

Summary of Minutes

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

Date: November 28, 2017
Time: 1:30 PM
Location: Lower Colorado River Authority – Redbud Center, Room 108S
3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703

Members	Alternates	Interested Parties	TWDB Staff
Karen Guz Donna Howe Jennifer Allis Tim Loftus Carole Baker Aubrey Spear (by phone)	Dustan Compton (by phone) Jennifer Walker	Meghan Bock Valerie Miller	John Sutton Shae Luther Daniel Rice Siobhan Scott

I. Introductions/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 PM and roll call was taken.

II. HB 1573 Rulemaking

John Sutton updated the group regarding the current status of the rulemaking process. The rules were presented to the board and are currently posted on the Texas Register for public comments. The comment period closes on December 4, 2017. He explained that the words used in formulating the rules were basically what came out of statute. The rules are:

1. The board by rule shall require the audits required by Subsections (b) and (b-1) to be completed by a person trained to conduct water loss auditing.
2. The board shall make training on water loss auditing available without charge from the board's website. The board may provide training in person or by video or a functionally similar and widely available medium. Training provided under this subsection must include comprehensive knowledge of water utility systems and terminology and any tools available for analyzing audit results. In creating training materials, the board may consider other organizations' training programs.

Once comments are received, they will be considered and addressed as appropriate and the hope is to have the rules finalized towards the end of January.

The workgroup did not prepare any comments regarding the proposed rules.

III. Water Loss Audit Training

There was prolonged discussion regarding the interpretation of the source of the training – whether it must be received from the agency or whether it could be through attendance at a

course provided by a third party. It was emphasized that the wording in the statute indicates that the training should be developed and made available by the executive administrator and provided via the agency website. Discussion transitioned to how the board sees the development of the training module, at least as a starting point. Daniel currently offers a 4-hour workshop in conjunction with TCEQ through which attendees can earn CEUs. He is developing a shorter version of that to be provided as an interactive power point type presentation, at the end of which the participant can print out an acknowledgment of completion. Mike Howe of Texas Section – American Water Works Association offered to assist with the production of the module in their studio at no cost to the agency. It is estimated that the module will be 1 to 1.5 hours in length, with no CEUs earned, and that it will be available early 2018. Over time, enhancements may be made as deemed necessary. Daniel will continue to provide the 4-hour workshop.

IV. Level 1 Validation

The subject of Level 1 Water Loss Audit Validation was brought up. There was discussion on what the concept is, does it bring added value and whether or not it should be introduced into Texas. The possibility of a pilot study was raised and will be open to further consideration.

V. Action Item

John Sutton to follow up with Mike Howe of Texas-Section AWWA to discuss training video production possibilities.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned and the call ended at 3:06 PM.