

Water Resources Planning and Information Meeting Report

- 1. Purpose of meeting:** To discuss tracking gpcd gpcd metrics by water providers and population metrics and methodology
- 2. Date and location of meeting:** May 30, 2008
- 3. TWDB staff in attendance:** Laila Johnson, Kevin Kluge, John Sutton
- 4. Senators/Representatives/other VIPs in attendance:** Dr. Karl Eschbach, State Demographer
- 5. Who was in attendance (non-TWDB staff):** Sheila Dierking (State Demographer's Office), Elliott Fry (SAWS), Karen Guz (SAWS), Ken Kramer (Lone Star Chapter-Sierra Club), Gene Montgomery (Oxy Permian), Juan Soulas (SAWS)
- 6. Meeting report filed by:** Laila Johnson (based on agenda by Karen Guz)
- 7. Date of meeting report filing:** June 4, 2008
- 8. Meeting report location and filename:** S:\WRPI\Meeting Reports\Water Resources Planning\Water Planning Research and Analysis\Water Uses Survey\Population Metrics Discussion 053008
- 9. Agenda/Outcomes/Comments:**

I. Introductions

- Karen Guz gave an overview of the Water Conservation Advisory Council and its charge, as well as reviewing what Work Group 2 is focusing on and trying to achieve
- Dr. Karl Eschbach reminded the group that the Texas State Data Center (TSDC) will be doing county population projections this cycle

II. Reason for Meeting: The Water Conservation Advisory Council has agreed that it would be desirable for the TWDB to be able to track gpcd metrics by water providers.

III. Why this is desirable:

- The gpcd metric is currently the primary metric by which progress in conservation efforts is tracked in communities. While other metrics will be developed, this one has been high profile.
- Water conservation programs are funded and implemented by water providers.

- Conservation progress is being ranked as one measure that could influence a community's ability to get water resource funding in the future. This makes it important that tracking be accurate.
- Because available population numbers do not match water provider service lines, gpcd is not measured or reported that way by the TWDB at this time.
- This means that there is a disconnect between those planning and implementing programs and the tool being used to track their progress.
- One of the barriers to correcting this situation is development of a reasonable way to estimate the population of people within service areas of various water providers.

IV. Questions for Discussion:

- What is a reasonable level of accuracy to expect for this estimation?
- Could we consider a short-term estimate methodology that could be made available for the large urban areas followed by a more accurate methodology once more resources are available?
 - A short term focus on perhaps the five biggest urban areas in Texas- they hopefully already have this information and the necessary capabilities
 - Broader goal is to take the model after pilot testing it on a group of cities and implement it for all of Texas
 - Need to come up with a conceptual model and turn it in to a pilot test
 - Could be helpful to talk to the large urban areas and find out what information and capabilities they already have
 - Need to think about what resources are needed: money? Software? Personnel?
- What resources might the demographer's office have available to assist with this talk?
 - Population estimates and projections for counties and municipalities
 - Formula for estimating population between the census years by using birth and death data, migration information, building permits, DMV vehicle registrations, school enrollment information → partnerships for getting good estimates

- TSDC does not use data that they don't have comprehensive data for the whole state- can often be a problem or people/organizations not sharing data
- State Demographer's Office is willing to work together on this project
- What might the TWDB need to have reasonable population estimates for urban and rural areas in the future?
 - Dr. Eschbach suggested that the TWDB talk with organizations such as the Houston/Galveston area councils because they are ahead of many organizations in their population estimates- they are using a parcel system, pull transportation numbers, and have a solid partnership with communities and utilities
 - Bring in utilities and planning organizations
 - It was suggested that to achieve estimating population by service area and utilizing GIS more, the TWDB would need additional personnel- GIS professional and a data quality person and funding for the development of the process and the programs that will need to be utilized, especially if any software is going to be utilized statewide
- How do estimates differ in rural and urban areas?
 - Comment made that perhaps we need to focus on urban areas because that is where most of the population is
 - Kevin Kluge discussed how non-system population and gpcd area calculated
- Discussion:
 - Need to figure out what level of capabilities smaller utilities have
 - Dr. Eschbach commented that he believes it is more important to tackle resident numbers before trying to get in to commuter population- night versus day population

V. Items to Review

- PowerPoint on how SAWS has previously estimated population in its service area using census data.

VI. Potential Conclusions for the June 25th Report by the WCAC

- Request funding for the project- including development and two additional staff persons for the TWDB

10. Action items:

- get a draft of Work Group 2's recommendations and requests done by June 25, 2008 to submit to the Water Conservation Advisory Council for review, this report needs to be finalized in early fall to be submitted to the Legislature by the end of the year
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