Teleconference Call:
Work Group 4 ~ Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion in Best Management Practices Guide & Develop a state water management resources library.

Council Participants	**TWDB Staff Sitting In**
Spokesperson Gene Montgomery	Vanessa Escobar
Greg Carter	John Sutton
Bill Hoffman	Aung Hla
Karen Guz	
Comer Tuck	
Kelly Hall	
Wilson Scaling	
Steve Bednarz	
Richard Egg	

Gene Montgomery started the meeting by sharing what he would like to discuss during this call. It was suggested that:
1) The group touch base on what everyone had found in their research;
2) Talk about the charge as the work group interprets it, and if there are any recommendations overall to the council about what this work group's charges will be;
3) Discuss opinions on external participation and to what extent.

Bill Hoffman had the opportunity to chat with Chris Brown at the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE), Peter Mayor with the American Water Works Association's (AWWA)Waterwiser Program, as well as some other key players who would be involved in this area. AWWA's Waterwiser is moving over to the Alliance of Water Efficiency (AWE), as they plan to continue to maintain it. Overall there is an interest in partnering or combining efforts on this particular task. AWE's vision is to have multiple states contribute their information to an online database.

The California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) in California was formed to do exactly this for California, and do plan to maintain their information sharing website. The CUWCC web site does have two conservation experts screen and monitor information before reaching the web site. CUWCC spends about ¼ million a year to keep the web site updated and maintained. There is an opportunity for some synergy between all of our efforts.

Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS) is another good model. Some of the data is hosted by TNRIS which they have available for download, and there are a number of other agencies responsible for maintenance of some data that the TNRIS has on a link. TNRIS has about 5-8 staff members.

A question was brought up: How do we get individuals to subscribe to web site? Keeping the resource maintained would be an important factor in that.

Gene Montgomery asked if anyone in the work group had come across any new BMPs. Green Build is coming up with their own BMPs. There are also associations such as the Irrigation Association for example, who has put out information on landscape irrigation controllers. This site is probably not being viewed as often as it should be, for all of its information on new technology. One point that was brought up is that there is not an easy road map that links all

this hidden information together in a quick and easy tool. Perhaps the resource that this council develops would link to other online resources, therefore following a "Touchstone" concept.

A question was brought up: Has anyone done any research about Australian BMPs?
Bill Hoffman has had the opportunity to meet with folks from Australia in the past. It is something that CUWCC, AWE, and AWWA have been working on to get folks from over there involved in some discussions and sharing their experience. Several years ago the USDA Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resources Conservation Service) worked collaboratively with New South Wales and produced some agricultural BMPs information. There was some valuable information exchanged between the two agencies and would be one place to start researching information. Sydney Water Conservation, City of Adelaide, or City of Sydney web sites may be other starting points. Israel should also have a lot of information that need to be looked at. Bill Hoffman said he would try to get a hold of a firm in Australia and share what he finds with the group.

As a work group, we are not necessarily looking at the detailed information we want to bring in on this but rather, are gathering a sense for the types or categories of information we want this database/ library to include. Additionally, we want to look at how we are going to properly filter information. Designing a subscription process to promote the updating or sharing of new information, and incorporating a marketing effort for this resource would be important to consider.

On to another topic, Gene Montgomery brought up the idea of outside participation. The overall agreement of this work group and probably the council is that distribution mailing and email lists need to be developed. There were a few different suggestions to this, including the following:
- It was suggested that just the council members be tasked with finding data, and do the work of the work groups. With that approach the council members could go to their respective areas on their own for feedback from outside parties.
- It was also suggested that external participant be brought in by invitation only or for presentations.
- Another suggestion was made that because not all council members may be familiar with all aspects of the interest group they represent, that they would need to incorporate input from external participants in their decision making.

Overall there needs to be a defined way of how we are going to include external input from people who want to contribute, especially from those that we don't know or haven't formed relationships with yet.

It was suggested that a distribution list be set up to solicit input through an email process. This would allow people to follow what is going on by reading minutes, and allow them to contact the spoke persons. Perhaps there could be a periodic physical meeting followed up with a period for public comment. In the past experience, outside interest parties participate more face to face in person.

The last item that Gene Montgomery discussed was if there was any further review of the charges.
- It was suggested that the work group include a statement about how we are going to focus on inviting people to the web site. Perhaps this could be considered a marketing factor for the database/library resource.
- It would also be important to incorporate into the charges a method for facilitating a transfer of information.

- Another factor to incorporate into the charges would be developing criteria for keeping an online database/ library updated and maintained; keeping in mind this does not come free.

Gene Montgomery requested that the work group think about how they want to further refine, expand, or change the charges and send those revisions to him via email. His new email address is: montgomerygene@gmail.com .

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.

Immediate Actions	Long Term Actions
Work group members will further review the scope of charges and forward their feedback to Gene Montgomery via email.	
Date of next conference call will be decided in near future.	