

# Canadian National Water Efficiency Network

## MEETING NOTES

**Tuesday December 3, 2013**

**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Peel Region**

**230 Advance Blvd., Brampton**

### Attendees:

Kristy Baidy  
Kathy McAlpine  
Glen Pleasance  
Bill Gauley  
Ryan Grzesiak

Johann Manente  
Kimberly Wright-Caraballo  
Mary Ann Dickinson  
Carol Salisbury  
Mary Hemmingway

Amy Yates  
Mike Richards  
Mike Bechard  
Vicki Puterbough

### Teleconference Attendees:

Naomi Herold  
John Koeller

Krista Vopicka  
Louise Brennan

Mathieu Laneuville

- 1) **Meeting Notes**- no changes
- 2) **Additions to Agenda** – no changes
- 3) **Administration:** Johann reviewed first Quarter Financials. Committee Board of Directors approved the Financial Statements covering the period from January 1, 2012 through December 2, 2013 (see attached Financials).
- 4) **CNWEN Board Elections:** No applicants, therefore executive positions are unchanged. It was suggested that perhaps the role of minute taking could rotate.
- 5) **AWE Update – Mary Ann Dickinson** - see attached PDF of Mary Ann's presentation.
  - review of Canadian AWE membership includes only four companies.
  - AWE's Water Rates Study – Phase II; needs Cdn municipalities to participate (Phase I funding was restricted U.S. utilities only). Kathy suggested that Mary Ann contact Carl Yates in Halifax because they have a unique arrangement whereby water rate increases must be approved by the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.
  - Mary Ann gave an overview of the Water Bottle campaign and noted that use of the related Tool Kit was not linked to purchase of bottles. AWE staffer Megan Chery is coordinating.
  - AWWA has updated the G480 Standard that is the Water Conservation Manual. It contains a complete list of BMPs. <http://www.awwa.org/searchresults.aspx?q=g480%20standard>
  - the Home Water Works website can be customized to reflect local characteristics, including the tracking of website users within specific jurisdictions
  - the 2014 Water Loss Model will converse with the Tracking Tool

-IWA has developed Preparing Urban Water Use Efficiency Plans document. Interested persons can get a discount when ordering via e-mail by using the code: ZWQ1WALM13. It includes conservation planning, includes case studies from around the world. Done by Maddaus Water Management Inc. <http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn9781780405230>

**5) CWWA Conference Summary;**

- Kathy noted that about 100 people attended a very good conference.
- Bill Gauley's 'The Value of Water' presentation (see attached PPT) presented intriguing arguments. Water efficiency offers many benefits that need to be promoted, such as lower O&M costs; energy and chemical cost savings; and environmental and societal benefits, neither of which are easy to quantify. For example, how do you quantify the value of reduced aquifer depletion? Lawrence Berkeley Labs (LBL) undertook an environmental evaluation study (2002) and developed a series of excel workbooks to help quantify environmental value. The study determined that the average W.E. value equates to approximately \$50/acre foot or about 4 cents/m<sup>3</sup> of water withdrawn from natural environment. Unfortunately, the LBL study was only preliminary. It is hoped that further research can be undertaken to refine environmental value assessments associated with taking less water from the natural environment. (Mary Ann stated that AWE could help raise money to study the climate resiliency benefits associated with water efficiency. Johann suggested this would be a good project for this committee to focus on. )
- Other unique presentations covered energy capture from sewer plants; Econics' presentation on the Region of Waterloo's outdoor water use restrictions (homeowners are allowed to irrigate only once per week) and another on the "next stage" of water efficiency (after the low hanging fruit); and Wayne's/AECOM presentation on measuring the financial benefits of water conservation.
- Russ Nicholson of Turgrass Water Conservation Alliance presented on a study of the drought tolerance of turf using computer pixellation to interpret turf health. Following a significant period of imposed drought they found that one type of Kentucky bluegrass remained greener than all the other types of turf tested. Bill noted that there was tremendous variance among different Blue Grasses. Glen said it would be important to know what still remains to be researched in light of our research needs, specifically, what is the minimum amount of water required by turf on a weekly basis as we know 1"/week is not science-based.
- Mary Ann presented on the need for more cross-over between water and energy efficiency, because of the state of infancy of water/energy synergies.
- Kathy noted that the CWWA's Robert Haller and staff are very hard working conference organizers.

**6) Residential End Use of Water Study :**

-Johann noted that Peel has completed the monitoring and analysis stage. She stated that outdoor water use was not measured. Bill has edited Aquacrafts' draft and he is awaiting their feedback. Bill found that water use dropped by 30% during the two-week monitoring period so he broadened his analysis. Waterloo experienced the same reduction during their monitoring period.

### 8. Sustainable Plumbers Project Update :

- Louise Brennan from Econics provided an update. Plumber Workshops were held in the GTA (36 plumbers attended) and in Waterloo (25 plumbers). More events will be held in Vancouver on December 4 and 5<sup>th</sup>. Econics also undertook focus groups; one for participants and another for non-participants. Training on environmental issues was deemed very valuable, especially rain water harvesting and water audits. It took extra effort, but 81 plumbers are registered for the Vancouver events. A post-workshop phone survey is currently underway. The draft report should be available by late January. Kathy asked what changes were made to recruiting in order to realise the increased participation in Vancouver. Louise replied that greater emphasis was placed on what participants will learn. Johann asked about the breakdown for the Vancouver events. Louise said that 30 are apprentices and 50 were registered plumbers. Kathy asked what reasons non-participants gave for not attending. Louise replied that they are still analysing, but they are being asked what they would want to get out of a potential workshop.

### 9. Water TAP:

- Bill provided an overview of the Water TAP *Sustainable Infrastructure Working Group* of which he is a member. Brenda Lucas of the Southern Ontario Water Consortium Chairs this group. Besides Bill, members represent U. of W., U. of T., industry experts and others. Their current imperative is to promote the funding of non-capital infrastructure (e.g., water efficiency projects) to provide water supply. Water TAP is presenting this concept to Infrastructure Ontario (I.O.). Currently there are no incentives for this type of innovation. This group wants to develop an alternative RFP process to enable and encourage innovation. It would include benchmarks to differentiate between worthy and unnecessary infrastructure expansion proposals. This would enable municipal managers to vet the worthiness of a project.

I.O. currently faces the problem of deciding between a \$50 million plant expansion that can be seen vs. a \$50 million project that is not visible.

- Carol asked Bill if there is a formal document/discussion paper - Bill replied that there was not. However, the group is working on developing benchmarks for non-traditional approaches to deliver to I.O. for incorporation into their 2014 funding stream.

### 10. York Region's Proposed Residential Landscape Design Tool:

- Mary Hemingway presented the attached PPT.
- Mary Ann cited the similarities to the California-based Garden Soft (it is limited to plan views).
- Vicki noted that LID isn't in any of the existing products. She also noted that the longer development period is to allow garden centres to develop their native plant inventories.
- Mary Ann offered that the software could be hosted on the AWE's site.

### 11. Proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule:

<u>Date:</u>		<u>Location:</u>
Tuesday February 4, 2014	-	Halton Region
Tuesday April 1, 2014	-	York Region

Tuesday June 3, 2014	-	TBD
Thursday September 6, 2014	-	TBD
Tuesday November 4, 2014	-	TBD

12. **Other Business:** None.

13. **Adjournment**

Notes Prepared by: Glen Pleasance.