

EO1 Team: Sustainable Water Use Team

Sept. 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Location: UCONN Reclaimed Water Facility, UConn Storrs CT

Attendees: Patrick McKee, Doug Hoskins, Seema Malani, Rebecca French, Christopher Iwanik, Steven Harkey
Guests: Katie Milardo UCONN, Matt McKeena UCONN, Reclaimed Water Facility Operators, and Facilities Administrator

Introductions were made of all attendees.

Began meeting with presentation of the history and operations of the reclaimed water facility operated at UConn. Its origins were in response to Fenton River going dry due to factors that included well withdrawal by UConn wells near the river. State mandated a 1/3 reduction in water usage (1 MGD reduction from the 3 MGD usage). The facility currently provides up to 0.5 MGD of water for non-potable purposes throughout areas on campus.

Tour of the facility was conducted with a final question and answer session that followed the tour.

Discussion on the Team's Purpose:

It was determined that our general purpose or mission is to advise the SSOs on best management practices on water sustainability and develop sustainability suite of tools to help achieve the 10% water use reduction from the baseline for state agencies and buildings.

Outcome of discussion: Creation of team's mission statement.

Initial Discussion on how to move forward:

The discussion began with the belief that the 10% reduction could be achieved through conservation. This led to a discussion regarding the different facilities and their usage. The discussion continued and it was determined that many agencies had different types of facilities, populations, usage, and previously enacted conservation measures such as low flow fixture installation. This realization led to a belief that a water audit should be created to help determine what the current conditions are at each facility. A first step of determining each agency/facility/building current state is needed to determine the best direction to go. This audit would help focus the type of conservation that would be best utilized such as communications or fixture replacement, conservation management plan, signs/communication/outreach or a combination of these and other initiatives. This water audit would be a self-performed assessment that documents the current facility use, population, water usage, and previous, current, or future conservation action or activities. The team was informed that there was discussion at a higher level to complete a building inventory. It was discussed if this would include the information the team was discussing. It seemed as if it did not. The discussion also included the possibility of Amy Vickers (sp?) being brought in to help the team to design the water audit. Her services would cost money and a discussion was had to determine if funding was available. This idea was tabled and it was determined, for now, that the team would attempt to create the water audit on its own. Several previously conducted audits were identified and discussed as possible templates or starting points.

Outcome of discussion: Creation of a water audit tool kit that would help focus future best management practices (BMP) and conservation actions that would best suit that facility.

Discussion on communication, promotion and tracking:

A discussion was had on how to best promote the conservation efforts at each agency. An idea of creating a competition among agencies was discussed. UConn currently has a competition with prizes between units (dorms/buildings?) to see who conserves the most water. This led to a discussion on how to show each agency how they are doing. A discussion on ways to provide this information was had which included a dashboard on EO1 website and EnergyCap. Information regarding usage would be required and may require metering devices be installed to collect the information for some facilities. Promotion of EO-1 goals at each facility through signage/posters and other communications was discussed. The signage/posters would convey “buy-in” from management to employees to help promote impactful personal water use behavior.

Outcome of discussion: Continue the conversation to determine the best way to communicate goals, promote conservation and track progress with eventual inclusion in sustainability suite of tools.

Discussion regarding signage/ posters and other communications:

Discussion regarding the November deadline of deliverables:

Doug provided information regarding a November deadline for two deliverables. The first deliverable of a suite of sustainability strategies was discussed. The team discussed what would be included in this suite. A suite of signage and communications materials was discussed as being part of these strategies. The pilot program to start the strategies was discussed.

Outcome of discussion: Continue the conversation with an end goal of an on-time delivery of the suite of sustainability strategies and pilot program.

The next meeting was discussed. Rebecca will email a doodle poll to determine the best date and time for the next meeting. It was also determined that the meetings can be at several locations with DEEP headquarters in Hartford being the location of the next meeting.