

## **Summary of Minutes**

Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Meeting and Conference Call  
Workgroup: Municipal and Water Loss

Date: September 24, 2019

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Conference Call

<b><u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Alternates</u></b>	<b><u>Interested Parties</u></b>	<b><u>TWDB Staff</u></b>
Jennifer Allis	Denise Hickey	Neil Weems	John Sutton
Karen Guz	Jennifer Walker	Ryan Skrobarczyk	Shae Luther
Aubrey Spear		Dan Strub	Daniel Rice
		Jennifer Nations	Travis Brice
			Josh Sendejar

\*\* Documents can be found at: \*\*

I. Introduction of Participants

The call began at 2:01 p.m.

II. Review of Legislative Report and Timeline for Legislative Recommendations

Karen Guz began by recapping the on-going conversation about moving up the Council's timeline for preparation of their legislative report. The purpose of advancing the timeline would be to hopefully allow for collaboration with appropriate state agencies in the development in their Legislative Appropriations Requests.

The workgroup will begin to work on a work plan and potential legislative recommendations.

The Council will hope to vote on recommendations in early 2020.

III. Review of Legislative Recommendations Related to Municipal and Non-Revenue Water in last report

Water Loss: Improving Water Loss Audits with Data Validation

Dan Strub stated that a number of other states have started water loss efforts, including Georgia, California, and Colorado.

D. Strub stressed that we need to put an investment in good data.

K. Guz noted that if you use bad data, you can draw incorrect conclusions on where money should be spent.

It was also mentioned that if we're going to use water loss data for planning, we need good data.

TWDB staff noted they are recommending the expansion of its Water Loss program to include additional staff, increased training and outreach to utilities. Additionally, TWDB is planning 23 workshops continuing on the training provided last year, which will cover water loss and water conservation topics.

K. Guz stated perhaps a non-voluntary pilot program would be a good strategy.

D. Strub noted that implementation could be done in phases. Start with the larger utilities and work down to the smaller systems.

Aubrey Spear stated that from a Regional Water Planning Group perspective, smaller utilities do not have the resources to hire third-party companies. Mr. Spear also stated he would caution mandated third-party validation. A. Spear also suggested perhaps a mentor/mentee program with larger utilities mentoring small systems. Another alternative could be a partner program, where utilities audit one another.

K. Guz asked if a certification would be supported.

D. Strub stated he would be interested but may be good for a recommendation at this time.

#### IV. Discussion of Potential Legislative Recommendations for Upcoming Report

K. Guz brought up a potential recommendation in regards to HB 2439, relating to regulations for building products, materials, or methods used in construction or renovation of residential or commercial buildings. K. Guz brought up that although the bill does not seem to be intended for water-related fixtures, 'building materials' is not defined, and could be interpreted very broadly.

It was discussed that water conservation is an economic 'win' for the state and failure to continue would be costly for the entirety of the state.

K. Guz stated that in terms of the upcoming report, she would like to focus on the state as a whole. Additionally, she asked the workgroup what things should be focused on or highlighted? Are there any pending issues within municipal water use?

#### V. Adjourn

The call was ended at 3:00 p.m.