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Alliance for Water Efficiency WaterSense & Water-Efficient Products Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 4, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

South Point Hotel & Conference Center
Las Vegas, Nevada

AWE Members:

Dave Bracciano, Tampa Bay Water
Bill Christiansen, Staff, AWE
Don Clark, Rain Bird Corp.
Mary Ann Dickinson, Staff, AWE
Cindy Dyballa, Consultant
Bill Gauley, Veritec
Richard Harris, EBMUD
Jeffrey Hughes, Staff, AWE
John Koeller, Koeller & Co.
Brian Lennon, Irrrometer Co.
Ken Mirvis, The Writing Company
Mary Lou Nunley, City of Phoenix
Ed Osann, NRDC
Thomas Pape, Best Mgmt. Partners
Jeff Peterson, SAWS

Glen Pleasance, Region of Durham
Sally Remedios, Delta Faucet
Craig Selover, Masco Corp
Jenna Smith, Seattle Public Utilities
Kent Sovocool, SNWA
Len Swatkowski, PMI
Carol Ward-Morris, AMWUA
Rob Zimmerman, Co-Chair, Kohler Co.

Non-Members:

Veronica Blette, EPA WaterSense
Dennis Dugan, Strahman Valves
Steve Gombos, Region of Waterloo
Jim Hanlon, EPA WaterSense
Jim Robinson, University of Waterloo

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. Rob Zimmerman welcomed those in attendance. Self-introductions were made.

WaterSense Update

Veronica Blette of EPA WaterSense provided a brief update on various technical and outreach related topics, starting with Oct 4th email blast relating to the WaterSense Product Certification System, version 2.0. Veronica noted no surprises, and that further information could be found at: www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/certification.html. Veronica noted the revisions were made to accommodate future growth and expansion of the WaterSense program while balancing the cost of certification with the need to maintain the integrity of the label.

Veronica announced two upcoming manufacturer webinars and one certifying/accreditation bodies webinar, set for the following date and times:

1. MFG: Wednesday, October 12, 8pm-10:30pm Eastern AND Thursday, October 13, 12:30pm-3pm Eastern
2. C/AB: Tuesday, October 11, 12:30pm-3pm Eastern

Veronica continued, providing an update on irrigation controllers, noting that comments received would likely be posted to the WaterSense web site at the end of the month or the first week of November. For further information: www.epa.gov/WaterSense/products/controltech.html

Veronica briefly touched on the latest with pre-rinse spray valves (PRSVs), kitchen faucets, flushometers, and dipper wells; and announced that an NOI relating to New Homes was to be released at the end of the month. Veronica continued, providing further details regarding the NOI, stating WaterSense will among other things; expand the scope of the New Homes Specification to include multi-family less than three stories high. Ed Osann stated that such an addition is to align with ENERGY STAR®. For further information is available at: www.epa.gov/WaterSense/docs/NH_modification_NOI-final_508.pdf.

Veronica spoke to the expansion of WaterSense into Canada, with the acceptance of Canadian partner memberships. Veronica provided a reminder of the upcoming WaterSense Partner of the Year Award Banquet, and finished her update touching on the following:

1. WaterSense web site update. Revised for layout.
2. Work on BMPs on commercial activities and work w/CUWCC on industrial BMPs.
3. Water-softener update, noting California objection.

Mary Ann Dickinson provided an update on the issues surrounding the authorization of WaterSense. Mary Ann stated work is still underway, but that the 40% turf option has been a stumbling block. Mary Ann stated the coalition is still active, and has not given up its activities.

Ed Osann spoke to the distributed draft letter addressed to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson. Ed stated that NRDC is requesting signatories to the letter. Ed highlighted the main points of the letter, including \$500K to allow for additional WaterSense programmatic efforts. Ed said NRDC is looking for broad stakeholder representation as signatories to the letter.

➡ *By consensus, staff was directed to distribute the draft letter and NRDC's request for signatories.*

Codes and Standards Updates

Tom Pape provided an update on the recent activities surrounding codes. Tom first spoke to the IAPMO UPC, stating the final assembly voting was just held. Tom noted that the ICC IgCC goes to the assembly for vote in November. Tom stated 14+ modifications to the IgCC will be heard at that November assembly meeting

Dave Viola announced that IAPMO is seeking public comments on their Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement (GPMCS), and that such comments are due Nov 7, 2011. For further information, go to: www.iapmogreen.org or www.iapmo.org/Pages/IAPMO_Green.aspx.

Discussion was held regarding water loss and how it could possibly be included in the code. Tom spoke to ICC's green code regarding submetering and the inclusion of text relating to

meter accuracy at low flow volumes. Tom stated it is the first time such text will be included, but that it may not ultimately be approved.

John Koeller spoke to two green standards: ASHRAE 189.1 and 191. Regarding 189.1, John stated it is a standard for the design of high-performance green buildings, and includes a water component. 189.1 is published and is currently in a “sustaining stage”. Regarding 191, John stated it is still in development, but would address efficient use of water in building, site and mechanical systems. 191 has started and stopped, and a public draft is far from reality.

John continued, providing updates on the following:

1. Flushometer valves, and commercial flushometer testing
2. Water-powered sump pumps
3. Dual-flush aftermarket devices, noting a standard is languishing
4. NSF 350 – onsite residential and commercial water reuse treatment systems

John stated that all his work reported on today, is part of AWE’s work relating to codes and standards.

Ed Osann spoke to a specification under development by ENERGY STAR relating to commercial dishwashers, with a comment period currently underway and set to end this Friday--October 7th. For more information: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.commercial_dishwasher_spec. Ed also spoke to work underway relating to commercial clothes washers, noting that for further information on all ENERGY STAR revisions to existing specifications, go to the following web page: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.revisions_specs.

Discussion Regarding DOE’s Request for Information

Rob Zimmerman spoke to the agenda item, and highlighted the distributed handout. Mary Ann Dickinson spoke to the item, stating a September 28th committee teleconference call was held to serve as an information and idea exchange for the committee members. Mary Ann stated that AWE is likely to submit a response to DOE.

John Koeller spoke to the last page of the RFI, highlighting the 5 items, as the items AWE’s response should focus on.

Ed Osann stated he welcomed any attention given by DOE, and that he has reviewed the RFI and sees it as a precursor to additional steps to be taken by DOE.

Discussion of IA SWAT 2nd Draft Sprinkler Testing Protocol

Rob Zimmerman asked Kent Sovocool to speak to the agenda item on behalf of Jill Hoyenga. Kent stated the draft testing protocol specifically addresses pressure-regulated sprinkler heads. Kent highlighted the website for further information and to see comments previously submitted on the first draft of the testing protocol. Kent urged the others in attendance to

submit comments by the December 15, 2011 deadline. Website for further information: www.irrigation.org/SWAT/Draft_Protocols/Sprinklers.aspx.

Kent continued, mentioning the recently released SWAT Promotions Working Group survey currently underway. Kent spoke of the handouts distributed around the room, and provided the Survey Monkey link: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWAT-PWG2011. Jenna Smith also spoke to the working group's survey, noting the survey is about the Irrigation Association and SWAT expanding their scope to include, "environmental issues and emerging best practices for landscape management."

Mary Ann Dickinson brought the discussion back to Jill Hoyenga's inquiry as to whether or not the committee should draft comments for the AWE Board's consideration and ultimate submission to SWAT. Mary Ann highlighted Jill Hoyenga's proposed timeline provided in an earlier email to staff.

- Between now and Nov 18th the Outdoor subcommittee to meet via teleconference to draft comments
- By Nov 22nd staff to distribute subcommittee draft comments to full committee in preparation for the Nov 28th meeting
- On Nov 28th discuss/finalized draft comments
- By Nov 30th distribute committee recommended draft comments to AWE Board for consideration
- Staff to track Board votes, if majority in favor, submit final comments to SWAT by end of day Dec 14th

➡ *By consensus, staff was directed to initiate the drafting process with Jill Hoyenga serving as lead of the committee's Outdoor Subcommittee.*

2012 Committee Co-Chairs

Rob Zimmerman spoke to the item, indicating he will continue to serve as Co-Chair of the committee. However, Rob stated that if any other committee member was ultimately interested in serving as Co-Chair in 2012, to please contact him and/or Mary Ann Dickinson to convey their interest. Rob spoke to Jill Hoyenga's current term, stating that she also will continue to serve as Co-Chair in 2012, but that she has provided the same option for another to serve.

➡ *By consensus, it was approved that both Jill Hoyenga and Rob Zimmerman will continue to serve as Co-Chairs of the committee in 2012.*

Review of 2-Year Committee Work Plan

Rob Zimmerman spoke to the item, and highlighted the distributed draft 2012-2013 committee work plan. Rob asked for comments on the draft plan. No direct comments were expressed. Mary Ann Dickinson spoke to the draft plan and the relevant AWE Strategic Plan goals and the committee purpose statement. Mary Ann stated that any comments on the draft plan should

be brought to the attention of staff. Mary Ann spoke to the items contained in the draft plan, specifically highlighting the work relating to codes and green building programs.

A discussion on drought was started. Mary Ann spoke to the current drought in Texas. Dave Bracciano spoke of Georgia's recent firing of climatologists. Dave Viola spoke to the issue of meters melting-out in fires, and the ensuing massive water leaks experienced.

Summary of Committee Comments Filed During 2011

Rob Zimmerman spoke to the committee's work undertaken in 2011. Relating to development of IgCC, Mary Ann Dickinson and Tom Pape both spoke to the codes process and reiterated that the committee's involvement in the IgCC work was a one-time occurrence due to the complexity of the processes and issues involved. Dave Viola spoke to the codes process, noting the need to keep Tom's name off any submittals/proposals to allow for his participation on such items.

Other Business/Updates

Mary Ann Dickinson spoke to the recent report of an exploding toilet or two in the General Services Administration building in Washington, D.C. Dave Viola spoke to the work done in 2000 to address the issue, stating it is a maintenance issue. John Koeller spoke to the issue of compressed air in the service lines, and what happens when it reaches the fixture.

Link to the story in *The Washington Post*: www.washingtonpost.com/politics/exploding-toilets-injure-2-federal-workers/2011/09/28/gIQA3IDt5K_story.html.

Set Next Meeting Date

The committee set its next teleconference meeting for Monday, November 28, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Central.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.