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

Date: April 8, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

Members	**Alternates**	**Interested Parties**	**TWDB Staff**
Karen Guz	Jennifer Walker	Paula Paciorek	John Sutton
Aubrey Spear		Dan Strub	Daniel Rice
Anai Padilla		Jennifer Nations	Shae Luther
Jennifer Allis		Molly Ballesteros	Travis Brice
		Patrick Shriver	Mark Mathis
		Christopher Charles	Katie Dahlberg
			Josh Sendejar

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

Municipal: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

I. Introduction of Participants
The meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

II. Discussion & Refinement of Workgroup Initiatives & Activities for 2021
The Municipal Workgroup had identified the following initiatives for 2021:

1. AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure): part of the Council's charge to Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion in the best management practices guide. This initiative would focus on monitoring what is happening across the state, who is undertaking the shift to AMI, and how far along they are.

It was noted that AWWA is currently funding a project to look at best practices for education with AMI.

Karen Guz noted that she envisions a survey on how AMI is used throughout the state, including customer communication, leveraging the data, and results of the switch. Others noted that both AMI and AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) should be included within the survey.

2. Rainwater Harvesting/Alternative Water Sources:

Karen Guz began discussion by stating that Rainwater Harvesting will become increasingly important, but may not require further discussion at this time.

Austin Water staff noted they have seen applications for larger systems within their rebate program. It was also noted that larger systems became problematic in their cities due to back-flow prevention rules. The City of Austin was able to circumvent this by utilizing systems under 500 gallons without a pump.

The group generally agreed that while rain barrels conserve water, larger rainwater systems are where significant impacts can be made.

Anai Padilla noted that in El Paso there appears to be a focus on green infrastructure, such as rain gardens in construction projects.

3. Target and Goals:

It was noted that many systems are able to achieve a lower GPCD than 140 based on reporting.

Karen Guz noted that it may be worth gathering information to discuss at a future meeting as it seemed that there is uncertainty on what is possible, especially with those outside the realm of water efficiency.

The idea was brought up perhaps utilizing Residential GPCD, rather than Total GPCD. Jennifer Walker noted that Total GPCD is what is utilized in the Regional Water Planning process.

It was also discussed that data from Flume has been shown to be able to discern indoor and outdoor water use, which could provide a larger analysis across the country, although the data is skewed toward higher income households. Karen Guz will review the data from Flume for San Antonio and see if a presentation is appropriate.

4. Water Planning, Urban Planning, and Land Use:

Jennifer Walker noted that it is worth spending time on this issue, although next steps may not be determined as of yet.

Several individuals brought up the idea of having Kevin Kluge give a presentation on this topic.

5. Water Use and Long-term Planning:

TWDB Staff noted that the Averitt report, published by TWDB could be useful in this effort.

III. Adjourn

Water Loss: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

I. Introduction of Participants
The meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

II. Discussion & Refinement of Workgroup Initiatives & Activities for 2021
The Water Loss Workgroup had previously identified the follow initiatives for 2021:

1. Metrics: Metrics used in water loss and communicating them to have meaningful conversations.

The discussion began with the question what metrics make sense to use when talking about water loss? It was noted that percentage is problematic but easy to use. The Regional Water Planning Group is using this metric in Region H and is currently used in The Living Water Project's Water Conservation Scorecard.

It was noted that TWDB has removed water loss percentage from the Water Loss Audit, brining TWDB standards in line with those of AWWA, which no longer supports any form of water loss percentage indicators per their 2019 report, Key Performance Indicators for Non-Revenue Water.

Paula Paciorek stated that a replacement for percentage is needed, new metrics need to be developed and supported.

Patrick Shriver suggested a 2-tier system, noting that many utilities cannot be measured for ILI (Infrastructure Leakage Index). He also suggested data validity scoring to be the primary tier.

Potential Follow-Up for the WCAC discussed:
- How to express Water Loss for large and small utilities?
- What metrics make sense?
- How do we make those metrics clear to the public?

2. Communication: Communicating the importance of the issues pertaining to water loss to the general public and other audiences.

3. Validation: Continuing the conversation around validation, including efforts currently being undertaken at TWDB.

4. Differences in reporting: An update to AWWA's water loss reporting form will result in further differences from TWDB's form.

Patrick Shriver noted the main difference is their appearance. TWDB takes a bottom-up approach with the data while AWWA looks from the top-down.

TWDB Staff will put together a side-by-side comparison of both forms.

5. Winter Storm Uri & Water Loss Metrics – Customer Consumption Data

Discussion included how best to account for water that was lost through pipe bursts, how to categorize this loss, and what impacts these losses may have on customer consumption data.

It was noted that SAWS adjusted customer bills to provide relief to consumers, a total of about 5,800 acre-feet has been adjusted from customer bills.

Aubrey Spear noted that the City of Lubbock has a process in place where customers can apply to protest high water bills, which makes it easier to track and account for water leaks and losses.

It was also noted that there will undoubtedly be some issues with irrigation systems, as the weather warms those issues will be revealed.

The discussion then turned to should the WCAC develop language regarding water losses during Winter Storm Uri. TWDB Staff noted that utilities are asking how best to account for this now, even though the data will not be recorded until next year's audit, due May 2022. It would make sense for the WCAC and TWDB to work together to develop guidance sooner rather than later.

The workgroup decided to form a committee focusing on developing guidance for accounting for water losses related to Winter Storm Uri. This committee will consist of: Jennifer Walker, Patrick Shriver, Dan Strub, Mark Mathis, Daniel Rice, as well as a representative from TAWWA's Utility Committee.

The committee will develop language that:

- States the problem
- Guidance on how to address it

III. Adjourn