

Canadian National Water Efficiency Network (CNWEN)

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, January 13th, 2015
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Region of Peel
230 Advance Blvd, Brampton, L6T 4T6

Attendees:

| Name | Affiliation | Name | Affiliation |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Glen Pleasance | Durham Region | Johann Manente | Region of Peel |
| Kathy McAlpine Sims | Halton Region | Megan McCombe | Region of Peel |
| Julie Anne Lamberts | City of Guelph | Steve Gombos | Region of Waterloo |
| Kimberly Wright-Caraballo | City of Toronto | Bill Chihata | York Region |
| Bill Gauley | Gauley Associates | | |
| | | | |
| Conference Call | Affiliation | Conference Call | Affiliation |
| Mary Ann Dickinson | AWE | Carol Salisbury | MOE&CC |
| Duncan Ellison | ISO | John Koeller | Koeller Associates |
| Mathieu Laneuville | Quebec Ministry of Municipal Affairs | Todd Jamieson | Capital Regional District (Victoria) |

- 1. Review of Nov. 2014 Meeting Notes:**
No amendments.
- 2. Additions to Agenda (none)**
- 3. Presentation: Russ Nicholson, Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance**
 - Russ provided an informative presentation on the current and planned work of the TWCA. Results indicated a Bluegrass cultivar called "Mallard" had more green cover than any other cultivar after 90 days without rain, partly because it develops a mat or type of thatch that reduces evaporation.
 - Challenge currently due to lack of availability in Ontario (although Russ indicated this may improve soon), and how to convince the public that healthy turf should go dormant (gold) in late summer.
- 4. Status of Incorporation:**
 - Procedure is underway with Corporations Canada. Does not affect the work of CNWEN.

5. AWE Project Updates - Mary Ann

- Mary Ann provided a presentation which included updates on several AWE initiatives including: **Financing Sustainable Water:**
 - o Building Better Rates in an Uncertain World Handbook
 - o AWE Sales and Forecasting Rate Model
 - o <http://www.financingsustainablewater.org/>
- Mary Ann indicated they hope to Canadianize the forecasting model.
- **Financial Instruments to Manage Weather Related Risk**, which proposes insurance for water service providers, similar to snow removal insurance:
<http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/deriv-wp.aspx>
- **Outdoor Water Use Study, Phase 1**– to be published this week. AWE welcomes contributions from Canadian programs for Phase 2, where they will be hoping to address information gaps identified in Phase 1.
<http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/OWSRIrelease.aspx>

6. Developing a National ISO Water Efficiency Standard – Duncan Ellison

Duncan discussed cooperative efforts currently underway between Canada and Singapore to develop a National Water Efficiency Standard that would apply to water uses. Plan is to elevate the Singapore water efficiency management standard to an ISO Standard. Glen and Bill Chihata agreed to participate on the Canadian Mirror Committee.

7. **AWE's Value of Water Study** – Bill is looking for any studies that attempt to put a dollar value on water in the environment – for example, what is the cost of aquifer storage, recovery and recharge.

8. **CWWA 2015 Conference** – CWWA will be issuing a call for papers shortly.

9. **Per Capita Consumption Survey** – was deferred to next meeting due to time limit.

10. Other Business:

- Water TAP Sustainability Group met with Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the Office of the Premier.
- Bill reported that the government representatives advised that government agencies generally only provide a small portion of the total funding required for infrastructure projects. The Water TAP Group explained that they wished to develop a program where the government would require municipalities seeking to construct new infrastructure to reasonably prove that the same outcome could not be achieved at a lower cost and with less environmental degradation through improving the efficiencies within the system vs. investing in capital projects. They discussed one of the challenges to this type of program is because although most

municipalities collect a great deal of water and wastewater data each year, not all municipalities compare their own data with those of other leading jurisdictions in efficiency. The Water Tap group suggested that it is not that municipalities do not want to opt for less expensive and less environmentally degrading options, it is just that some municipalities are not aware that there might be more attractive efficiency-based solutions available.

- The Water TAP Group is developing an Excel-based program that will allow municipalities (and government representatives) to easily compare the efficiencies of different water and wastewater system indicators within one jurisdiction with those of other jurisdictions in an effort to identify options for choosing improved efficiencies vs. expanded infrastructure.

- **Ontario Building Code Energy and Water Conservation Advisory Committee:** Glen indicated discussions currently include:
 - o Climate resiliency
 - o Reducing daily energy peaks (need to include Air conditioning)
 - o LID techniques on a neighbourhood lot scale
 - o Reduce water and energy use by 15% over 2012 Code
 - o The Clarington Priority Green project water and energy data will feed into OBC changes where applicable.
 - o Field monitoring component has been extended to twelve months through October 2015. The contracted Project Coordinator (Amy Burke) was hired full-time by Clarington's Planning Dept. in December 2014. One of the three participating home builders, Jeffery Homes, has decided to build twenty more townhomes to the Priority Green 'beyond code' specification.

- **Steve indicated Waterloo's Template Assisted Crystallization project** is scheduled to commence January 15.

11. Next Meeting:

Tues. March 10, 2015

Halton Region
1075 North Service Road West, Unit 27
Oakville, L6M 2G2

(Remaining Meetings – if you'd like to host, let me know:

Tues. May 12

Tues. June 23

Tues. September 15

Tues. November 10)