

Canadian National Water Efficiency Network (CNWEN)
MEETING NOTES
Tuesday March 7, 2017
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
City of Guelph

Attendees:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Kathy McAlpine Sims	Halton Region	Amy Martin	City of Guelph
Bill Gauley	Gauley Associates	Kimberly Wright-Caraballo	City of Toronto
Teresa Silverthorn	City of Guelph	Julie Ann Lamberts	City of Guelph
Conference Call	Affiliation	Conference Call	Affiliation
Steve Gombos	Region of Waterloo	Carol Salisbury	Ont. Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
Bill Chihata	Region of York	Johann Manente	Region of Peel
John Koeller	Keoller & Company	Brent Houle	City of Winnipeg
Todd Johnston	CRD (Victoria)	Chris Radziminski	City of Vancouver
Aaron Boulton-Chaykowski	City of Calgary	Mary Ann Dickenson	AWE

1. **Review of November 29, 2017 Meeting Notes**
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Alliance for Water Efficiency update – Mary Ann**

Studies/Reports

- Greywater study has been released, webinar was held in February 16. A fact sheet will be coming.
- Commercial Kitchen Guide will be available shortly, to be followed by a webinar.
- There are still US \$5,986 CNWEN funds still with AWE – Mary Ann asked how the group would like to use the \$.

Options for funds discussed:

- Produce a metric version of Greywater document. Bill G will provide cost estimate to convert data.
- Produce a metric version of Executive Summary of Residential End Use study (REUS). Although Steve indicated there is too much data to convert all the background data and it would get very messy.
- Upcoming AWE study on Management of Cooling Towers could use some funding.
- Commercial Kitchen Guide – convert to metric and hold a workshop in Canada to train restaurant managers. It is a short report, not that many references need to be changed. Cost would be low (primarily graphics cost). Some numbers for equipment specification may stay in imperial units (since that's how they are sold).
- Greater Greywater Systems Inc. listened to AWE Greywater webinar. Project had theoretical values for irrigation, flushing etc. People at Greater Greywater Systems are willing to contribute data from their most recent field studies; they would donate funding to the

Alliance who will manage the program, not nearly as expensive as other programs, a possible project for funding.

Action: Kathy will circulate various current options of AWE projects for CNWEN funds.

Net Blue Project

- A model planning ordinance that allows the community to ask that planning be water neutral. Especially designed for arid US South-west. Ideal for rapidly growing communities, water scarce and even water rich areas, and groundwater-dependent communities.
- Currently doesn't have a direct Canadian side, methodology should have some metric unit. AWE may add metric conversions to spreadsheet. Other than that no further customization is required. Working with communities in US—also Canada.
- AWE is happy to work with any Canadian community interested.
- Release date is late March 2017 (around World Water Day—March 22).
- City of Winnipeg has impact growth fees (fees for other public services, not just water) for new development, potential interest from developers, want to reduce these fees, working with communities, customizable for each community, let Mary Ann Dickinson know if interested.

AWE Membership:

- Currently 21 Canadian members - Most are municipal/Regional government.
- Abbotsford, City of Vancouver, Toronto, Coquitlam are no longer members.
- What is the best way to address difficulties municipalities are facing re membership dues – Different billing plan? Change it to something else, such as an Annual Licensing Fee (e.g. for Tracking tool)?

4. Guelph Residential Water Consumption outreach poster - Julie Ann

- City of Guelph created a poster on residential water consumption in response to the University of Guelph's poster project "What We Know" to share high quality research about the city:

[http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/uploadedFiles/pic/events/What%20We%20Know%20-%20Call%20for%20Posters%20\(Final\)%20-%207%20December%202016.pdf](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/uploadedFiles/pic/events/What%20We%20Know%20-%20Call%20for%20Posters%20(Final)%20-%207%20December%202016.pdf)

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/csahs/events/2017/03/what-we-know-research-and-insight-guelph-wellington>

- Poster included the most interesting results of recent Water Efficiency Strategy were presented on the poster.
- High intensity use is around university of Guelph. Census data for transient student population may not be captured so this may skew the data in this area as artificially high.
- South end with low consumption – many of these residents are on private wells so that skews data for that area - should be removed from map – should just show municipally serviced population.
- Low consumption area in north-east corner is legitimately low consumption, may be due to high participation in Guelph's programs.
- Interesting findings: older homes (built pre-1996 when Building code changed from 13 litre to 6 litre toilets) are actually using less water than newer homes —perhaps participating in Guelph programs more.
- But only homes built prior to 1996 have been allowed to participate in Guelph's TRP, ignoring all the poor performing 6 litre toilets that flushed as 12 litres .
- From this, Guelph adjusted rebate programs to include homes built after 1996, to allow rebates to homes with inefficient 6 litre toilets. .

- The reduction in Guelph residential water use is as a result of Conservation programs, Ontario Building Code changes, marketplace transformation towards more efficient fixtures, and growing public awareness.
- Any other cities with private wells, how did they determine number of homes on private wells?
- Halton obtained estimates from Conservation Authority
- Waterloo: service connections by type annual process determining average people per unit housing type.
- Winnipeg: also uses service connections. You will never have 100% accuracy, as long as you use the same method each year, you will see the trend.

5. Alert Labs – George Tsintzouras www.alertlabs.com

- Guelph is providing six month innovation grant program for water efficiency initiatives.
- Alert Labs staff are all past Blackberry/RIM staff
- Flow monitoring device works like a fitbit for your meter. Reads meter pulses to provide real time flow data for customers to monitor water use and catch leaks.
- Works with any mag- based flow meter. Not with ultrasonic meters yet.
- Provides real time flow data without AMR/AMI, but not currently used for billing purposes.
- Flood detection devices send alarms to flow monitoring device which sends alerts to your phone (download an app)
- Flood device sits on the floor like a puck - beside toilet, hot water tank, washing machine (especially when on second or third floor) and can send to main device up to 400 feet away
- Sump pump overflow detector works same as floor flood detector.
- Flow device is plugged in and operate with battery backup. Flood devices are battery operated.
- \$299 for flow sensor and one flood puck, plus operating costs of \$5.00 per month for data management etc. No existing home internet connection required. Extra flood units \$59 each.
- Works on residential and commercial size meters
- Can also send alerts for power outage and warn of freezing pipes (has temp. gauge)
- Insurance companies may offer up discount on home insurance - like having backflow preventers and other flood detection devices.
- If municipal water provider gives discount to resident, they may ask for access to the data.
- Guelph rebate program launched in February. Marketing until 600 units are purchased or until date in March. User's data will be provided to City as part of participation.

6. Once Through Cooling Ban – Chris Radzinski and Todd Johnston

- Deadline for CRD's existing systems to be replaced. Victoria identified where the once-through cooling is located via service contractors. Used this data to justify program.
- Used access via sewer use by-law and cross connection by-law to inspect for presence of once through cooling. Also used analysis of water billing data for high use outliers to investigate possible presence of once-through cooling for facilities such as hotels etc.
- Have to work to address challenges when installing air cooled systems on roofs of heritage buildings etc.
- Rebate program: in hindsight, beneficial if there was a predetermined end date, and then a ban.
- Ontario: many municipalities already prohibit once-through cooling
- Vancouver: no incentive program because high payback in a short period.
- Contacted refrigeration contractors, then other contractors/suppliers, extrapolated results based on this survey.
- Visual impacts of retrofits: slim units, etc. other issues with heritage buildings, developing case studies. Noise: newer units makes this a non-issue, there's usually always a solution.

- Must be assertive with standards of the retrofit – are creating a list of certified service providers, their qualifications and standing with the BBB. Going to recommend using contractor from list.
- Anyone who'd like more info, contact Todd or Chris.

7. New Business:

Mary Ann: Under new Federal administration, U.S Energy Star and WaterSense are listed for zero funding (WaterSense only received \$2 million /year).

8. Next Meetings:

Tues. June 20th – Waterloo Region

Tues. Nov. 21st – Peel Region