knows where the best place to put extra water is and what the projected outcomes are. Sharon thinks this may be a sequence issue and believes the the four parties (GGWD, SVGWD, BWCC, AFRD2) come up with a settlement and then we can run the models to see how the other parties can supplement.

Other discussion re potential uses for the model:

The group discussed the question of whether Ron Abramovich and the groundwater group can use the model to see whether snow levels can be correlated with aquifer levels. Pete suggested inviting Jim Bartolino from USGS to the next meeting, as he may be able to answer the question about correlation between snow levels and aquifer levels.

Greg Loomis described the kmz file he has prepared that shows measuring wells, pumping wells, flows, cut off dates, etc. He has a spreadsheet that shows snow, monitoring wells, and flows back to the 1960s. We may be able to use that info to create a predictive tool for cutoffs looking at the timing of recharge. Greg thinks running a comprehensive model run next year would give us more usable data because it will include last year's big water year and this year's low water year. Greg will refine his file with Kevin.

The group discussed that it would be good to identify a number above which we are gaining in the aquifer (i.e., the Snake River Plain knows that at levels above 240k acre-feet, recharge > depletion). The group discussed that any long term water management plan will likely need to include limitations on residential growth, possibly a ceiling cap on ground water pumping totals.

**Next meeting:** Keri will talk with Jim Bartolino about attending. Should try to schedule the next meeting before the April 4 WRWC meeting.