Summary of Minutes
Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Meeting and Conference Call
Workgroup: Municipal & Water Loss

Date: February 16, 2022
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

Members	**Alternates**	**Interested Parties**	**TWDB Staff**
Karen Guz	Allen Berthold	Alison Sunderhaft	Temple McKinnon
Jennifer Walker	Erika Mancha	Christopher Charles	John Sutton
Anai Padilla	Paula Paciorek	Dan Strub	Katie Dahlberg
Jennifer Allis		Jennifer Nations	Daniel Rice
Leah Martinsson		Joanne Robles	Mark Mathis
		Malcolm Laing	Travis Brice
		Patrick Shriver	
		Perry Fowler	

Documents can be found at: www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/municipal.html

Municipal:

I.   Introduction of Participants
        The meeting began at 11:01 a.m.

II.   Discussion on Potential Recommendations for inclusion in the 2022 Legislative Report
        Karen Guz began discussion with a recap of previous topics the workgroup planned to
        discuss.

        The topics include:
        • AMI (Automatic Metering Infrastructure)
        • Land Use Planning
        • Targets & Goals

        One new topic to discuss would be Drought and Drought Response.

III.   Discussion on Updates to the 2022 Legislative Report

        Targets & Goals:
        Karen Guz opened the floor for any thoughts on Municipal Targets & Goals.

        Paula Paciorek noted that the Texas Living Waters Conservation Scorecard utilizes 125
        GPCD for its goal.

It was noted that there is a potential complication with using the Total GPCD, as it includes Industrial and Commercial sources.

Jennifer Walker noted that 125 GPCD was considered by the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force (2004) but that the Task Force ultimately used the 140 GPCD metric. There was a minority report filed advocating for 125 GPCD as part of the final WCITF 2004 report. The Texas Water Conservation Scorecard uses the 125 GPCD metric as many utilities have surpassed the 140 GPCD.

Jennifer Walker noted that providing a "recommended" total GPCD metric would be useful to the Regional Water Planning process. She noted that planning groups are charged with developing water conservation strategies and that they frequently use the metric developed and recommended in the 2004 WCTIF report. It was noted that there are differences in how GPCD is calculated between the Regional Water Planning process and the Conservation targets and goals. It was also noted that Residential GPCD is self-reported and can be mis-represented if a utility uses its total population rather than its residential population in the calculation.

The idea of a weather sensitivity variance was brought up as the weather can have a major impact on a utility's GPCD, especially if a single GPCD is used across the state.

Paula Paciorek noted that this issue is very complicated with multiple factors. There needs to be a number that is attainable but will keep moving conservation forward.

AMI:

It was noted a recent study discovered 40% of utilities using AMI are presenting data to customers or using the data to educate its customers.

Given the potential to aid in water loss efforts, it was noted that AMI could be a great topic for the Municipal workgroup to collaborate with the Water Loss workgroup.

Anai Padilla stated that El Paso is currently installing AMI while changing their customer support software.

Houston is also currently upgrading to AMI. Currently, about 45% of their residential population has been upgraded.

The topic then moved to developing a BMP centered around AMI. One participant noted while AMI can be very useful, it can also be expensive and could lead to some utilities paying for something without getting the most value out of it.

Another participant noted having AMI has allowed them to target customers for specific programs as well as begin engaging with their customers.

It was agreed to follow up on AMI at the next workgroup meeting.

IV.   Other Discussion
        No other discussion was held

V.   Adjourn
        The meeting ended at 11:52 a.m.

Water Loss: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

I.   Introduction of Participants
        The meeting began at 12:02 p.m.

        Jennifer Walker began the meeting by reviewing the topics that were discussed at the
        last meeting:
        • Water Loss Metrics
        • Water Loss Validation
        • Guidance on Winter Storm Uri.

II.   Discussion on potential recommendations for inclusion in the 2022 Legislative Report:
        Jennifer Walker noted that the previous WCAC report included a recommendation for
        Level 1 Validation. TWDB is currently completing a pilot. A recommendation could be
        drafted to expand upon the pilot.

III.   Discussion on Updates to the 2022 Legislative Report:
        Metrics for Water Loss:
        It was noted that while water loss expressed as a percentage has been removed from
        the Water Loss Audit, it still exists in the Conservation Annual Report. TWDB Staff
        noted that this will be removed soon based on the availability of TWDB's IT
        department.

        Alternative Metrics –
        Discussion then began on 'replacements' for water loss percentage. It was noted that
        'replacements' is not the proper term as other Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have
        been used and are recommended by AWWA.

        A question was asked if the Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) is also being phased out.
        A participant noted that while ILI is not going away, it is not as universal as it was once
        thought to be and does not work well for smaller systems.

        Gallons per connection per day is becoming a more common metric.

        Action Item: The WCAC should include a brief primer on metrics (including definitions)
        related to Water Loss that are important to understand utility system health and
        reliability.

Winter Storm Uri:
The next topic discussed was whether the group should develop guidance on accounting for water lost during Winter Storm Uri. Based on accounts from others, it appears that the effect of the storm on water loss metrics has not been as severe as originally thought.

Representatives from SAWS and Austin Water noted that given the context of the situation, there has not been a large disparity in water loss due to Winter Storm Uri.

AMI & Water Loss:
A question was asked if AMI would negate the need for a devices like Flume. Karen Guz noted that while AMI provides a utility advantages and the opportunity to engage with customers, devices like Flume provide readings at smaller increments of time and provide meaningful insight to customers. Flume's efforts with machine learning and disaggregation of data have been very helpful in understanding residential water use.

Patrick Shriver noted that AMI is a great tool and can be used to meet all kinds of utility goals. A utility may choose to use AMI to focus in on programs aimed at conservation potential, water loss mitigation potential, or customer engagement. Patrick also noted that AMI is a big opportunity for apparent water loss intervention.

It was discussed that AMI may be a great technology to highlight in the legislative report as well as develop a BMP for the technology. It was mentioned that better data leads to better communication.

Action Item: Dan Strub volunteered to take the lead on mapping out a BMP related to AMI.

Water Loss Validation Study:
Jennifer Walker asked TWDB Conservation Staff about the completion of the Texas Water Loss Validation Study. TWDB Staff noted that the final version of the consultant's report should be posted soon and that the recommendations included in the report come from the consultants. TWDB Staff plan to provide a presentation to the board to discuss the report and to present staff recommendation for what an enhanced program may look like. This presentation will happen at a Work Session in late March.

A follow up question was asked as to what would be needed to expand TWDB's Water Loss program. TWDB Staff noted that additional staff and resources would be needed to expand the program.

Proposed Items for the next meeting:
• Review of TWDB's 3/30 work session regarding the Water Loss Validation Study and staff recommendations
• AMI BMP - Dan Strub will come back to the Work Group with a proposed outline
• Updates to WCAC Legislative Report

- Next meeting will be scheduled for Mid-April

IV. Adjourn
The meeting was ended at 1:04 p.m.