

03/17/09  
Time Start: 2:05 pm  
Time Stop: 2:35 pm

Teleconference Call:

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

**Council Members, Alternates, & Interested Parties**

Gary Walker  
Ken Kramer  
Denise Hickey  
Wilson Scaling  
Linda Christie  
Comer Tuck

**TWDB Staff**

Vanessa Escobar  
Dan Hardin  
Temple McKinnon  
Bridget Cameron

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm and roll call was taken. The group began by giving a refresher on where they left off in the fall of 2008. According to the legislation, the concept of monitoring the implementation of strategies in the regional water plans was a charge assigned to the Council. It was determined by the Council that it should be up to the Council to think about and decide the most feasible approach to carrying out that task, as opposed to trying to have the regional planning groups be responsible for the study.

It was discussed that most of the response letters received from the regional planning groups in the fall of 2008 stated that they were unable to provide certain data or requested information because they did not have the funds to conduct that type of detailed data collection and analysis.

TWDB staff pointed out that there were a few regions that had similar topics as part of their region specific studies the first two years of this current planning cycle. Basically in their findings they found it very difficult to get information regarding implementation by specific water user groups. They also found it difficult to get information on specific water savings per conservation practice. They did gather some general findings regarding what types of practices were being implemented, and how some of water user groups felt about the success of particular strategies.

It was discussed that if the regional planning groups are unable to provide this type of information, then there doesn't really appear to be any more feasible option other than the TWDB. The TWDB would most likely be the best entity to obtain and disseminate this type of information. The only other potential options would be if the regional water planning groups were able to receive funding to conduct this data collection themselves, or if the Council received funding to utilize consultants to do the same.

TWDB staff gave a brief update on the status of the Survey Monkey effort and how it could provide some general level of information. It was pointed out that this survey would be voluntary, and that it is designed so that

Municipalities/Wholesalers/Retailers could fill out one version of the survey as well as regional water planning groups could fill out another version. It was also pointed out that the results would be more qualitative versus quantitative and that some reports could be formulated from the responses.

The question was asked if the TWDB had requested money for this workgroup's particular function of gathering data. It was stated that the TWDB has about \$100,000 a year requested for support of the Council. Initially it was thought that a portion of that would be used for web and resource library development. Currently that funding request is in Article XI of the Legislature's appropriation bill. Other than that, there are not any other types of requests in sight for this particular item.

It was stated that as of right now the best approach is to pursue the Survey Monkey effort. It was suggested that if we can not get a comprehensive overview of what is happening in terms of strategy implementation, then maybe one possibility is to do some "spot checks" of some water user groups in the different regional planning groups. This would provide us with more specific information of savings and implementation levels. It was asked if maybe there could be some limited funding dedicated from the TWDB to use for that purpose. It was also suggested that some organizations outside of the TWDB might be able to pursue the use of interns or graduate students to conduct that informational survey and analysis. If this were the case, then some contact information or minimal assistance would be requested from TWDB.

TWDB Staff suggested that, in particular, the region specific study from Region C might prove useful as a guide to future efforts. Staff will review the report studies when they become available in near future and may then follow up with appropriate regional water planning group consultants.

The conference call adjourned at 2:35 pm.