

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Colorado Water Loss Control & Management Committee

November 12, 2024
10:00am-11:00am Mountain

This meeting was held virtually.

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Meeting ID: 229 391 624 332

Passcode: VUKMDS

Action Items

- (All Members) **Committee Roster Update:** Check the committee roster on the Colorado Water Loss Initiative website and email Drew (drew.blackwell@cavanaugholutions.com) if your name is not listed.
- (Angela) **Aqua Talk Blog Article:** Work with Kevin and Drew to create an article for the Aqua Talk blog to introduce the committee and its initiatives. <https://aquatalk-colorado.blogspot.com/>
- (Kevin) **World Water Loss Day Coordination:** Coordinate with CWCB communications to create a formalized plan for promoting World Water Loss Day, including case studies and social media posts.
 - (Drew) will share media tools for the event
- (Amanda) **No-des Demo Details:** Send details about the No-des demo, including costs and logistics, to the committee for potential cost-sharing and participation.
- (All Members) **Next Meeting Hosting:** Consider hosting the next in-person committee meeting in January, May, and/or September in 2025 and inform the committee of your availability.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome (Drew Blackwell)

- **Introduction of New Members:** Drew introduced Angela and Amanda as new members of the committee. Angela is from the Department of Public Health and Environment, and Amanda is the finance director for Fort Collins Water District. Both shared their backgrounds and interest in water loss initiatives.
 - **Angela's Background:** Angela Green Garcia introduced herself as a member of the Department of Public Health and Environment. She works with the local assistance unit as a drinking water training specialist. Her role involves providing technical assistance to water systems to help them understand regulations and navigate system needs. Angela is interested in learning more about the water loss initiative and how it can be applied to both large and small systems in Colorado.
 - **Amanda's Background:** Amanda Proctor, the finance director for Fort Collins Water District, introduced herself. She mentioned that her colleague, Eric Dowdy, who is the IT and data manager, also joined the meeting. Amanda expressed interest in using data to make better-informed decisions about water losses and conservation efforts in the district.

2. Water loss stories (open floor)

- **Water Loss Stories:** Michelle shared Loveland's implementation of filter smart units at their water treatment plant, which optimizes backwash water usage and saves significant amounts of water. Katie discussed an issue with commercial meter upgrades in Fountain, where incorrect meter sizes led to billing errors, which they have since corrected.
 - **Loveland's Filter Smart Units:** Michelle explained that Loveland installed filter smart units at their water treatment plant. These units optimize the amount of water used for backwashing filters by measuring turbidity and communicating with operators through SCADA. This implementation saves about 13,000 gallons per backwash and can save up to 10 million gallons per year for the utility.
 - **Fountain's Meter Upgrade Issue:** Katie discussed an issue in Fountain where commercial meter upgrades reverted the meter size to three-quarter inch, causing billing errors. This resulted in customers charged for significantly less water than they used. The issue was identified and corrected within three months, and they are now working with their CIS vendor to remove the manual component to prevent future errors.
 - **Colorado Springs DMA and Dashboard Implementation:** Scott discussed the implementation of district metered areas (DMAs) and installation of Mueller Echologics leak monitoring devices in their system, which has already identified leaks. The next step is to deploy AMI in the area and build a dashboard for the system.
 - **Dashboard Tools:** Eric Dowdy inquired about the tools used for dashboarding. Scott mentioned that they use Power BI for tracking and dashboarding, and Mueller Sentryx for the leak monitoring devices. Power BI is used for various dashboarding needs within their organization, although it requires dedicated personnel to maintain and manage it effectively.

2. CWCB/CWLI Updates (Kevin Reidy & Drew Blackwell)

- **CWCB Updates:** Kevin provided updates from the CWCB, including the upcoming water plan grant deadline and the successful passage of Prop. JJ, which will increase funding for water loss initiatives. He also mentioned the new reporting requirement for water loss data and the upcoming Denver Water distributor training.
 - **Grant Deadlines:** Kevin reminded the committee about the upcoming water plan grant deadline on December 1st and the next deadline on July 1st. He encouraged members to consider applying for grants to fund water loss initiatives.
 - **Prop. JJ Passage:** Kevin announced the successful passage of Prop. JJ, which will increase funding for water loss initiatives. The additional funding will be \$900,000 for 2023-2024, \$1.2 million for 2024-2025, and at least \$2.5 million for 2025-2026.
 - **New Reporting Requirement:** Kevin mentioned the new reporting requirement for water loss data through the 1051 data reporting, which kicks off on June 30, 2025. This requirement aims to gather better numbers and improve water loss management across the state.
 - **Denver Water Distributor Training:** Kevin highlighted the upcoming Denver Water distributor training scheduled for December 17th. This training aims to bring together Denver Water and its distributors to discuss water loss management and share experiences.
- **Colorado Water Loss Initiative Update:** Drew provided an update on the Colorado Water Loss Initiative, mentioning recent workshops that brought 15 new utilities into the program. Another workshop is scheduled for November 19th, and a targeted workshop for Denver Water and their distributors is planned for December 17th.

3. Committee Research Report (Drew Blackwell)
 - **Last call for comments:** Drew announced the last call for comments on the committee report and asked committee members to consider if there was a specific committee chair that may be valuable as a guest speaker at one of our committee meetings
4. Elevating water loss across the Colorado water industry and professional orgs (Discussion)
 - **Elevating Water Loss in Colorado:** The committee discussed ways to elevate water loss awareness in Colorado, including submitting articles to the Aqua Talk blog, utilizing CWCB's communications team for World Water Loss Day, and increasing water loss-related presentations at conferences.
 - **Aqua Talk Blog:** Angela suggested submitting articles to the Aqua Talk blog to raise awareness about water loss initiatives. She offered to work with Kevin and the committee to create content for the blog.
 - **World Water Loss Day:** Kevin proposed utilizing CWCB's communications team to create a concerted effort for World Water Loss Day on December 4th. This could include sharing case studies and promoting water loss initiatives through social media.
 - **Conference Presentations:** Drew discussed the importance of increasing water loss-related presentations at conferences. He suggested setting a goal for the number of abstracts submitted and accepted for future conferences to elevate the topic of water loss. Frank shared that AWRA may be a good resource as well: <https://awracolorado.org>.
5. Bringing in industry experts as guest speakers
 - **No-des Technology for Flushing Volumes:** Frank introduced the No-des technology for capturing and reusing flushing volumes, which Amanda and Eric from Fort Collins Water District are interested in. The committee discussed the potential for a demo and the possibility of CWCB funding for the demo.
 - **No-des Technology Introduction:** Frank introduced No-des technology, which captures and reuses flushing volumes. This technology can optimize water usage during flushing operations and potentially save significant amounts of water.
 - **Interest from Fort Collins:** Amanda and Eric from Fort Collins Water District expressed interest in the No-des technology. They have been trying to arrange a demo since July and are considering purchasing the technology to improve their water efficiency.
 - **Demo and Funding:** The committee discussed the possibility of arranging a demo for the No-des technology and the potential for CWCB to fund the demo. This would allow multiple utilities to see the technology in action and evaluate its benefits.
 - **Future In-Person Meeting:** Drew mentioned the next in-person committee meeting in January and asked members to consider hosting the meeting. Aurora and Northern Water expressed interest in hosting.

Minutes prepared by:
Drew Blackwell, Cavanaugh