



Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District
International Tower | 229 Peachtree St., NE | Suite 100 | Atlanta, GA 30303

Technical Coordinating Committee
Water Supply and Water Conservation Sub-committee
and Wastewater Sub-committee
Meeting Summary

June 13, 2018, 9:30 pm to 12:00 pm
Harry West Conference Room

Welcome and Introductions

No Public Comments

WATER SUPPLY AND WATER CONSERVATION TCC SUB-COMMITTEE

Announcements

- Implementation Survey responses are due by June 29, 2018. Let us know if you have any issues.
- The District shared the winning video of the 2018 High School Video Contest which had a theme of "Making Every Drop Count." The video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7OrObjhTel>
- The Multi-Family Rebate Program administered by the Metro Water District is up and running. Anyone interested in joining the District's program may contact Lora Amedu at 470-378-1558.
- The deadline for water providers to have completed their AMI Benefit and Feasibility Study is December 31, 2018. The District clarified that the water providers are not required to submit their study to the District, but it will need to be made available upon request during the EPD audit process.
- The deadline for water providers to notify the District's Chairperson that they have adopted an alternative goal for water loss reduction must do so before July 1, 2018. Note that the alternative goal must be adopted by the water provider's governing body.
- The District asked if anyone was interested in the District hosting a workshop on Cooling Tower Efficiency. Those present did not express interest.
- The District is gauging interest in a bulk order program for pre-rinse spray valves to help those reduce the price of the valves through a bulk order. Pricing could range between \$30 to \$50 depending on the model. The group requested that the District provide a list of valves, their prices, and what their performance specs are in relation to seconds per clean plate. One TCC

member offered her experience that when they offered the valves as a hand out, they were often not installed during the follow up call. The utility changed their program to direct install.

Discuss Model Ordinance for

a. Action Item WSWC-10: Outdoor Water Requirements for Large Landscapes

The following TCC members volunteered to serve on the Model Ordinance Sub-Committee: David Kubala, Sandra Glenn, Kathy Nguyen, Barbara Seal, Barry Lucas, Tim Pugh, Dierdre Blackard, and Jennifer Carlile. Cobb County Water System is currently working on a policy to address this item which may serve as a good example for others. Some members asked if the District would prepare outreach items for utilities to utilize prior to the deadline for compliance of January 1, 2019. One member asked if the action item excluded reuse systems. The District noted that it does not explicitly state how reuse irrigation systems would be considered.

b. Action Item WSWC-4: Private Fire Lines Metering Requirement

The following TCC members volunteered to serve on the Model Ordinance Sub-Committee: David Kubala, Sandra Glenn, Kathy Nguyen, Barbara Seal, Barry Lucas, Tim Pugh, Dierdre Blackard, and Jennifer Carlile. If any water provider has already prepared their policy or ordinance, please share them with the District to help with the model ordinance discussions. The intent of this action item is to install a device (double detector checks or a full flow meter) that will indicate if water is being used for non-fire related water consumption. One TCC member asked how substantial renovation would be defined. The District noted that the action item states that the definition for substantial renovation is left up to the local water provider.

Update on Water Loss Efficiency Rule

Johanna Smith with Georgia EPD stated that EPD is wrapping up the results of the 2017 AWWA Water Loss Audit and will likely post the results in July as well as the 2014 results which have not yet been posted. Johanna reminded the committee that the submission requires utilities to submit their system targets with the audit. Georgia EPD intends to engage in a program of outreach, prioritization, and permitting for improving efficiency across the state.

The following questions were asked:

- How does EPD look at the economic level of leakage?
 - o Answer – Each system gets to set their own economic level of leakage and EPD will look to ensure that every system has established this level.
- Georgia is leading the nation in addressing water loss. Can the state get out in front of this message and say it like, “look at how much water we have found”, rather than “look at how much water we are still losing.”
 - o Answer – Georgia EPD has typically not gotten involved in publicity campaigns and is unlikely to take on this initiative.

Copper Pitting/Pinhole Leaks

Kathy Nguyen reported that Cobb County Water System has logged over 100 customer complaints regarding copper pinhole leaks which started when a customer began a complaint group on the

website Nextdoor. Most of the leaks were being reported on the customer side of the meter. Cobb County has studied the issue in the past but asked other TCC members if they have seen similar issues in their systems or heard complaints from customers.

The Cobb County Marietta Water Authority created a single website dedicated to the issue (<http://ccmwa.org/FAQs/Pinhole-Leaks-in-Copper-Plumbing-Systems>).

Several TCC members offered possible explanations but none reported substantial numbers of customer complaints. Kathy said she would appreciate any further collaboration if any other utilities experience similar issues.

WASTEWATER TCC SUB-COMMITTEE

Discuss WW-7 Grease Management Model Ordinance

The District has received multiple requests from smaller communities to generate a model ordinance for grease management in accordance with Action Item WW-7 Subtask-2. To aid in the understanding of how many jurisdictions still do not have an ordinance regulating grease, the 2017 Implementation Survey will include a question requesting a statement defining who holds the local grease management program's legal authority. Survey responses are due on June 29, 2018.

TCC members noted that the ordinance will need to be flexible based on local administration (e.g. who provides the specs, review of the plans)

The District provided a list of likely elements that would be considered for the model ordinance including: definitions, list of prohibitions in the local sewer, plan review authority, grease trap design, grease trap maintenance and record keeping, periodic inspections, enforcement, and other optional additions.

The Georgia Department of Health noted that the local Environmental Boards of Health may also be able to help draft local ordinances.

The following TCC members volunteered to assist with the development of the model ordinance: Keith Higgs, Horace Gee, David Kubala, Stephen Rudy, Ernest Earn, Jennifer Brandon, Barbara Seal, Chris Kumnick.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow Tracking – Discuss Standardizing Causes

The District has analyzed regional SSO data reported to Georgia EPD since 2000 and displayed a graph showing total spills vs grease related spills. Although grease related spills have come down overall since 2000, the data has gone up and down. On closer examination at the underlying reported causes and based on utility member feedback, there are inconsistencies across the region as to how utility crews label the cause of reported spills. The committee discussed the various complicating issues related to cause tracking.

The District requested that the committee members send in copies of their spill report forms so the District can look for consistencies and inconsistencies in how data is logged. The District will also contact Georgia EPD to interview their staff as to what the state requires and then report back at a

future TCC meeting to further the conversation. A possible goal could be that the TCC will help craft a uniform report for SSO tracking that will specify a consistent list of possible causes. The hope would be that consistent reporting will help the region better analyze spill cause trends so to aid with future asset planning.

One member suggested that the group consider the maintenance/repair coding provided in the National Association of Sanitary Service Companies (NASSCO) standards. One member suggested that the District prepare educational material which states what items are not appropriate to put down a toilet.

Save the Date for Septic Coordination Meeting

The District announced that a Septic Coordination Meeting has been scheduled for September 18, 2018 at GAWP Headquarters from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. All wastewater managers, stormwater managers, planning and zoning managers, and local public health department officials are invited to attend. The committee reviewed the District's draft agenda. Recommendations were made to include discussion of septic density and septage receiving capacity if we get planning and zoning officials in the audience.