

07/14/09

Time Start: 10:05 am

Time Stop: 11:33 am

Meeting & Teleconference Call at LCRA Redbud Center:

Work Group 2 Metrics & Trends

~ Monitor Trends in Water Conservation Implementation & Monitor Target & Goal Guidelines

Council Members , Alternates & Interested Parties

Spokesperson Karen Guz Jennifer Nations
Dan Strub Mark Olson
Donna Howe
Stephen Densmore
Jim Parks
Dan Opdyke
Carole Davis
John Sutton
Nora Mullarky
Elliot Fry
Juan Soulas

TWDB Staff

Vanessa Escobar
Laila Johnson
John Sutton
Dan Hardin
Kevin Kluge

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am and roll call was taken. The workgroup began by introducing themselves. Workgroup members, TWDB staff, and representatives from Water User Groups (WUGs) that are participating in the pilot study were in attendance.

Elliott Fry from SAWS reported on a meeting with Dr. Karl Eschbach, the State Demographer, which had been held the previous week. This meeting was held as a follow up meeting discussing census data, census tracts, and census blocks. Dr. Eschbach recommended using census blocks as a base unit in any planning and population analysis we do, as it is something available and consistent statewide. Dr. Eschbach indicated that his office was working with the Houston and Dallas area Council of Governments on some projects involving population estimation with GIS. Elliott further described how he used a test method of layering boundaries on top of census blocks. Dr. Eschbach indicated that the State Demographer's Office maybe be able to lead a project to develop a user friendly application involving the census blocks that could be used and downloaded by all.

Dan Hardin and Kevin Kluge provided an update from the TWDB on a new project in the works to compile all public water supply service (PWS) area boundaries in the State of Texas in to a geodatabase. The project has a better starting place than initially thought because TCEQ has contracted out with several universities to get all the Certificates of Convenience and Necessity boundaries in a database and digitized. This project at TCEQ is expected to be completed in October 2009. The ultimate goal of the project through TWDB is to have a geodatabase of PWS boundaries and ID numbers linked to the water use survey database and additional information at the TWDB. The TWDB has a commitment from management on this project and is working on finalizing a scope of work that will be submitted to vendors through TNRIS for bids.

Staff from the TWDB and TCEQ will be meeting in the coming weeks to coordinate work. Ideally the data will be collected in 2010 to coordinate with the Census and will be reviewed and finalized to be released in April 2011.

Elliott Fry reported on the challenges of using the census block method; one challenge being that boundary lines don't always match up with the census blocks. Additionally, the census data is collected every ten years even though population size and locations can change significantly. Elliot provided an example of an area in San Antonio and how census blocks and boundary lines do not align in several instances. Discussion took place on the different methods that could be used to account for the population served in these situations- centroid method and weighted average. The general consensus was that a common methodology needs to be decided on and if everyone agrees to the method and sticks to using it, there shouldn't be major complications. Kevin Kluge pointed out that within the Regional Water Planning Framework, water users have an opportunity to submit alternative population estimates that may differ from the chosen methodology. Another point was made that if people were given an option to make variances, then it would just defeat the purpose of having a standardized methodology. The work group agreed to try this in the pilot study and see how it goes.

Discussion took place on how GPCD calculations for the multifamily category are done. Everyone counts multifamily in a different way and there is no set methodology. The work group decided that each of the WUGs participating in the pilot study should gather all the information they have on how they collect and calculate multifamily in their area and all will report at the next meeting. The pilot study participants agreed that they needed around three weeks to complete this task.

Discussion took place on the division of water into use categories for the purpose of data collection and gpcd calculation. There is some concern on whether this will be too complicated when we have enough trouble getting complete datasets returned now. The work group will address this topic further at the next meeting.

Dan Hardin reported to the group that the TWDB is looking into updating the water use survey and attempting to simplify the forms in order to get better returns. He asked the group how they felt about the monthly data being removed. Discussion took place and the group was supportive of simplifying the survey, but there was some concern over making sure they still have all the data that people need and use.

The workgroup adjourned at 11:33 am.