



Alliance for Water Efficiency

Water Efficiency Research Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m

Annual In-Person Meeting

Las Vegas, NV

Attendees:

Richard Harris
Carole Baker
Mary Lu Nunley
Johann Manente
Craig Selover
Rob Zimmerman
Thomas Pape
Carole Ward-Morris
Glen Pleasance
Bill Gauley
Dennis Dugan
Peter Mayer

Attendees:

Steve Gombos
Mary Ann Dickinson
Len Swatkowski
Veronica Blette
Jim Robinson
Sally Remedios
Pete DeMarco
John Koeller
Dave Bracciano
Judi Ranton
Bill Christiansen

P.O. Box 804127
Chicago, IL
60680-4127

OFFICE
(773) 360-5100

TOLL-FREE
(866) 730-A4WE

FAX
(773) 345-3636

WEB
www.a4we.org

Welcome and Introductions

Dave began the meeting with introductions. We went around the room and everyone introduced themselves and stated the organization they work for. Dave then gave a committee overview and covered the goals and work plan. He said we may add market support to our goals in the future.

Mary Ann Dickinson had indicated she had to step away from the meeting and wanted to provide an update on the AWE/ACEEE Water and Energy Blueprint and the demand hardening study. She began with an update on the AWE /ACEEE Water and Energy Blueprint funding. During this Dave brought up the slide that showed results of the committee ranking of the Blueprint action items. Mary Ann said the Turner Foundation provided some funding for the creation of working groups to increase collaboration between the energy and water communities to work on codes and standards. Rates and revenue issues are also a research priority for the Turner funding. There are proposals being created by ACEEE for best practices. The question she posed is, "can we tackle these issues in a meaningful way?"

Richard Harris asked who is collecting data on water and energy, and is this committee an appropriate entity to do so?

Mary Ann said we need electric bills from water utilities and that a workgroup on this committee might be appropriate. No one has been funding to do this on a national level in a meaningful and robust way.

Dave Bracciano said that collection of background information would be good and that Tampa Bay Water has a methodology to delineate energy use by type of supply and now has an energy consumption manager application that provides data by pumping location and type of use.

Mary Ann then gave an update on the demand hardening study. The project team has collected funds from Metropolitan Water District, California Department of Water Resources, and utilities and may receive some funding from the Walton Foundation. At this point it appears that the project will move forward. AWE is going to be the banker. One thing the project needs is a participating utility from the East Coast.

Review of Committee Graywater Survey

Dave provided a PowerPoint slide that covered the results of the committee graywater project survey. The lower ranking items will be left out if the amount of funding available for the project is not high. Dave then gave a background on the committee graywater project for those in the room whom were not familiar with it.

Richard Harris said a lot will depend on how the project is designed. He also said we need to consider that some of the low ranking items may be easy to complete and require little funding.

Bill Gauley noted the issue of very long payback periods, and mentioned the study being done in Guelph.

John Koeller said we have to make sure we remember the impact of graywater systems on drainlines and the reduced flows in wastewater systems.

Richard said customers currently lack information to help them decide if a graywater system is worth the investment.

Tom Pape asked if we could prepare for drainline issue in the codes.

Pete DeMarco said it would be a tough sell. Pete then discussed the 2012 Uniform Plumbing Code and said it will contain a model for alternate uses. Providing this language now will help insure it will be in future versions of the uniform plumbing code and help regulators get used to the emerging technologies.

Rob Zimmerman asked when the Guelph study will be published.

Bill Gauley said it will be published in six weeks but it may not be public.

Len Swatkowski said there was discussion of Tucson having graywater plumbing required in new construction so it can be set up in the future.

Richard Harris said we need to consider the full cost payback of these systems.

Peter Mayer said people want to do graywater, and that maybe we should embrace it. It won't be cost effective for a long time. He compared it to the solar panels of the 70's.

Bill Gauley said graywater systems can wrongly make people think they are being efficient. Also it is important to inform customers about the required maintenance and costs, and the slow payback.

Dave Bracciano said graywater systems may be more effective for things like irrigation.

Peter Mayer said we will get a lot of feedback from Australia

Bill Gauley said he heard that people in Australia were filling their graywater storage tanks with potable water (they are required to use graywater for irrigation).

Richard said we need more detail on the project summary sheets that will let people know how they can contribute and get involved.

Bill Gauley, responding to a comment about rainwater, said if rainwater is used for indoor use it will cause financial issues for utilities because more wastewater will ultimately have to be treated.

Other Ongoing Research/Funding Opportunities

EPA WaterSense Update – Veronica Blette provided an update for WaterSense activity.

She said the irrigation controller final specification would be released on November 3 and products will likely hit the shelves in the spring.

She reported that WaterSense has stepped away from water softeners due to a number of issues. She said Mary Ann is working with the Clean Water America Alliance to figure out what research needs to be done.

Testing is being finalized for the pre-rinse spray valves.

Other things on the docket at WaterSense are kitchen faucets, flushometer toilets, and sensor based irrigation controllers. She said they are open to information on potential notification of intent, and add that multifamily low rise may be included in the New homes Specification.

Dave asked about the kitchen faucets and Veronica said some faucets have a pot filling mode.

John Koeller said relying on people's behavior makes it difficult to estimate savings.

Pete DeMarco said it would be interesting to compare this with baseline faucet water use.

HET Field Study – John Koeller said the field audit is complete. They looked at 9 models and they all remained compliant. Eight out of the nine were re-verified for MaP.

John then said that MaP has 1,132 WaterSense toilets listed.

Bill Gauley said Jordan is adopting the 350 gram requirement and that there are three MaP labs in China.

PERC Update – Pete DeMarco said they are still struggling to get funding for the project. They submitted an application with Water Environment Research Foundation and will find out soon if they made the first cut. So far they have funding from American Standard, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Southern Nevada Water Authority. American Standard also offered their design facility to run the test program. There will be a meeting to explore the cost. If existing funding will suffice, then the study will likely move forward.

Dave asked about Australian funding. Pete said they have shared a lot of information and will be presenting data on toilet paper in the near future. ASFLOW may build a test facility in Victoria.

Richard asked what the cost of the project is.

Pete said \$170k.

Rob Zimmerman asked if the industry people who will be benefitting from this study are being asked to provide funding? He then said we may want to ask USGBC.

Tom Pape asked if pipe diameter is being covered.

Pete said right now they will only be using 4" pipe but if funding makes it possible they will add 3" as well.

Richard asked what he can use to solicit interest in the project?

Pete said the work plan has all the info needed.

Residential End Uses Update – Peter Mayer provided an update on the REUS study. He also mentioned an end use study conducted in Albuquerque that showed low indoor water use. They are currently finishing that study.

The REUS update has 27 participating utilities, nine of which will have data logging. Others are providing billing data with samples of 1,000 customers. They are currently finalizing the survey instrument.

The report is not due until 2015 but results will be available before then and they will share as much as they are allowed to.

Tom Pape asked about the issue of hand washing dishes versus dishwashers saying that the prewashing involved with dishwashers can result in an overestimation of savings.

Peter said they might be able to address that but they will need homes in the sample that do not have dishwashers.

John Koeller asked if water softeners will be looked at. Peter said they will be included.

Peter mentioned that they are seeing some potential issues with the cleaning cycle in efficient clothes washers in the Albuquerque study. The cleaning cycle may use an enormous amount of water.

Meeting time expired and discussion ended.

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting as scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Central.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Pacific.