

Minutes: Municipal Workgroup Meeting (Conference Call)

11/24/15

Time Start: 10:00 am

Time Stop: 11:00 am

Members	Alternates	Interested Parties	TWDB Staff
Karen Guz Donna Howe Ken Kramer	Jennifer Allis Mark Froehlich	Matt Berg Alan Berthold Michael Bloom Chelsea Hawkins Brandon Leister Scott Swanson	Mindy Conyers Shae Luther John Sutton

1. Introductions/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

2. Discussion of Concept

The purpose of this call was to assess the level of interest in forming a "Conservation Program Peer Review Group" which could provide a mechanism to share lessons learned and results achieved during deployment of conservation initiatives. Many utilities are focused on reducing outdoor water consumption through a variety of programs. Other utilities are taking on the challenge of offering conservation programs for customers who are economically disadvantaged. Success at either type of program is not easy. A peer program review group can help Texas water providers achieve water conservation success through a system that encourages sharing what works and what did not among other water professionals. A peer review system could also formalize ways for academic assistance with program review such as through internships or other university partnerships.

The workgroup discussed the possibility of utilizing graduate students, either through internships or dedicated courses on water conservation, to evaluate programs, customer surveys, and related initiatives. Formalizing the benefits of water conservation internships in order to potentially apply for funding to cover the costs of the program was also discussed.

The workgroup felt that adding information on these types of programs to the council's webpage, similar to case studies found elsewhere, might be an appropriate way to share lessons learned and may provide a venue to exchange ideas.

The suggestion was made to consider calling the effort "peer networking" rather than "program evaluation", considering that a goal would be to offer a place for questions to be asked and answered. The workgroup discussed ways to protect anonymity in the postings.

3. Next Steps

Distribute summary to conference call participants and the full council. (*Note: Summary document is posted to the Municipal Workgroup page alongside these minutes at <http://www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/mw/>.*)

Consider expanding the reach of the next discussion by inviting input from the state's three water efficiency networks, the Water Research Foundation, and the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association.

4. Next Conference Call if Interest Exists

To be scheduled for early 2016.

5. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.