

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Meeting and Conference Call
Workgroup: Water Loss

Date: April 3, 2024

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: TEAMS

Members/Alternates	Interested Parties	TWDB Staff
Bill Hoffman	Blaire Parker	Brittany Condry
David Villarreal	Clifford Howard	Daniel Rice
Earl Foster	Dan Strub	Denise Livingston
Eddy Tevino	Daniel Nix	Jessica Paz
Jason Knobloch	Diana Miller	John Sutton
Jennifer Allis	Hope Wells	Karen Saunders
Jennifer Walker, Co-Chair	Jennifer Nations	Loren Whitman
Joyce Warren	Marshall Elliot, Co-Chair	Marla Heger
Karen Guz	Patrick Shriver	Shae Luther
Leslie Patterson	Perry Fowler	Taylor Nickell
Marty Kelly	Sarah Kirkle	Yun Cho
Whitney Milberger	Sarah Riggins	
	Shelly Galeazzi	
	Ted Pick	

**Documents can be found at: www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/ **

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Introduction
- II. Discussion of Legislative Report Content
 - a. Possible Legislative Recommendations
 - b. Discuss Trends and Water Loss Issues.
- III. Discussion of 2025-2027 Work Group Work Plan
- IV. Adjourn

Meeting started at 3:02pm

Discussion was held on previously discussed item [HB 4445](#), a proposed bill using water loss percentage (15%) that would trigger Stage 2 drought measures until such time as the system falls below the 15% WL.

- Did the work group want to incorporate guidance verbiage should the issue arise in the next legislative session?

- If the system is above their ‘thresholds,’ could there be an added required component to their conservation plans? Have the system be more specific in how they are going to address their water loss issues.
- Currently, TWDB is initiating water loss audit validation.
- Disconnect between water loss and drought restrictions.
- An educational portion in the report versus discussing HB 4445 directly.
- Where is the disconnect for legislators not understanding water loss numbers?
- Water loss issues in time of drought justify having highly practical drought restrictions to ease the high pressure demands through stressed infrastructure.
- Effectively enforcing Drought restrictions; review management and enforcement of drought restrictions.
- In addition, high water loss may be a reporting error.

Discussion held on GPerConnectionsD versus GPerCapitaD

- GPerCapitaD
 - captures the population and infrastructure growth
 - not a good reflection of water loss during weather extremes
- What metrics do we want to focus on? – Include briefing on the different metrics in the report
 - Metrics used must be uniform for Regional and State planning
 - “People do not lose the water (per capita). Water loss is in the system (per connection).”
 - Is per connection/per capita different for rural versus urban systems?
- Include in the report that the industry desired metrics are GPconnectionsD and ICI. GPCapitaD is useful for internal tracking.
- Include data validity

Include current efforts to mitigate water loss in report. - Tell a story of what is going on with the water loss.

- Water loss is significantly addressed in conservation plans, water loss audits and validation.
- Validation helps utilities better understand the cause of their losses, resulting in better investments.
- Water loss is now a separate strategy from conservation in the regional plans
- We need to give the current, recently implemented program/strategies a chance to show results.

Due to the activity with water loss in recent years, we currently do not have additional recommendations. We are pleased with the strides we have been making and we think we will see noteworthy progress in the next couple of years in mitigating water loss.

Other report items:

- Include any potential case studies on systems responding to water loss.
- What are regular water loss mitigation strategies and what are some utilities doing to cope with the higher level of main breaks during drought?
- The report should also include a summary of dollars borrowed for water loss projects, number of loans, and projected gallons saved.

Trends (from previous meeting)

- GPCD fluctuates a little year to year

- TWDB has hired additional water loss staff. (2 last fall and 2 more coming on board in April and June.
- Volunteer utilities for validation have been identified. The validation process will start this summer.
- Water loss webinars were held, technical assistance is available.
- Discussion held on the challenges of retaining consistency on necessary processes with utility staff changeover and retirement. Need to create guidelines/how to documents.
- Also, inexperienced utility staff, difficulty in hiring qualified candidates, and retiring experience.
- Research opportunities for studying soil types and main breaks during drought. And high customer demands
- Good audits will help direct funding needs

Meeting for Water Loss work group ended