



Water Conservation Committee Report

The Water Conservation Committee held its annual winter meeting via conference call on Wednesday, April 19th, 2017. The meeting topic was on the AWWA CA-NV Section Water Efficiency Practitioner professional certification. Attendees heard from Steve Garner, Certification Manager for the AWWA CA-NV Section and Tom Hawes, Chair of the Water Use Efficiency Practitioner Certification Committee. Tom also works for the United States Bureau of Reclamation as a Water Conservation Specialist.

The CA-NV Section's Water Use Efficiency Practitioner (I, II & III) certifications have evolved over the programs 20 year history. What began as a desire by water utilities to develop consistency within the industry, the certification program has grown into a network of water conservation and efficiency professionals that meet specific program criteria. To date, there are 366 grade I, 45 grade II, and 9 grade III certifications in the Section.

While professional certifications have been part of discussion in the Water Conservation Committee before, it remains a relevant topic to revisit in order to keep the PNWS Section up to date on regional and national trends in water management. The Water Use Efficiency Practitioner Certification remains a potential program framework for other states and organizations as they consider additional program consistencies and standards. Other recent industry developments around standardization of water conservation and efficiency efforts that the Water Conservation Committee has covered include the voluntary AWWA G-480 water conservation program standard and adoption of the AWWA M36 water audit methodology.

Several Oregon based Water Conservation Committee members worked closely with Oregon Water Utilities Council, League of Oregon Cities, and others to monitor recently introduced legislation impacting water utilities and water conservation and efficiency programs specifically. In addition, committee members continue to monitor developments around the potential elimination of the EPA WaterSense Program. This program serves several purposes including third-party review and verification and product labeling of water efficient products such as toilets, irrigation controllers, and more.

Incoming Water Conservation Committee Chair, Amy Geerling (City of Hillsboro, OR) will officially take over on May 5, 2017 at the Annual Conference in Kennewick. Sarah Santner (Portland Water Bureau) takes over as Vice Chair.