

07/21/08

Time Start: 09:35 am

Time Stop: 10:40 am

Teleconference Call:

Work Group 2 Metrics & Trends

~ Monitor Trends in Water Conservation Implementation & Monitor Target & Goal Guidelines

Council Members , Alternates & Interested Parties

Spokesperson Karen Guz Carole Davis
Greg Carter Amy Hardberger
Karl Fennessey Terry Lowery
Ken Kramer Mary Gugliuzza
Cindy Loeffler
Gene Montgomery
Jim Parks
Comer Tuck
Dan Strub
Denise Hickey
Linda Christie

TWDB Staff

Vanessa Escobar
Aung Hla
John Sutton
Bridget Cameron
Tom Tagliabue
Dan Hardin

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am and roll call was taken. The topic of this conference call was the legislative report. The workgroup wanted to have discussion about the content, they wanted to decide how strongly to word certain things, and have a discussion about key findings/recommendations. A comment was made that language in the report should not really imply any authority but rather a recommendation.

The workgroup discussed Key Finding #4 which was Total Gallons Per Capita per Day (Total GPCD) and its appropriate uses. It was suggested that it needs to be discussed in the definitions section to clarify what it is and what it is not. The Water Conservation Advisory (Council) wants to emphasis what Total GPCD is, why it is not a part of the summary report, and how it should be used as an internal planning tool, and not for statewide reporting comparisons.

It was suggested that in conjunction with the key finding there should be some additional discussion written about how there are disagreements and misuses of the Total GPCD metric. This statement should strongly discourage the use of Total GPCD as a measurement for external comparison. In the key finding or recommendation the Council could further develop the original intent of the Task Force's definition of Total GPCD.

It was suggested that maybe it is appropriate to define Total GPCD but remove the term metric because we do not want it to be used as a metric.

A comment was made that small systems would probably prefer one single metric due to the fact that they don't have large capabilities or the staff to support that data analysis. In those situations where small entities can only provide one number we have

to recognize that Total GPCD would not be the best term because their entire total usage is not all population related. For a while you will have those entities that can break their usage down beyond one number, and you will still have those who can not.

It was suggested that the key findings need to be clear, direct suggestions to the legislature. Although there need to be several questions asked from the water providers in the future, there also needs to be resources available to collect and analyze that data.

It was stated that the Total GPCD topic should remain in the key findings section of the report, because we will be able to highlight that there is a problem with the use of this metric. It would provide insight as to how it was being done in the past, how it needs to be done in the future, and how it will require resources to acquire this essential knowledge. By putting it in key findings the Council is making a very clear statement of its opinion.

If we are going to acknowledge that we need more precise data, then we need to acknowledge that it will require some resources to get that data. Another key finding should list the types of resources needed such as:

- Analyst positions at the TWDB.
- Planner positions at the TWDB.
- Online reporting capabilities.
- Computer Programming equipment, resources, staff.

Three categories of resources might include staffing, hardware, and policy.

It was brought up that some discussion on water loss reporting needs to be included as a key finding. There needs to be discussion as to why the reporting response rate is so low, and list the reasons such as no penalties associated with the statute of reporting, entities are not aware that reports need to be done, entities don't have the resources to respond etc.

Another key finding might be along the lines of a call to action statement to Council members that we network across the industry to educate those in the profession on what is coming out and the resources that will be needed.

It was also stated that another key finding would be a discussion of the population estimation issues and the proposed pilot project. It will also be addressed in the future objectives.

There was some discussion amongst the workgroup that some categories such as commercial, institutional, and public recreational may all be imperfect metrics. A portion of these particular categories may be dependent on population as well as dependent on other factors.

The workgroup had some discussion about using the term Non Revenue - Water Loss versus Unaccounted for/ Water Loss.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Immediate Actions	Long Term Actions
Karen would incorporate the input from today's discussions and create a next version of the legislative report.	