

## Canadian National Water Efficiency Network

### MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 3, 2014  
11:00 - 2:00 pm  
Region of Waterloo  
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

#### Attendees:

Kristy Baidy	Johann Manente
Wayne Brabazon	Kimberly Wright-Caraballo
Carol Chaput	Glen Pleasance
Bill Gauley	Dan Meagher
Ruth Hildebrand	Teresa McIntyre-Morris
Steve Gombos	Barry Orr

#### Teleconference Attendees:

Duncan Ellison	Arlene Etchen
Bill Christenson	Brent Houle
Kathy McAlpine Sims	John Koeller
Mary Ann Dickinson	Mathieu Laneuville

#### 1. Review of April 1, 2014 Meeting Notes

No changes

#### 2. Additions to the Agenda

No changes

#### 3. Flushable Wipes

Barry Orr from City of London presented "Toilets are not Garbage Cans" (attached) highlighted the problems flushable wipes cause for wastewater treatment plants. There is no requirement for third party testing to determine what is genuinely flushable. The labelling is inconsistent, confusing and/or hidden.

Barry would like a partnership with CNWEN to promote public awareness of this issue. Something like "Flushable products do not conserve water." This will be kept as a "pending item" until we decide how to proceed.

Duncan noted the International Standards Association has started an ISO technical working group with four U.S., four Canadian, and 1 German participant with a final outcome for this group of a formal ISO Standard. It will take 48 months to draft a technical specification. The first formal meeting is August 2014.

#### **4. Alternatives to Water Softeners - Waterloo/Guelph Research**

Steve Gombos gave a presentation regarding a Template Assisted Crystallization (TAC) research study Guelph and Waterloo are completing, along with working with the Water Quality Association Water Softener Task Force. TAC units do not use water or salt in their conditioning process. They do not make water 'soft', but convert magnesium and calcium to microscopic crystals that stay suspended and do not form scale on pipes or fixtures.

The study includes a market assessment of history and availability of these units, surveying local residents who have a TAC unit, and performance testing of units.

Duncan requested Steve to present this to NSF's Drinking Water Treatment Committee on May 20, 2015.

#### **5. U.S. Home Depot Water Conservation "Workshops"**

Mary Ann Dickinson attended at "workshop" in Chicago as a domestic housewife; John Koeller attended at "workshop" in California as an expert. The water conservation "workshops" were promoting Glacier Bay products and included walking around showing products including appliances. Both were about 15 minutes long; no publicity; no signage; staff at front of store did not know about it; both were the only person registered at their respective store; John asked more technical questions. Both store representatives had a book, but it was for them to speak from, not for giving out. Both did not promote "water conservation".

Mike Hogan Miller, the new head of plumbing at Home Depot, is very interested in high level policy changes and figuring out a solution to move more water efficiency products in the U.S. He is also very interested in working with us.

It is much easier to work at the regional level, then the national level with promotion and consumer change.

#### **6. AWE Update**

Mary Ann presented an update of AWE initiatives (presentation included).

Tracking Tool Version 3 - if there are any changes that would benefit Canadian users, please let A4WE know.

NRW - any Canadian that has a NRW program - A4WE would love to do a Webinar.

PERC Drain Line Study - \$80K short for study. Total cost is \$160K. They need to raise ¾ of the funds before starting study. Draft proposal attached.

Outdoor Water Savings Study - Do not know final costs, draft proposal attached.

Next Conference - April 22 - 25, 2015 in Cincinnati.

## **7. 2014 Joint Research Projects**

List of potential projects includes a variety of suggestions. It can be logistically challenging to bring money together on joint research projects. In order for this group to exist funds need to be floated through the organization. For future projects, there could be a lead municipality/organization as opposed to having it through CNWEN. AWE could manage studies for us if a lead organization was needed.

## **8. Other Business**

Bill Gauley provided an update of a meeting of the Sustainable Infrastructure Working Group. Dr. Penny Burns of Australia and Scott Pegg, a director at Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure were present. Municipalities are required to do better infrastructure planning and asset management, and need to answer the question - 'what did you do to prove you deserve funding from the province?' Also discussed was the use of benchmarks which Dr. Burns is against unless they are very specific.

Bill Gauley and Mary Ann Dickinson - The California Energy Commission wants to go as deep as they can and are proposing very low water usage standards, but there can be real issues with too low water usage fixtures. There is a letter going out noting AWE feels California should adopt WaterSense Standards instead.

Barry Orr - City of London - Discussion on "Your Turn - Make a Difference" cups which are meant to put grease, etc. into instead of down the drain. They are fully degradable and meant to be put in the garbage once full. The first order was .35 cents per cup. He is not sure what the current cost would be, although the more, the cheaper. Is there any interest from our municipalities to come on board in a joint venture with the cups?

York - Demo day for the water efficient method of flushing water mains is June 19, 2014.

## **9. Adjournment**