

## Minutes: Municipal Workgroup Conference Call

8/1/2013

Time Start: 10:02 am

Time Stop: 10:50 am

<b>Members</b>	<b>Alternates</b>	<b>Interested Parties</b>	<b>TWDB Staff</b>
Karen Guz	Denise Hickey Calvin Finch	Dan Strub Pauline Ward Heather Mahurin Ron Russell Amy Martin	Comer Tuck John Sutton Katherine Thigpen

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am and roll call was taken.

Karen Guz began the meeting by explaining the background on where the Best Management Practices came from and the timeline moving forward. The current plan for the Municipal Workgroup is to edit the Best Management Practices listed below prior to the Water Conservation Advisory Council meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup> so they are ready for Council approval to move on for Texas Water Development Board approval.

The discussion then turned to each current BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE up for editing on the Council website.

### System Water Audit and Water Loss Control

Workgroup was ok with edits that included stylistic and spelling out of abbreviated words. Group agreed that this Best Management Practice was ready to move on.

### Water Waste Prohibitions and Enforcement

There was a discussion on the lack of water savings information in this Best Management Practice. The workgroup felt savings should be added into the Best Management Practice.

There is no one right way to accomplish enforcement. Several ways different communities are doing it is through administrative fees or partnership with law enforcement for citations. A decision was to provide, as an attachment, from San Antonio Water System a brief analysis of the savings achieved through enforcement. Texas Water Development Board staff will work on adding a paragraph that would include some thoughts on the enforcement options.

Recent legislative action allowing enforcement is through Senate Bill 654. Arlington and Austin are two cities which are switching to enforcement by a fee on the utilities bill.

There was a comment by Texas Municipal League who felt that cities already had this authority as long as the fee enforcement was included on the service agreement.

With changes included, this Best Management Practice will be ready to move on to the Council.

#### Residential Clothes Washer Initiative

In the past, this Best Management Practice may have had some real impact for water conservation. Today's discussion on this incentive program was is it now obsolete or is it still useful. The decision was made to still include this Best Management Practice.

#### Conservation Ordinance Planning and Development

Today's discussion centered on having Texas Water Development Board staff reading over this Best Management Practice to make sure all aspects have been covered. Calvin Finch will send information to add into the Best Management Practice.

#### Athletic Fields Conservation

The workgroup discussed the addition of an irrigation scheduler and directions to help someone reading this Best Management Practice set up an irrigation schedule. Because athletic fields have a higher level of stress as compared to residential irrigation, the workgroup felt like examples and research from experts would be helpful. Suggestions included Turf Grass Association, Association of Athletic Fields, Texas A&M University turf specialist. Texas Water Development Board will research to find out if there is information that will help with this information.

Suggestion was made to add one sentence which includes evapotranspiration and acceptable plant stress levels. Also, staff should check the Evapotranspiration Network website that may include information language for this issue.

The workgroup brought up the issue of safety and felt that it was tied to the need for irrigation scheduling. They would like to add that one of the compelling reasons to have a special irrigation schedule for athletic fields is the issue of safety. Texas Water Development Board staff will review and add in the appropriate language for having the safety issue addressed.

#### Texas GPCD Calculator

This draft Best Management Practice includes an Excel document that goes along with a short write up. The workgroup discussed if this should be included as a Best Management Practice or more as a resource document with reference to it in other Best Management Practices. At the Council meeting, the workgroup will explain the

suggested change for this Best Management Practice with it remaining on the agenda for the August meeting.

#### Small Utility Outreach and Education

All in the workgroup approved of this Best Management Practice as it is.

#### Residential Landscape Irrigation Evaluation

There was a suggestion to define small utility.

Karen Guz will provide language related to the utility inspections. If the utility wants to do a check up on the irrigation system, an employee does not need to have a license to do an inspection. However, through TCEQ requirements, a person must have a license to turn it on for the inspection. The utility's inspector does not have the authority.

This Best Management Practice doesn't speak to the high level of savings that can be achieved through these kinds of services. Karen Guz suggested that San Antonio Water System could provide a resource document for this Best Management Practice.

Texas Water Development Board staff will work on adding these suggestions as well as some editing to make the Best Management Practice flow with terminology. Staff will send this Best Management Practice back to Jessica Woods and Karen Guz (initial authors) prior to sending out to the entire workgroup for edits.

#### Partnership with Nonprofit Organizations

The Best Management Practice was well received and ready to move on to the Council.

#### Other Discussion

This concluded the discussion on the individual Best Management Practices.

The timeline for the discussed Best Management Practices is as follows:

August 14<sup>th</sup> – Staff will send edits to the Residential Landscape and Irrigation Evaluation Best Management Practice to Karen Guz and Jessica Woods

August 19<sup>th</sup> – Staff will send all edits to the Municipal Workgroup prior to the Council Meeting

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Introduce Best Management Practices for approval at the Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

The next Best Management Practices to be considered by the Workgroup are: Residential Toilets Rebates, Parks Best Management Practice, and a Golf Course Best Management Practice.