

10/31/07

Time Start: 10:04 am

Time Stop: 10:30 am

Teleconference Call:

Work Group 3 ~ Monitor the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users in regional water plans.

Council Participants

Spokesperson Gary Walker (*not present*)

Carole Baker

Ken Petersen

Denise Hickey for Jim Parks

C.E. Williams

Wayne Halbert

Donna Howe

TWDB Staff Sitting In

Vanessa Escobar

John Sutton

C.E. Williams called the meeting to order at 10:05am and opened it up for nominations for a spokesperson. Gary Walker was selected and the floor was opened for further discussion as to what the charges for this group should entail.

A preliminary question was asked on how to go about monitoring the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users in the regional water planning groups. John Sutton shared that to some extent the TWDB is gathering information through the Regional Water Planning Groups, however, in the past the hard part was the staffing limitations that doesn't enable the data that is available, to be used well. When it comes to looking at strategies utilized in the conservation plans that is where some of the time or staffing limitations have an effect. However, the TWDB is currently in the hiring process for a staff position that will help with data and information that the council might need.

A suggestion was made that one of the first things that needs to be done is look at the 2001 regional water plans and the 2006 regional water plans and analyze the data by water user groups to see who utilizes conservation as a strategy and then be able to start doing some outreach with implementation. Further down the road when the annual water conservation plan reports start coming in, from the entities required to develop conservation plans, it will help us to look at implementation better. Until then, outreach and surveying would be the best option.

An observation was made that the way the task reads when it says "monitor the implementation of conservation strategies", seems to mean gauging how many groups are implementing a conservation strategy and at what level. A separate task compliments that in finding ways that success can be shared. The implication is that you need to report that you're doing something and we have to know the results.

The question was asked if the TWDB was working on rules regarding loans where priority is given to those who have conservation plans and actually achieve some level of conservation as in results can be measured. TWDB response was that the rules have already been drafted and are open for public comment, however, it is not a stipulation but is intended to give priority to those who have conservation plans.

In general, most results or numbers on conservation strategies are not being reported, except for those who have loans. So as far as tracking the implementation, there doesn't seem to be

much out there. Somehow it needs to be possible to substantiate what improvements are being made.

Although the TWDB has new staff that may be able to assist with this task in gathering information, it is easier to obtain that information from entities that already have plans. Right now there is a big gap between water user groups who have water conservation plans and those who state they will be utilizing conservation, and are not the same people. Other than going back to the regional water plans, there is no other real documentation available. At the same time there are many more industrial municipal and agricultural water user groups who are not required to have water conservation plans.

One thing that might be useful is if the TWDB could pull together a single document of a listing of all the conservation strategies that have been identified in all the regional water plans. In some form the TWDB has that information in the regional water planning data base. Though the planning groups put that information in writing, they don't have a way to see if that is what is being done.

This council can help obtain that information because they may have a lot more reach than what individual regional water planning groups can probably do. This work has to look at how we can be a liaison to get this particular information to the TWDB effectively so that it can be evaluated.

A good question to use in guiding this work groups is "Where do we want to be at this time next year? And how do we want to get there?"

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Immediate Actions	Long Term Actions
Before next council meeting or conference call the TWDB will pull together a single document listing of all the conservation strategies that have been identified in all the regional water plans.	Conference calls will take place once a month.