



PNWS – AWWA Water Conservation Committee Fall Update

September 15, 2017

PNWS – AWWA Conference in Kennewick, WA

In May 2017, the PNWS Water Conservation Committee held two successful joint technical sessions at the annual conference in Kennewick, WA. The first joint session on water conservation and efficiency as a source of supply drew a diverse audience of water resource managers, water conservation and efficiency experts, data scientists, engineers, and more. The second joint technical session with the Water Information Technology Committee was equally as interesting. Experts in the field of economics, GIS, and AMI data presented to a packed house.

Summer Committee Meeting

On August 17th the Water Conservation Committee held our Annual Summer Meeting in Camas, Washington. Twenty- one members attended the meeting.

The meeting started with an overview of the City of Camas Water Conservation Program by Rachel Jamison – Administrative Support Specialist for the City of Camas.

After Rachel’s presentation we then drove to the Camas Wastewater Treatment Plant and participated in a tour provided by the Operations Supervisor, Bob Busch.



This was followed by an informative discussion on the status of Oregon HB3337 from Steve Carper, Julie Smitherman then gave an update on her position as a new Trustee for PNWS – AWWA, and Chris Kowitz from Oregon Water Resources Department filled us in on the Oregon Water Management and Conservation Plan Rulemaking.

After lunch, the committee reviewed abstracts for the 2018 Section Conference in Tacoma in May. As we did in 2017, we will be partnering with the Water Resources Committee to host a track.

We ended the meeting with a webinar provided by Michelle Maddaus with Maddaus Water Management. She provided training on a tabled-based water audit software. Maddaus Water Management developed a spreadsheet for their own use; however, many other organizations have asked to buy it. They now sell it and provide training. Michelle feels that once a user learns how the system works, it can be a real time savings for audits. The software runs best on Windows-based tablets that can run the full version of Excel. Committee expressed interest in organizing a training at an upcoming committee meeting.

Next Committee Meeting

Julie Smitherman will be representing the Conservation Committee at the Trustee meeting in Bend on October. We will also offer a webinar in November. The topic is still to be decided. Stay tuned for more information regarding the next committee meeting and webinar.

Information Sharing

Members of the conservation committee frequently send items of interest to the Chair to be shared with the rest of the committee. This is a wonderful way for the Committee to keep in contact with each other and to share information, thoughts and opinions.

Stay Connected and Informed!

Want to join the Conservation Committee or receive emails about upcoming meetings and events? Please contact Committee Chair, Amy Geerling for more information amy.geerling@hillsboro-oregon.gov or Vice Chair Sarah Santner at sarah.santner@portlandoregon.gov