

Committee Meeting Minutes
Water Loss Committee
CA-NV Section of AWWA

Oct. 22, 2018

- **Committee Secretary:** Currently, the Committee needs a Secretary.
 - Welcome Michael Simpson! Michael Simpson (M. E. Simpson Company) volunteered to be the new Committee Secretary
- **Performance Measures and Regulatory Activities:** This topic includes activities at the nation level and State level (SB555, SB606, and AB1668).
 - AWWA National Group: The National Committee has established for following goals:
 - Goal 1: They would like to transition away from the use of “percent loss” as a performance standard.
 - Goal 2: They would like to find the replacement performance standard.
 - California Performance Standards: The State Water Resources Control Board continues to move towards establishing performance measures for water loss.
 - They have held three meeting thus far.
 - In the latest meeting, they indicated that they will be emphasizing the effort at real losses, assigning each urban retail water supply agency a real water loss volume.
 - They will not be using the ILI as a performance standard
 - After the fourth stakeholder meeting, they will develop a draft set of performance standards, probably in the Spring 2019, and begin the public process.
 - The Committee discussed the question of what a good standard for water loss is. The following points were captured:
 - What will a volume be based from? The data is still normalizing, as utilities get better at conducting water loss audits
 - Why exclude apparent loss? The relationship of real loss and apparent loss makes excluding one and using the other very questionable, especially while the data is so new and in the process of improving
 - Should we have ranges instead of one number? That would correct for uncertainty and could be used in conjunction with practice.
 - Is the proposed performance standard going to include targets to further reductions, despite of all the efforts that a water utility has already performed, functionally penalizing them for being proactive?
 - Should the performance standards be set at something like the 85th Percentile?
 - As part of the new legislation (SB606 and AB1668), DWR will be leading a stakeholder process for developing a report to the Legislature regarding Urban Wholesale Water Suppliers conducting water loss audits. This effort will probably begin next month. More to come.
- **Audit Reporting:** Todd Thompson and Sue Mosburg discussed audit reporting:
 - Many California agencies have submitted their audits. At this time, Todd did not have a count but expected that audits were still trickling in.
 - DWR experienced some problems with the software, but the issues were all resolved quickly.
 - Most of the past audits have been approved. The remainder will be sent back for revisions.
 - The number of qualified Water Audit Validators was tight, with some validators working many hours to get the job done. Next year, only CA-NV Certified WAVs will be allowed. Hopefully, there will be more to perform validation next year.
 - For the 2017 Reports (2016 audit data), the biggest issues were:
 - ❖ A partial submittal of the report (only one of two required sheets)
 - ❖ Not management practices listed to improve DVS and reduce real losses
 - ❖ Missing PWSID in the audit

- **Environmental and Health & Safety Committee:** Joyce Clark attended the meeting and noted some cross-cutting issues (the below notes include additional information because Sue Mosburg and Todd Thompson subsequently attended the Committee Meeting):
 - There is work ongoing regarding the testing of water lines and compliance issues for when water lines break, releasing into surface waters.
 - Currently, the San Jose Water Company is working to update the BMPs in the Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual for Drinking Water System releases. This is part of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) because of a release several years ago (fish kill).
 - As part of the effort, the interest for this Committee is what water loss BMPs are applicable for use and citation in the manual?
- **Meters Committee:** Michele Harvey attended the Committee meeting. She too was present to discuss some issues that cut across both our Water Loss Committee and the Meters Committee.
 - They have received some abstracts that better fit into the Water Loss Committee. They will send those over to us for consideration.
 - There are opportunities to coordinate efforts
- **AWWA Software:** There is new software being developed that will include new definitions in the grading values. More to come.
- **CA-NV AWWA TAP:** The final TAP report is available and includes lessons learned
- **AWWA Journal Article:** Recently, the AWWA Journal included an article documenting the success of the Section's water loss technical program effort.
- **Committee Training Recommendations:** The committee provides topics needed for educational opportunities. What Training would the Committee like to see?
 - Meter Testing and Calibration
 - Data collection for audit best practice
 - Water Loss Audits 101
- **Spring Conference Abstracts:** We have received some abstracts for the Spring Conference in Sacramento. The theme may be lessons learned. We need to make the decision by the 2nd week of November.
- **Opportunities:**
 - Georgia AWWA
 - Utility in May
 - ACE
- **Future of the Committee:** We are currently an Ad Hoc Committee. At this meeting, the Committee decided to propose that we become a formal Committee in the CA-NV Section of AWWA under the Water Resources Division.