

Water Conservation Committee

The Water Conservation Committee held its annual fall conference call meeting on Thursday, December 1st, 2016. The meeting topic was “*Challenges of Irrigation Calculators for Residential Applications*” and focused on how utilities, manufacturers and others are finding creative and effective ways to communicate proper irrigation schedules to water users. Attendees heard from Dr. Troy Peters of Washington State University on the concepts involved with plant water need and the underlying calculations necessary to determine appropriate irrigation run times. A special thanks to Mark Guthrie of Seattle Public Utilities for making our discussion with Dr. Peters possible. This was one of the Water Conservation Committee’s most well attended web-conference calls with approximately 29 attendees.

Also during the conference call, Water Conservation Committee members reviewed the draft technical program for the upcoming 2017 PNWS Section Conference. The Water Conservation Committee collaborated with the Water Resources Committee on a technical track exploring Water Conservation as a Source of Supply. A second collaboration with the Water Information Technology Committee resulted in a co-sponsored track focused on the use of data and information to drive water conservation and efficiency efforts.

Several Oregon based Water Conservation Committee members attended the Watersmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas the first week of October, 2016. WSI has been the country’s preeminent water use efficiency conference for nearly a decade and continued to offer a look into new and innovative ways utilities, manufacturers, and others are pushing the efficiency envelope. PNWS’ very own Cascade Water Alliance received an EPA WaterSense Excellence Award for Strategic Collaboration – Go CWA! View PDF versions of the presentations and learn more about the 2017 conference at www.watersmartinnovations.com.



PNWS Water Conservation Committee members attending the 2016 Watersmart Innovations Conference.

The EPA WaterSense program issued a draft specification for pressure regulating sprinkler bodies in November, 2016. This marks an important step in the program as it seeks to offer more outdoor products with the recognizable EPA WaterSense label. Currently, smart irrigation controllers are the only irrigation related product that goes through the third-party testing requirements overseen by EPA WaterSense. Learn more about the draft specification and pressure regulating spray sprinkler bodies at https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/products/spray_sprinkler_bodies.html.

Upcoming Dates:

PNWS 2017 Annual Conference – Kennewick, WA

May 2 - 5, 2017

Kennewick, WA

<http://www.pnws-awwa.org>

Watersmart Innovations Conference

October 4 - 6, 2017

Las Vegas, NV

www.watersmartinnovations.com

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