Minutes
WWA Efficiency Committee
July 26, 2013
Kohler Co. Main Office

Attendees: Bob Smail, Joe Trueblood, Mike Forslund, Nancy Quirk, Brenda Bornfleth, Linda Mohr, Mary Adelmeyer, Don Voigt, John Carlson, Rob Zimmerman, Mike Noreen, Denise Schmidt

1. Committee Business Meeting

**IAWWA Joint Webinars:** Mike Noreen updated the group. The webinar on Water Loss Control Triumphs is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on November 6. Mike will contact Jill to get the word out via a WWA notice, and Denise agreed to include an article in the PSC’s October edition of Water Currents. In 2014, IAWWA will have a session on Climate Ready Utilities lead by Cary McEllhiney. The group suggested that a presentation on high capacity wells would be good, and Mike encouraged committee members to submit additional ideas for future topics.

**WWA Annual Conference:** The Committee’s track for the annual conference will be a Water Loss Audit and Leakage Component Analysis workshop jointly sponsored by WWA and the Alliance for Water Efficiency. It is scheduled for Wednesday (September 18) afternoon of the conference from 1:00 – 4:00. In addition, the following conservation/efficiency-related sessions are on the conference schedule:

a. “Going Green” (Wednesday, 11:00)
b. “Recapture Energy That Was Once Lost” (Wednesday, 1:00)
c. “Teaching Old Dogs New & Sustainable Tricks” (Wednesday, 1:30)
d. “Water Audits” (Thursday, 9:15)
e. “Show Me The Money – Energy Use and Savings” (Thursday, 2:00)
f. “The Fight For Water: Managing Multiple Uses for Groundwater and Its Impact on Drinking Water Sources” (Friday, 9:00)

**WWA Newsletter Articles:** On the April teleconference, Tim Garcynski committed to writing an article about an Alliance for the Great Lakes project that will appear in the September newsletter. For the winter newsletter, DNR will contribute an article reporting on Great Lakes Compact initiatives that are underway in Wisconsin and other states. Rob and Linda will work on an article about Illinois’ new green plumbing code.
**Next Meetings:** The Committee will meet in person at 7:45 on Thursday morning (September 19) of the annual conference. The next teleconference meeting will be held November 14 at 3:00 p.m.

2. **Presentations**

**Rob Zimmerman, Kohler Co.:** Rob provided background information on the evolution of water efficient plumbing codes and programs nationwide as well as a detailed description of EPA’s WaterSense program. Rob described the role WaterSense plays in promoting water efficiency and discussed possible changes to its programs and benchmarks in the future.

**Nancy Quirk, Green Bay Water Utility:** Nancy described Green Bay’s system and the challenges they face in providing water efficiently to their customers. She described the extensive efficiency improvements the city has made at its water and wastewater treatment facilities (she meets with the wastewater utility manager every month), as well as their leak detection program.

**Denise Schmidt, Public Service Commission:** Denise shared charts and graphs, including water pumped and residential use figures that will be included in the agency’s 2013 Wisconsin Water Fact Sheet. She summarized local conservation and efficiency programs from across the state and described the agency’s efforts to coordinate energy and water efficiency initiatives through the Focus on Energy program.

3. **Working Lunch**

Committee members discussed the following issues:

a. Leaks on private property  
b. Meter accuracy and its impact on conservation/efficiency  
c. Bill frequency and its impact on conservation/efficiency  
d. Demand issues related to public fire protection versus drinking water  
c. Irrigation systems – commercial and residential  
f. EPA’s Energy Star allows for water tracking now. Do any utilities require their larger customers to track water use

4. **Field Trip: Blackwolf Run Golf Course**

Michael Lee, Manager of the Golf Course Maintenance, and Chris Zugel, Class A Superintendent, from the Blackwolf Run and Whistling Straits golf courses hosted a
behind-the-scenes tour of Blackwolf Run’s facilities and water management practices. The group learned about best practices for managing irrigation that is both efficient and produces a high quality “product.” Staff also described the importance of golf course design on the ability to manage water effectively and efficiently.