



Water Loss Accounting
By: Don Craig, Deputy Director

Water Loss Accounting

Recently, I attended a meeting at the Illinois EPA state office in Springfield, for the Water Loss Accounting Work Group. I was sitting in for our Executive Director, Frank Dunmire who was unable to attend that day due to other obligations.

At the meeting were many representatives of organizations and agencies throughout the state, including the Northwest Water Planning Alliance, Center for Neighborhood Technology, Natural Resources Defense Council, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Section of AWWA, IEPA, and others.

This steering committee has been assigned with the direction of IEPA Director, Lisa Bonnett, to gather information through various organizational entities, water systems, and others, to determine how water loss accounting is promoted or required among the water supplies throughout the state. Also, the group is to provide Training and Outreach in various topics and areas of water audits, which also may include technical assistance in some form.

Water Loss is a huge problem, not only in Illinois, but across this nation. A recent quote from CNT, states that... "Unchecked water loss within water supply systems is of public concern; it wastes public money, hinders the economy, and risks long-term water scarcity. Previous studies and surveys about water loss demonstrate the long-held belief that maintaining robust water service infrastructure is key to an efficient and sustaina-

ble water system. Multiple reports by various national agencies have highlighted the risks and associated costs of underinvestment of our nation's infrastructure. We can no longer afford to ignore the infrastructure buried under our feet; it's too costly, damaging, and unsustainable to do so."

A few years ago, the Mayor of my home town, asked me what towns should be concentrating on the most, in regard to providing services to the people in their communities. I told him at that time, and still strongly believe, that sustaining the infrastructures of our town, and to all communities, is and always should be a top

priority. Specifically, concentrating on upgrading, renovating, and maintaining water and wastewater systems within the towns, should take precedence... as those typically are the community's number one assets in most all cases. To this day, almost every time he sees me out, he still thanks me for giving him some additional insight in regard to taking a positive and progressive approach to a concern that is normally "out of sight and out of mind". He and the community leaders

in my home town have aggressively been taking action to secure the continued life of those systems, and to lower their overall water loss within the water distribution system itself.

Getting a "handle" on unaccounted water in a system, will always be an important task for communities and Districts across the nation. But, to help institute and retain sustainability of their system, and infrastructure... it's something that needs to be addressed now, and always.

"Unchecked water loss within water supply systems is of public concern..."

IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance"

THE IRWA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Friday, July 4 | - | Independence Day |
| Monday, September 1 | - | Labor Day |
| Tuesday, November 11 | - | Veteran's Day |
| Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28 | - | Thanksgiving |
| Wednesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 25 | - | Christmas |

Time For New Meters? By: Chuck Woodworth, Circuit Rider



Today, utilities are faced with aging infrastructure and reduced operating budgets while challenged to meet rising customer demands. Because water meters are a utility's cash register, if the meter is not working correctly, the water system is losing money. How long can you allow your system to lose money? Is it long enough when your paycheck starts bouncing? Of course, that is almost a far-fetched time line but I have seen systems keep meters for 30 years or better.

This past winter was really rough on us who had to work outside. Did you think anything about your meters? I had quite a few systems this past winter start running higher than normal unaccountable water usage. I know, my first thought was a leak also but the system did not have an increase in the amount of water pumped. I was at a system whom had a 47% unaccounted for water. After printing out a spread sheet of monthly flows, it was obvious that the water sold had been decreasing over the past year but the water pumped was remaining relatively the same amount. While looking back to last year's water sold and water pumped, both dropped off about the same amounts or increased about the same. This is only one reason why an operator should keep records of past pumping levels.

While discussing the high unaccountable number I was asking several questions about the system such as how often are the meters read, are the meters estimated during winter, who reads the meters, when do you change a meter

and how old are the meters. I think most would be surprised at some of the answers I received from those questions. The best reply for how old are your meters was "I been here 19 years and only changed the ones that stopped registering. The system was installed late 70's or early 80's so probably most meters were originally installed back then. How long does a meter last?" So lets say that the system was installed in 1980, we now have meters that are 34 years old. A general rule of thumb is that household meters should be changed out after 15 years of service. Some manufactures recommend they be changed between 10 to 15 years. In this case the meters should have been changed twice by now. I know some people may say look at the money they saved by not changing the meters, I say look at the revenue they lost by not changing them. Operating any water supply is no different than running any business, sometimes you have to spend money to make money. I'm sure the expense of buying new meters can and will be recouped within the next two years from the increase in revenue. If you doubt if your meters need to be replaced, pull a few and do a bench test. Take a new meter and make an adaptor to connect the old meter to it and then connect a water supply, measure the discharge water if you want and there you go a meter tester. Be sure to record the readings on both meters before running water through them. Chances are if it is 30 years old or older it is costing you money. Are the cash registers in your system making money or costing you money?

HOW MUCH WATER DOES IT TAKE TO...

- Brush your teeth? 2 to 5 gallons
- Wash the car? 50 gallons
- Use the dishwasher? 8 to 15 gallons
- Flush the toilet? 1.5 to 4 gallons (each flush)
- Take a shower or bath? 17 to 24 gallons
- Run the washing machine? 35 to 50 gallons (each load)



<http://www.watereducation.org/doc.asp?id=1022#HowMuchWater>



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 27, 2014

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NACWA Urges Clean Water Utilities to Apply to Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Washington, D.C. – NACWA is pleased that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) today and looks forward to working with the Department in ushering in a new era of collaborative conservation. **The RCPP makes municipal water and wastewater authorities eligible to play an increasingly significant role in helping agricultural producers achieve better water quality outcomes.** The RCPP encourages partnerships between agricultural producers and municipal entities, like NACWA’s public clean water agency members, to help farmers manage nutrients and improve water quality on a regional scale more effectively. Almost \$400 million will be available in the first full year to support this work, and NRCS has indicated a strong interest in working with the clean water sector to help make the RCPP a success.

“42 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, we have reached a point where we must move upstream in

our watersheds to realize further water quality improvements. The RCPP will foster progress by encouraging all sources and sectors of water pollution to work collaboratively, and I encourage our utility members to apply,” says Ken Kirk, Executive Director, NACWA.

“Protecting and enhancing land and water natural resources must be a collaborative effort to succeed regionally. Success will not be realized if solutions are approached as solely an urban or a rural issue; the solutions will be found with a watershed approach. The 2014 Farm Bill’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program is the right approach at the right time. The RCPP will align an entire watershed’s resources around common, cost effective approaches to help the farmer and their municipal partners meet the future needs of their country,” stated Kevin Shaffer, Executive Director, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

“Restoring watershed health will require innovative urban and agricultural partnerships. With programs like the RCPP, we will be able to build the capacity to address complex water quality issues and at the same time support the economic vitality of our agricultural and urban communities,” adds Bruce Roll, Director Watershed Management, Clean Water Services.

NACWA is encouraging its members located in watersheds that can benefit from working in collaboration with agricultural producers to come forward and take advantage of the opportunity the RCPP provides.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Associate

Culligan Industrial
Horner & Shifrin
J&J Electric Repair Shop, Inc.
Letts, Van Kirk & Associates
Shawnee Professional Services
Sequoyah Software & Consulting, Inc

Voting

Brownsville Water Project Inc.
Village of Golconda
City of Marseilles
Village of Mulberry Grove
Village of Wilsonville

S.O.U.P.

Matt Corley
Carlos Covarrubias
Matthew Hoffman
Louie Leffelman
Edward Melby
Dennis Nauman
Patrick Presson
Brian Rogers
Joseph Ruscha
Joe Simpson
Amy Weck

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

11TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2014
10:00 A.M. SHOT GUN START**

**WHERE: PIPER GLEN GOLF CLUB
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**



**PLEASE LOOK ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ILRWA.ORG OR IN
YOUR MAILBOX IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR THE AGENDA. WE LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!**