

Canadian National Water Efficiency Network (CNWEN)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday November 4th, 2014

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Halton Region

1075 North Service Road West, Oakville

Attendees:

Kimberly Wright-Caraballo

Johann Manente

Glen Pleasance

Megan McCombe

Kathy McAlpine Sims

Teleconference:

Wayne Galliher

Carol Salisbury

Jeffery Hughes

Steve Gombos

Mathieu Laneville

Duncan Ellison

Kristy Baidy

John Koeller

1. **Review of June 2014 Meeting Notes:**

- No amendments.

2. **Additions to the Agenda:**

- See Item #8 – Other Business.

3. **Status of Incorporation:**

- There has been no overall consensus on a joint research project for CNWEN this year. Several excellent initiatives are underway in which various members have teamed up independently, but because the projects are not administered through CNWEN, there has been no income to the organization in the form of Administration Fees. Johann explained that as a Not-for-Profit Incorporation, CNWEN is required to file annual tax return etc. that require both accountant and legal fees. Without annual income to cover these fees, the current model is not sustainable. As CNWEN Board, Johann, Glen and Kathy have been investigating what is required to dissolve CNWEN as a corporation. There are a couple of options, all requiring time, administrative effort and some cost. Steve asked if this change would impact CNWEN's relationship with AWE. Johann explained that the Board had discussed this with Mary Ann, who had clarified it would not change the relationship – CNWEN would remain acting as the Canadian Chapter of AWE. There would be no noticeable changes to CNWEN as a result of dissolving incorporation status. CNWEN would continue to exist as an excellent municipal network of water efficiency professionals.

Vote: All members supported the Board in moving forward to dissolve CNWEN's Incorporation status. There were no member objections or undecided.

4. **CWWA Conference**

- Kathy reviewed the info previously circulated from CWWA regarding their decision to combine all CWWA conferences, including water efficiency, into one annual conference. The existing model with several independent subject-specific conferences each year was becoming too expensive to continue. Water efficiency will now be on the conference agenda annually. In addition, water efficiency issues may receive increased exposure by making it easier for conference participants who wouldn't otherwise attend water efficiency presentations to do so. It was agreed that the location of October 2015 conference (Whistler, B.C) would present significant challenges to municipal water efficiency attendance from Ontario, but members look forward to when it will be held in the GTA.

5. **Flushable Wipes**

- Duncan provided an update (summary attached). A working group is engaged in a three-year plan to have a flushable wipes standard by 2017. Duncan will keep CNWEN informed of the group's progress. Attachment was circulated for review.

6. **AWE Project Update**

Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative:

- AWE has completed Phase 1 of their Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative (attached). It is a comprehensive review and analysis of published and pending research on outdoor water use and water savings. It identifies areas of greatest research needs, as well as areas where sufficient research already exists.
- AWE is looking for participants for Phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 will focus on areas identified as those of greatest need, based on the Phase 1 results. Municipalities should contact Mary Ann Dickinson at AWE if they would like to participate. Steve indicated Waterloo may be interested. Peel is also interested.

PERC Phase 2 – Test Plan Proposal to Investigate Drainline Transport in Buildings:

- Building on results of the 2012 Phase 1 study, the Plumbing Efficiency Research Coalition (PERC) has released a test Plan Proposal for Phase 2. In addition to the study variables included in Phase 1 (4" diameter pipe, drainline pitch, flush volume, peak flow velocity, trailing water and toilet paper tensile strength), Phase 2 will also evaluate all variables on a 3" diameter pipe, and will include 3.8 l/flush volume. PERC is seeking ongoing support from all interested stakeholders. John indicated it will take approximately 35 weeks to complete the study.

7. 2014 WaterSmart Innovations Conference Highlights

- Glen presented on Priority Green Clarington for new homes. The final report should be available by February 2015 (see web link <http://prioritygreenclarington.wordpress.com/tag/priority-green-clarington/>). He also discussed the presentation from Russ Nicholson of the Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance in Oregon in which he discussed the turfgrass testing facility (<http://www.tgwca.org/testing-procedures.php>) Russ also presented at the 2013 CWWA conference in Calgary. Russ discussed a new type of bluegrass that is more drought tolerant than ryes and fescues based on the extensive testing undertaken at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute and another research site in Laval. The Guelph study results will be available in 2016, the Laval results, in 2017. It was suggested it would be interesting to try and arrange for him to present (remotely) to the group at a future meeting.
- Bill presented on Putting a Value on the Environmental and Social Benefits of Water Efficiency. He received a lot of interest in furthering the project. If anyone has info related to environmental degradation or the remediation costs associated with water takings, please let him know.
- Steve found the various CII/ICI presentations effective. All Powerpoints can be viewed for a time on the WSI website at <https://www.watersmartinnovations.com/>

8. Other Business

- **Council of the Federation:**
Johann and Wayne indicated COF has completed its mandate.
- **Statistics Canada Municipal Water Survey:**
Mathieu has been working with Terence Nelligan of Stats Canada who is identifying what would be the most appropriate data to collect from municipal water providers to fill the data gap left by the end of the Environment Canada Municipal Water/Wastewater survey. They are considering using various inputs to the IWA Water Balance software used to determine ILI. They recognize challenges that exist since many municipalities don't currently calculate ILI, and of those that do, many use AWWA default estimates for many of the data inputs, so data accuracy is still not 100% reliable. Terence has received input from many other experts in the field, and is also working with Canadian National Water/Wastewater Benchmarking Initiative.
- **Canada-Singapore National Water Efficiency Standards**
Duncan discussed cooperative efforts currently underway between Canada and Singapore to develop a National Water Efficiency Standard that would apply to water uses. Singapore has a significant water supply problem. *Duncan will provide further update at the next meeting.*

- **Role of Water Efficiency in Municipal Demand Forecasting**

York is building a robust model for forecasting water demand. Kristy asked to what degree is water efficiency data used by infrastructure planning to undertake demand forecasting. Steve indicated he provides input to their consultant re the impact of water efficiency programs and building codes. Wayne undertakes the financial modelling for projections and has historically been very accurate.

Johann asked Carol if the MOE has moved or has plans on developing standards for calculating l/c/d, as it relates to Regs under the Water Opportunities Act. Carol indicated there were no plans at this time.

***Action:** Discussion re how everyone calculates per capita consumption ensued. Kathy will send out a survey to everyone and compile the results.*

- **Water Aging and Reduced Demand**

John discussed the issue of water aging in buildings' pipes due to improved efficiency, and the potential for harmful microbial growth. John will forward presentations (attached). AWE also recently presented on the issue (attached).

- **Building Code Conservation Advisory Council**

Glen advised that the BCCAC is looking to improve an additional 15% on indoor water efficiency for multi-family and other large users.

Template Assisted Crystallization

- Steve indicated the secondary market report is in draft and primary market research (interviews with TAC users) will commence in November. The performance test methodology is in final draft, and test rig nearly ready. The performance testing on two different TAC units is expected to begin in mid-November.
- Kimberly explained that Toronto now has almost 100% coverage of AMR for their customers. Customers will soon be able to access their meter data on-line in real time (estimate mid-2015).
- **2015 Meeting Dates:**

Tues. January 13 – Peel Region, Brampton

Tues. March 10

Tues. May 12

Tues. June 23

Tues. September 15

Tues. November 10

Please update your Outlook Calendars