

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Colorado Water Loss Control & Management Committee

January 21, 2025
11:00am-12:00pm Mountain

This was a Hybrid meeting.

Location:

Northern Water District, 220 Water Avenue, Berthoud, CO 80513
Room: Chimney Hollow

Microsoft Teams

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Meeting ID: 251 132 685 25
Passcode: rN9mH7eP

Action Items

- (All Members) Identify goals and activities the committee can pursue in 2025. Document these goals in the shared document here: [CWLCM Committee 2025 Goals](#)
 - (All Members) Related to goal setting: Explore opportunities to submit water loss-related abstracts to professional conferences like AWRA, Water Wise, and the Special Districts Association.
- (All members) Think of ways to elevate the importance of water audit validation in Colorado, potentially through a recognition program or other initiatives.
- (Angela/Kevin/Drew) **UPDATE: Aqua Talk Blog Article:** Kevin and Drew to review Angela's draft article for the Aqua Talk blog for February 2025 publication. Angela to publish. <https://aquatalk-colorado.blogspot.com/>
- (Drew) Add Smanatha Bryan to committee roster

Meeting Summary

The Colorado Water Loss Control & Management Committee discussed upcoming events, including the North American Water Loss Conference from December 2-4, 2025. The committee emphasized the importance of water loss control and management, sharing updates on various projects and initiatives. The committee also highlighted the importance of integrating water loss management into land use planning and discussed the potential for AMI meters to aid in disaster response. The Colorado Water Loss Control & Management Committee discussed the historical and current water management strategies in the region.

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome (Drew Blackwell)
 - Welcome Samantha Bryan! Samantha is with Denver Water in the Demand Planning and Efficiency Group | samantha.Bryan@denverwater.org
2. NAWL update (Kevin Reidy)
 - The North American water loss conference occurs every other year and is the premier water loss conference in North America. It is well attended and draws representatives from over 20 countries.
 - Program site: [North American Water Loss - American Water Works Association](#)
 - Dates: December 2-4, 2025
 - Where: Louisville, KY
 - Abstract Deadline: March 20, 2025. See site for submittal process.
 - **Dena Egenhoff** suggested promoting the conference in the Rocky Mountain section of AWWA magazine. The contact is Kari Larese KLarese@hrwater.org. 700 words or less with pictures, shot bio., and photos of the authors. The article suggestion was 'Top 10 reasons to attend NAWL.'
3. Water loss stories to share (Open Discussion)
 - **Ryan Dalton** shared that a second round of supply meter testing through the Colorado Water Loss Initiative with E Source was conducted, noting improved data from retesting.
 - **Dena Egenhoff** shared experiences with improper winterization of backflow devices and irrigation systems causing massive leaks as well as AMI systems and the challenges of bad gaskets in Badger meters, leading to high leak rates. Additionally, the topic of potential for AMI meters to help with water loss and pressure issues during natural disasters came up and may be a future consideration for the committee and industry. Dena referred to a study on AMI meters and their role in disaster preparedness, including potential issues with water pressure and radio transmissions during disasters including the importance of strategic placement of AMI endpoints to mitigate risks during wildfires. Dena will share the study once published.
3. CWCB Updates (Kevin Reidy)
 - Growing Water Smart workshop, which integrates water efficiency into land use planning and includes water loss management.
 - Polaris tool for integrating land use and water planning, and its potential benefits for water loss control.
 - Updates on phase three of the Colorado Water Loss Initiative (CWLI), focusing on continuing training, Level 1 Water Audit Validation, Direct Technical Assistance and validator training.
 - Highlighted the importance of validation in water loss audits and the ongoing efforts to build a pool of validators in Colorado.
 - Kevin reminded everyone that the June 30, 2025 is the first hard deadline for utilities submitting their 1051 report will be required to attach their AWWA Water Audit.
4. Colorado Water Loss Initiative update (Drew Blackwell/Isabel Szendrey)
 - **Drew Blackwell** outlined the services offered through the Colorado Water Loss Initiative, including new learner training, Level 1 Validation, and Direct Technical Assistance (supply meter testing, billing data analysis, customer meter test design/analysis, real loss component analysis, leak detection, and water audit compilation. There has been an increased demand for new learner workshops in the fourth quarter of 2024.
 - **Angela Garcia** inquired about the process of scheduling and conducting technical assistance, emphasizing the importance of data gathering and preparation. Program website updates were suggested to more effectively communicate to utilities.

- **Isabel Szendrey** provided an update on some of the supply metering assistance that has been provided through the program recently.

****The committee meeting expired at this point, so the following agenda items were not discussed. Instead, they will be on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, the shared tracking sheet for 2025 goal setting has been indicated in the action items and **All Members** are encouraged to document their ideas there****

5. 2025 Goal setting – Please come to the meeting with some goals in mind for the committee in 2025 (Discussion) – Deferred to March 2025 meeting
6. Elevating water loss across the Colorado water industry and professional orgs (Discussion) - Deferred to March 2025 meeting
7. Water audit validator training (Discussion) - Deferred to March 2025 meeting

After the committee meeting adjourned, Northern Water provided presentations on their history and mission as well as recent work on their innovative Conservation Garden Demonstrations and irrigation system. A huge appreciation for Northern Water for hosting the meeting and providing this great information!

Summary

Weld County is one of the top 10 most productive counties for food production, with a diverse population and significant water infrastructure, including the Grand Canal and the 13-mile East system. The committee highlighted the shift from agricultural to municipal water use and the challenges of water efficiency in agriculture. They also emphasized the importance of water conservation, showcasing various demonstration gardens and irrigation systems that promote low-water landscapes and efficient water use. The meeting concluded with a group photo and a commitment to continue sharing the best practices and data for water management.

Minutes prepared by:
Drew Blackwell, Cavanaugh