

# **Making Money Saving Water**

June 28, 2018 | Lubbock, TX

www.efcnetwork.org



This program is made possible under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. EPA.

# About the Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN)

The Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN) is a university-based organization creating innovative solutions to the difficult how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and improvement. The EFCN works with the public and private sectors to promote sustainable environmental solutions while bolstering efforts to manage costs.

#### The Smart Management for Small Water Systems Program

This program is offered free of charge to all who are interested. The Program Team will conduct activities in every state, territory, and the Navajo Nation. All small drinking water systems are eligible to receive free training and technical assistance.

#### What We Offer

Individualized technical assistance, workshops, small group support, webinars, eLearning, online tools & resources, blogs

# The Small Systems Program Team

- Environmental Finance Center at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Southwest Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico
- Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center
- Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University
- **EFC West**
- Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland
- New England Environmental Finance Center at the University of Southern Maine
- Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)

FINANCE CENTER

National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)



Environmental

Finance Center

**Government Finance** 

Officers Association

# **Areas of Expertise**



Asset Management



Rate Setting and Fiscal Planning



Communication and Decision-Making Strategies







Controlling Energy Costs



Accessing Infrastructure Financing Programs



Workforce Development



Water Conservation Finance and Management



Collaborating with Other Water Systems



**Resiliency Planning** 



Managing Drought

# **Small Systems Blog**

Learn more about water finance and management through our Small Systems Blog! Blog posts feature lessons learned from our training and technical assistance, descriptions of available tools, and small systems "success stories."

efcnetwork.org/small\_systems\_blog/



#### Blog



Magdalena, New Mexico: A Success Story from the Smart Management for Small Water Systems Project

Written by: Allison Perch Allison Perch is a Program Coordinator with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina. What can a small town do when the financial health of its water system is at risk? This is the question that Stephanie Finch, the town clerk and treasurer for the ...



#### The Virtuous Cycle: Internal Energy Revolving Funds for Small Water Systems

Written by: David Tucker David Tucker is a Project Director with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina. How can small (and large) water systems pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helping cut utility costs? As energy is often the largest variable expense in a water system's operating \_\_\_\_\_



#### Smart Management for Small Water Systems Program Newsletter | Fall 2015

View Full Issue The Environmental Finance Center Network has published the third issue in a series of quarterly newsletters. The Fall 2015 Program Newsletter announces



# SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER



# Understanding Non-Revenue Water

### Understanding the water balance ...



## What's the Big Idea?



#### What goes in, comes out ... somewhere

OUT





## You're either getting paid ...





Or you're not.





## It's a BLUE and GREEN problem ...



#### It's a BLUE and GREEN problem ...



# Money that we're not getting but could be.

Water that isn't going where we want it to.

#### We need a way to estimate:



## Distribution System

OL



#### What is the cost of losses?





#### The Water Balance:



#### The Water Balance: System Inputs





### System Inputs are supplied or exported



#### Water either generates revenue, or not ...



#### **Revenue Water... Billed & Authorized**



#### Let's focus on Non-Revenue Water ...





#### Non-revenue water has 3 main components





### Broken down further...





#### A bit about terminology...



#### NOT PHYSICAL LOSSES

- Water reaches a user
- Volumes are not counted
- Water does not generate revenue

VALUED AT THE PRICE YOU CHARGE CUSTOMERS



#### And a bit more ...



ARE PHYSICAL LOSSES

- Water did not reach a customer
- Difficult if not impossible to measure
- Water does not generate revenue

#### VALUED AT THE PRICE OF PRODUCTION

You CAN'T directly charge for losses, but all customers pay indirectly

# Put together... in a slightly different order ...

	System Inputs	Exported		Dillad	Exported		
		Supplied To Your System	Authorized Consumption	Billed Authorized Consumption	Billed Metered Billed Unmetered	Revenue Water	
Volume From Own			Consumption	Unbilled Authorized Consumption	Unbilled Metered Unbilled Unmetered		
Sources			Water Losses		Unauthorized Consumption	Non-	
				Apparent Losses	Customer Metering Error	Revenue Water	
					Systematic Data Handling Errors	vvalei	
Imported				Real	Main Leaks		
Water				Losses	Service Leaks Storage Leaks & Overflows		



#### Remember...



# Money that we're not getting but could be.

Water that isn't going where we want it to.

### THE AWWA WATER AUDIT SOFTWARE



Industry Standard (M36)

Free

**Excel based** 

http://awwa.org/waterlosscontrol

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#### **Texas Water Development Board**





Home Board SWIFT Financial Assistance Water Planning Groundwater Surface Water Flood Conservation Innovative Water

#### Water Loss Audit

Leak Detection | Water Loss Audit Resources | FAQs

#### Water Loss Audit (New Users)

#### Water Loss Audit (Registered Users)

The Water Loss Audit should be completed online. The online worksheet should be completed by a responsible party and/or a designated user for the utility. To access the Water Loss Audit Worksheet online you must first register by creating a username and password. The New User link will direct you to that page. Once you have created a username and password, you may use the Registered User link to request access to a particular utility. Once access is approved by TWDB staff you will receive a confirmation by email granting access.

Best Management Practices
Agriculture
Literature
Resources
Education
Outreach
Municipal
<ul> <li>Water Conservation Plans</li> </ul>

Water Conservation Plan ~ Utility Profile

#### www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/waterloss/index.asp

# DATA CATEGORIES:





#### Water supplied to your system

#### Water supplied to customers





#### System characteristics



#### **Financial information**





#### Other information


### With this data you can calculate Non-Revenue Water



### **Setting Parameters**

### Audit Timeframe:

The Audit covers a 1 year period

Can be calendar or fiscal year

Pick one and stick with it

2017						
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL			
1         2         3         4         5         6         7           8         9         10         11         12         13         14           15         16         17         18         19         20         21           22         23         24         25         26         27         28           29         30         31	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1         1           2         3         4         5         6         7         8           9         10         11         12         13         14         15           16         17         18         19         20         21         22           23         24         25         26         27         28         29			
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### **Setting Parameters**

Audit Boundaries:

The Audit covers a specific area

Can be whole system or part

Have defined entry & exit points





### **Setting Parameters**

Consistent Units of Measure:

Use Millions of Gallons, or

Megaliters, or

Acre Feet





### **Considerations:**





# START SOMEWHERE AND DO WHAT YOU CAN



# Is the data you obtain going to be completely acurate?



Why or why not?

### Data Grades

When you know better you do better.

~ Maya Angelou

### Data Grade Entry ...



### What Grade Should I Use?

		Free Water Audit S eporting Workshe	
<ul> <li>Click to access definition</li> <li>Click to add a comment</li> </ul>	Water Audit Report for: Waterto Reporting Year: 2014		Works (X
 Please enter data in the white cells below. When accuracy of the input data by grading each comp	ponent (n/a or 1-10) using the drop-d		ell. Hover t
	ect data grading for each input, de or exceeds <u>all</u> criteria for that gra		
WATER SUPPLIED		Enter grading	in column
Hover the cursor over	lume from own sources; + 7 Weter imported: + ?	95.206	MG/Yr MG/Yr
the red triangle in the	Water exported: + ?		MG/Yr
_ corner	WATER SUPPLIED:	98.151	MG/Yr
AUTHORIZED CONSUMPTION	Billed metered: + ?	6 80.408	MG/Yr

### What Grade Should I Use?



### The Data Grades will show up in a pop-up box.

	Volume from own sources
GRADE	✓ DESCRIPTION
n/a	Select this grading only if the water utility purchases/imports all of its water resources (i.e. has no sources of its own)
1	Less than 25% of water production sources are metered, remaining sources are estimated.
'	No regular meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.
2	25% - 50% of treated water production sources are metered; other sources estimated.
2	No regular meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.
3	Conditions between 2 and 4
4	50% - 75% of treated water production sources are metered, other sources estimated.
4	Occasional meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted
5	Conditions between 4 and 6
	At least 75% of treated water production sources are metered, or at least 90% of the source flow is derived from
6	metered sources.
° [	Meter accuracy testing and/or electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually.
	Less than 25% of tested meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy.
7	Conditions between 6 and 8
	100% of treated water production sources are metered,
8	Meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually,
[	Less than 10% of meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy
9	Conditions between 8 and 10
	100% of treated water production sources are metered,
10	Meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted semi-annually, with less that
10	10% found outside of +/- 3% accuracy.
Γ	Procedures are reviewed by a third party knowledgeable in the M36 methodology





### 🏢 Apps \land Cloud Server 🌓 Elizabeth Gentine and 🌓 Kylie Himmelberger 🕡 🧖 cayuse 🌀 SWEFC 🦄 Presentation Portal

### **Recent Posts**

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Mar 2017 >> << MTWTFSS 27 28 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2

### Water Audit Data Grading Sheets



To s

grade

A significant component of the water loss Water Audit Software is data grading. As you will see when you review the AWWA Water Audit software, each data input and output you report in the software is graded for reliability on a scale of 1-10. However, due to the software's Excel format, the data grading criteria are somewhat difficult to read in the convenience we have reproduced the grading spread crite and instruction or each input in a Word Document, which can be dow oaded HERE.

ect the correct day, grading for each input, determine the highest ere the utilit neets or exceeds all criteria for that grade and all grades

The data grades will be entered in columns E and J of the worksheet in cells denoted with a red triangle in their upper right hand corners as shown in the image at the left. Click on the image to expand.

## A New (Beta) Grading Tool ...

	А	В	С	D			
1 2 3	1 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3						
4	DV01	VOLUME FROM OWN SOURCES:					
5	No.	Question	Answer (Colort most environmiste environ from null deux monu):				
7	NO.	Does your utility import/purchase ALL of it's water supply (i.e.utility has no sources of its own)	Answer (Select most appropriate answer from pull down menu):				
8		What percentage of your water production sources are metered?					
9	3	How often are the meters tested and/or calibrated for accuracy?					
10	3	If you test your meters, how accurate are they?					
11	5	Are your procedures reviewed by a 3rd party knowledgeable about M36 methodology?					
12	9	Are your procedures reviewed by a 5rd party knowledgeable about 1050 methodology:	Data Validity Score:	0			
13			Data validity Score:	U			
14	DV02						
14		VOLUME FROM OWN SOURCES MASTER METER AND SUPPLY ERROR ADJUSTMENT:					
16	No.	Question	Answer (Select most appropriate answer from pull down menu):				
10	1	Are your sources of supply metered?					
17	2	How are tank/storage elevation changes employed in calculating 'volume from own sources' component?					
18	3	How is your production supply volume logged and reviewed?					
19	4	How and when is source meter data adjusted to account for error?					
20	5	N/A - Leave answer field blank					
21			Data Validity Score:	0			

## A New (Beta) Grading Tool ...

	Α	В	C	D
1 2 3		Southwest Environmental Finance Center	DATA VALIDITY WORKSHEET BETA Ver. 0.4 Date ADAPTED FROM THE AWWA WATER AUDIT SOFT	
4	DV01	VOLUME FROM OWN SOURCES:		
5	No.	Question	Answer (Select most appropriate answer from pull down menu):	
7	1	Does your utility import/purchase ALL of it's water supply (i.e.utility has no sources of its ow		
8	2	N/A - Leave answer field blank	In The local of QUESTION TANDER OCCED TO DV03	
9	3	N/A - Leave answer field blank		
10	4	N/A - Leave answer field blank		
11	5	N/A - Leave answer field blank		
12			Data Validity Score:	N/A
13				
14	DV02	VOLUME FROM OWN SOURCES MASTER METER AND SUPPLY ERROR ADJUSTMEN	Г:	
15	No.	Question	Answer (Select most appropriate answer from pull down menu):	
16	1	N/A - Leave answer field blank		
47	2	N/A - Leave answer field blank		
17 18		NUA - La sura su sura Palaklanta		
18	3	N/A - Leave answer field blank N/A - Leave answer field blank		
20	4	N/A - Leave answer field blank		
20	5	INA - Leave answer new blank	Data Validity Score:	N/A
21			Data validity Scole.	11/24

### **Be Honest About Grading**

hon-est \'a-nəst\ adj [ME, fr. AF, fr. L honestus honorable, fr. honos, honor honor] 1: free from deception : TRUTH-FUL; also : GENUINE, REAL 2 : REP-UTABLE 3 : CREDITABLE  $\langle an \sim day's \rangle$ work) 4 : marked by integrity 5 : FRANK • Synonyms UPRIGHT, JUST. CONSCIENTIOUS, HONORABLE - honest-ly adv - hon-es-ty \-nə-stē\ n alac + ---it

The right data grade accurately reflects your practices.

## **Overall Data Validity Score**

A	WWA Free Water Audit Software:	WAS_v5.0 American Water Works Assoc
	Reporting Worksheet	Copyright © 2014, All Rights Res
Click to access definition Water Audit Report for	Watertown USA Water Treatment Works (XXXXYYYY)	
+ Click to add a comment Reporting Year		
WATER AUDIT DATA VALIDITY SCORE:		
	*** YOUR SCORE IS: 49 out of 100 ***	
A weighted scale for the components of consu	mption and water loss is included in the calculation of the Water Audit Data Validity	Score
PRIORITY AREAS FOR ATTENTION:		
Based on the information provided, audit accuracy can be improved by add	tressing the following components:	
1: Volume from own sources		
2: Unbilled metered		
3: Customer metering inaccuracies		
0. Oustonier metering indecuration		
	Your D	ata
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### **Overall Data Validity Score**

В	С	DEF	G I	·	JŀL	М	Ν	0
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		lit Report for: Green Valley V porting Year: 2012	Vater System (XX) 1/2012 - 12/2012	(XXXXX)				
COST DATA	Total annual cost of operating Customer retail unit cost (applied to App Variable production cost (applied to	arent Losses): 🛨 ? 🚹	\$2,000.00	-	Use Customer Retail Ur	nit Cost to valu	e real losse	1
WATER AU	DIT DATA VALIDITY SCORE: Add a gra	ding value for 2 parameter(s)	to enable an audit	score to be cald	culated			
Based on the	AREAS FOR ATTENTION: e information provided, audit accuracy can be e from own sources	improved by addressing the follow	wing components:					
2: Billed 3: Billed	metered unmetered				If you m grades y get a me	vou v	vill	



AWWA Free Water Audit Software: Reporting Worksheet	WAS v5. American Water Works Asso Copyright © 2014, All Rights Res
Click to access definition       Water Audit Report for: Watertown USA Water Treatment Works (XXXXYYYY)         Click to add a comment       Reporting Year: 2014	
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A weighted scale for the components of consumption and water loss is included in the calculation of the Water Audit Data Validity Sco PRIORITY AREAS FOR ATTENTION:	re
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## **Overall Data Validity Score**

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<ul> <li>Click to access definition</li> <li>Click to add a comment</li> </ul>	Water Audit Report for: Watertown Reporting Year: 2014	USA Water Treatment 1/2014 - 12/2014	Works (XXXXYYYY)	
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2: Unbilled metered				
3: Customer metering inaccuracie	45			
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### **Grading Matrix For Action**

				AWWA	Free Water Audit	Software:	<u>Grading Matrix</u>		American Water V	Vorks Association
	-	The grading assigned to each	audit component and the corre	sponding recomm	ended improvements and actio	ns are highlighted i	in yellow. Audit accuracy is likely	to be improved by	y prioritizing those items shown	in red
Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
							Ð			
Volume from own sources:	Select this grading only if the water utility purchases/imports all of its water resources (i.e. has no sources of its own)	Less than 25% of water production sources are metered, remaining sources are estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.	25% - 50% of treated water production sources are metered; other sources estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.	Conditions between 2 and 4	50% - 75% of treated water production sources are metered, other sources estimated. Occasional meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.	Conditions between 4 and 6	At least 75% of treated water production sources are metered, <u>or</u> at least 90% of the source flow is derived from metered sources. Meter accuracy testing and/or electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually. Less than 25% of tested meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy.		100% of treated water production sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually, less than 10% of meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy	Conditions bet 8 and 10
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Volume from own Sources" component:		to qualify for 2; Organize and launch efforts to collect data for determining volume from own sources	to qualify for 4: Locate all water production sources field, launch meter accuracy testing begint to install meters on unmeter sources and replace any obsolete	s on maps and in the g for existing meters, red water production	to qualify for 6: Formalize annual meter accuracy ty meters: specify the frequency of installation of meters on unmetere sources and complete repla obsolete/defective m	testing. Complete ed water production cement of all	to qualify for 8: Conduct annual meter accuracy testi relited instrumentation on all meter regult basis. Complete project to in defer (ive existing, meters so that ent prodution is metered. Repair or rep of +/- 6% accuracy	r installations on a stall new, or replace ire production meter lace meters outside	to qualify for 10 Maintain annual meter accuracy tes related instrumentation for all meter i replace meters outside of +/- 3% acc meter technology: pilot one or mor innovative meters in attempt to fu accuracy.	sting and calibrati installations. Rep curacy. Investigat re replacements v
Volume from own sources master meter and supply error adjustment:	Select n/a only if the water utility fails to have meters on its sources of supply	Inventory information on meters and paper records of measured volumes exist but are incomplete and/or in a very crude condition; data error cannot be determined	No automatic datalogging of production volumes; daily readings are scribed on paper records without any accountability controls. Flows are not balanced across the water distribution system: tank/storage elevation changes are not employed in calculating the "Volume from own sources" component and archived flow data	Conditions between 2 and 4	Production meter data is logged automatically in electronic format and reviewed at least on a monthly basis with necessary corrections implemented. "Volume from own sources" tabulations include estimate of daily changes in tanks/storage facilities. Meter data is adjusted when gross data errors occur, or occasional meter tastino	Conditions between 4 and 6	Hourly production meter data logged automatically & reviewed on at least a weekly basis. Data is adjusted to correct gross error when mater/instrumentation equipment malfunction is detected; and/or error is confirmed by meter accuracy testing. Tank/storage facility elevation changes are automatically used in calculating a balanced "Volume from own sources"	Conditions between 6 and 8	Continuous production meter data is logged automatically & reviewed each business day. Data is adjusted to correct gross error from detected meter/instrumentation equipment andfunction and/or results of meter accuracy testing. Tanl/storage facility elevation changes are automatically used in "Volume from own sources" tabulations and data	
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### Action Items For Improving Individual Grades

# WHAT TO DO NEXT: LOOK AT THE TOOLBOX

Confidence



Values

Helps to Address	The Toolbox (Basic)	Cost Range
Data Validity, Data Results Out of Range	1 - Validation of supply & consumption volumes; Look for Data Grade Improvements	Low-Mid
Validity, Billed Unmetered Use, Unbilled Unmetered Use	2 - Estimating and tracking unmetered use	Low
Validity	3 – Master Meter Annual Testing Program	Low - Mid
Validity; Other Benefits Related to Asset Inventory & Management	4 – Mapping the System	Low - Mid
Authorized, Unbilled usage	5 – Review Policies & Procedures for unbilled customers	Low
Authorized, Unbilled Use	7 - Installing meters on unmetered connections	Mid
Unbilled unmetered	6 - Unidirectional flushing program	Low
Customer metering inaccuracy	8 - Meter testing & replacement	Mid-High
Unauthorized Use	9 - Theft Deterrence	Low - Mid
Systematic Data Handling Errors	10 - Billing system audit	Low-Mid
Real Losses	11 – Collecting & Analyzing Break Data	Low
Real Losses	12 - Improve speed/quality of repairs	Low
Real Losses	13 - Locate & eliminate pressure transients (surges, water hammer)	Low-Mid
Real Losses	14 – Night Flow Analysis	Mid
Real Losses	15 - Reduce peak and overall pressure	Mid-High
Real Losses: Leakage on Mains	16 – Main Replacement	High
Real Losses: Leakage on Services	17 – Service Replacement	Mid - High
Real Losses: Unreported Leaks	18 - Acoustic leak survey	Mid
Real Losses: Overflows and Leakage on Storage Tanks	19 – Tank Management, Data Collection, & Inspection	Low

If you take the time to do a water audit and check the data there are cost benefits to doing it.



# what can you do at your own facility

=, LEARN

Don't Let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can do.

food för thought

# Questions?





## Break time ...





# So what is a map?

"a diagrammatic representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features, cities, roads, **etc**."

6" CAST IRON 6" CAST IRON







### ALL TYPES OF MAPS CAN BE USEFUL



### What assets do you own?


### Which would be helpful on a map? Start with things that will help you the most.



You most likely have a lot more data to start with than you think you do dry ersee marker

Be on the look out between "what you know" and "what you think you know"



dry ernen marker

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

Some data wasn't generated for mapping.

It may be great for its intended purpose but...

there will be issues/anomalies/inaccuracy/concerns.

Over time you can change how you collect data.

# Where?





### Equipment & Software: How to choose











# **Apps – many choices**











# **MAPPING IS ABOUT PROCESS**



Maps can tell you much more than what & where...



#### Example options:

- Operational status?
- Pressure?
- Acceptable usage?
- Condition?
- Is it part of flushing program? What's the testing schedule? What's the hydrant color? What does the color mean? Is it locked? Who has keys?









### **Break Data:**

- Real Water Loss Control
- Capital Improvement planning
- Prioritizing Pipe Replacement
- Estimating Condition & Useful Life

# What other data can we consider?





# **Getting started**

An example





















C.r.





Car Parte Mar





# Starting Point: Existing ARCGIS Base Map from Planning Department

Establish naming convention by region and create collection forms before going into the field:

MH - BR - XXXCO - 1M - XXXHYD - GR - XXX



### **Summary of Field Work**

- 1,218 Assets Inventoried
- 417 Valves
- 182 Fire Hydrants
- 232 Sewer Manholes
- 28 Sewer Clean Outs
- 4 Drinking Water Sources
- 3 Drinking Water Treatment Plants
- Pressure Regulating Valves

- Air Relief Valves
- 6 Sewer Lift Stations
- Sewer Treatment Plant
- Mobile Assets







#### SEWER: AS-BUILT DRAWINGS





## Knowledge Management







# "Good" Map Made Better

Example of making maps more valuable





















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#### I HAVE INFORMATION

I know something, I have information in my possession (in my head, my notebook, my truck, etc.)

#### DATA IS DIGITIZED & SHARED

My data and data from other sources is digitized and combined.

#### WE KNOW MORE

The collective data and knowledge is now available to all.



#### **I DOCUMENT IT**

My information gets written down, or otherwise formally documented for use by others

#### DATA IS COMBINED, ANALYZED & VISUALIZED

Use appropriate tools (pushpins, GIS, etc.) to analyze and visualize the combined data. The whole is more valuable than the individual parts.

We've harnessed the collective knowledge...

... to make better, data-driven, decisions.



## Questions?





Water line replacement – data needs and options

Pipe Replacement is Expensive.. So need to be judicious about replacement

> Needs to be based on DATA!!

Past Breakage is A Good Indicator of Future Performance WRF Report 4326

The Future



## Break Data: Good Data to Assess Pipe Quality & Time for Replacement

## **Uses for Data**



Compare to Results of Water Audit



Pipe Replacement



Where to look for Leaks

Other???

Pipe Diameter Depth of Cover Pipe Material Bedding Material Condition of Bedding Natural Soil Type Condition of Pipe Interior Condition of Pipe Exterior Type of Service Line

Data

Surface Use and Surface Material Length of Pipe Segment Containing Repair Pipe Protection (if any) Type of Joints



Year of Installation Backfill Material Typical Flow in Area of Break Typical Pressure in Area of Break Type of Pipe Lining Pipe Wall Thickness

e ot Data

Environmental Conditions (temperature, depth of frost, weather, soil temperature, water temperature)



# Type of Break/Cause of Failure

Joint Failure Corrosion Construction Disturbance Rock Contact Frozen Pípe Settlement Erosion/Unsupported Pipe Poor Construction Practices Ground Frost

Hígh Water Pressure ín Pípe Traffic Load Water Temperature Change Unknown



# Repair Types

REPAIR COMPLETE

Repair Clamp Replace Pipe Section Replace Valve Repair Joint Replace Entire Hydrant Surface Restoration Replace Hydrant Parts Replace Service Connection Anode Installed

Extended Protection Installed Other - Specify Mapping Break Data Can Be Very Helpful

Visualize the data













#### Data in one format: A physical map book



### Data in another format: Excel

UPDATES	WORK TICKET #
	WORK TICKET #
	WORK TICKET #
CREW WORKING ON LINE PER RM @ 10:50AM	48674
FIXED	48642
UNCLOGGED	48683
FIXED DA/CN 2-22-16	48644
UNCLOGGED	48684
FIXED	48647
FIXED	48648
FIXD	48649
ED FIXED	48649
E FIXED	48687
FIXED	48671
D	FIXED

#### Same data combined in another format: GIS



#### Same data combined in another format: GIS



## Close up of same data



### 20 Years of pavement cuts...





2017-04-06 13:53:28 Apple iPhone 6 Fulcrum iOS 2.14.0 (3057), iOS 10.2.1, Apple, iPhone 6 810 x 1080 (0.9MP) 474 KB

#### Combined data from all sources





# 2007 Case Study: Arenas Valley

- The water system
  - Buy treated water from Silver City
  - Relatively new (1980s) PVC pipe distribution system
    - ~20 miles of pipe
    - ~430 service connections
    - ~25 hydrants
    - ~100 valves









## Some Examples of Uses of Break Data: ABCWUA Steel Water Lines











45% Reduction in Break Rate (and associated costs)

System





**Texas Division of Emergency Management** 

- **Texas Homeland Security**
- Texas Department of Public Safety


# Why Do We Need To Charge for Water?



## Water Is Free.....



# But the SERVICE isn't!!!!!













# We Want This



Support your customers <sup>24</sup> 7 365



But Want to Pay for This



### Level of Service

# To Pay for the Service: Need Customer Revenue



Principles of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges





Authoritative Resource on Safe Appen-

Advocany Carintures/Bank Defenses Receiver and Teatring Roman and References Sectors



Rate Setting is about generating the amount of revenue you need but there is more than one way to get there.

There is

no one

Iswer

G

There is no "right" rate

It's about the policy choices and value judgements you want to make TO



V. A. L. U. E.

Determine critical characteristics of your utility and community

Reevaluate/adjust rate structure to fit primary objectives

Set rates using projected costs and revenues



Design the most appropriate rate structure

> Contingencies **Principal and Operation and** for Interest on **Maintenance** Long-Term Debt Emergencies **Professional Repairs and Administrative** Services (Legal, Minor Engineering, Equipment Accounting) Replacement

> > **Planned Capital Expenditures**

Costs

Re	sei	<b>v</b>	e
Acc	ou	In	ts

# Where to Start:

# Last year's budget (line item budget)

At zero

# Considerations:

Do you have a separate budget for water How have costs increased over time? What increases are expected next year? Remember inflation, changes in customers (usage, numbers, demographics) Is capital planning complete, based on asset management or good plan? Are the current costs for O&M, replacement, and repair adequate?



- 1. Customer classes/distinction
- 2. Billing period
- 3. Base charge
- 4. Consumption allowance included with base charge
- 5. Volumetric rate structure
- 6. (If applicable) Number of blocks, block sizes and rate differentials
- 7. (Optional) Temporal adjustments
- 8. Frequency of rate changes

Design the most appropriate rate structure

#### 1. Customer Classes/Distinction

Alternative	Targets
One rate structure for all	All are equal
Separate rate structure for residential, irrigation, commercial, industrial, governmental, or wholesale customers	Specific type of customer
One rate structure, but with different base charges based on meter size	Non-residential or multi-family housing
One rate structure for all, but with blocks that implicitly only target non-residential use	Non-residential
Negotiated rate structure with individual high-use customers (typically an industrial customer)	Only one customer
Different rates for customers outside municipal limits/service area boundaries	"Outside" customers

#### 2. Billing Period

More Frequently (e.g.: Monthly) Less Frequently (e.g.: Quarterly)

#### 3. Base Charges

CONS

#### PROS



Suggestion: Smaller utilities should lean towards higher base charges

#### 4. Consumption Allowance with Base Charge



Suggestion: For systems with low base charges, do not include any consumption allowance. For systems with high base charges but wish to encourage conservation, keep consumption allowance low, if any.

#### 5. Volumetric Rate Structure



Suggestion: Pick the volumetric rate structure that fits your stated primary objectives best. Do not use decreasing blocks for residential consumption.

#### 5. Volumetric Rate Structure (Cont.)



Suggestion: Pick the volumetric rate structure that fits your stated primary objectives best. Do not use decreasing blocks for residential consumption.

#### 6. Block Designs (If Applicable)

For block rate structures to be effective:

#### Decide on the correct number of blocks

Decide on where the blocks should end/start

#### 7. (Optional) Temporal Adjustments

Prepare for drought in advance: create an ordinance in advance to give the utility the ability to raise rates temporarily during a water shortage scenario (sometimes called "drought surcharges").

Specify the potential rate increases precisely.

Rate increases should be substantial to encourage conservation.

Explicitly state the conditions that would trigger the temporary rate changes on and off. Tie the triggers to your water shortage response plans and water reservoir/well levels.

Note: Temporary rate increases that are significant in magnitude have been shown to be effective methods of encouraging conservation while recovering lost revenue.

#### 8. Frequency of Rate Changes

Decide when and how often you will review your rates. Some alternatives:

Always review your rates annually (recommended)

Review your financial health indicators annually, and then review your rates if any of the indicators reflect poor financing

Pass an ordinance or internal policy to raise rates each year automatically based on inflation

#### 8. Frequency of Rate Changes

Important: Avoid maintaining low rates at the expense of your utility's financial health. It will either lead to a sudden, massive rate increase in the future or to failing systems and endangering public health. Choose the rate structure that best meets your needs, remember there is no "right rate"

There are lots of rate structures that will achieve the correct amount of revenue

Set rates using projected costs and revenues



Total Estimated Annual Expenses for the Water Utility =

\$453,000

Amount Needed for Repair and Replacement Out of Rates for Next Year =

\$200,000

Desired Amount for Reserve Accounts =

\$150,000

Set rates using projected costs and revenues

Total Estimated Amount of Revenue Needed =

\$803,000

Option	1: Flat	Rate
--------	---------	------

Every customer pays \$35/month

**Total Revenue = \$840,000** 

#### Option 2: Fixed Fee Plus Variable Rate (1 Block)

Fixed Fee Per Month = \$16/month Block Rate = \$3.00/1,000 gallons used

Total Revenue = \$813,264

#### Option 3: Fixed Fee Plus Variable Rate (Increasing Block)

Fixed Fee Per Month = 16/month Block Rate = 0 to 6,000 gallons 1.80/1,000 gallons, 6,001 – 10,000 gallons, 3.50/1,000 gallons, 10,001 and up 8.00/1,000 gallons

**Total Revenue = \$804,011** 

Option 4: Fixed Fee Plus Variable Rate w/ 5,000 Gallons in Base Rate Fixed Fee Per Month = \$29/month 5,000 gallons in Base Rate Block Rate = 5,001 – 10,000 gallons, \$3.50/1,000 gallons, 10,001 and up \$8.00/1,000 gallons

Total Revenue = \$820,983

# Summary of Revenues

Option	Total Revenue Generated	Total Revenue Needed	Surplus/ Reserves
Option 1	\$840,000	\$803,000	\$37,000
Option 2	\$813,264	\$803,000	\$10,264
Option 3	\$804,011	\$803,000	\$1,011
Option 4	\$820,983	\$803,000	\$17,983

# Utility Rates in Time of Drought

#### When you know better you do better

Maya Angelou

# Expenses Can Be Fixed or Variable....



**Gallons of Water Produced** 

### Revenue To Cover Expenses Comes Primarily from Customer Rates







# VARIABLE CHARGE



### The Revenue Picture



**Gallons of Water Produced** 

# Is there a mismatch?



### Expenses Vs. Revenues

We collect less fixed revenue than the fixed expenses

### Fixed Costs Fixed Revenue (Base Rate)

**Gallons of Water Produced** 

Dollars



But, we can collect more variable revenue than we need to cover the shortfall.....



**Gallons of Water Produced**
## Expenses Vs. Rev

What happens when customers conserve?

Fixed revenues stay the same but variable revenues decrease

Dollars

Variable Cost

Variable Revenue

Fixed Revenue (Base Rate)

**Gallons of Water Produced** 

## Shortfalls are Possible



#### Now What?



## Rates Have to Rise to Cover Expenses





# VARIABLE CHARGE

What do we tell our customers about conserving?





## Conserve and you will .....



## We Have to Raise Rates



# To Cover Shortfalls

# VARIABLE CHARGE

#### "I did what you asked me to do, and you punished me for it"



## Water System Loses Credibility



### **Need Some New Approaches**



# One Option...

Variable Costs	Volumetric Charge	Match
Fixed Costs	Base Rate	Fixed Costs to Base Rate

### What are the Up-Sides?

When consumers use less, basic costs are still covered, no revenue shortfall

# Water conservation price signals remain for volumetric portion of bills

Water system credibility remains in tact



# Nothing's Ever Easy...

Higher base bills will have a disproportionate impact on low income customers

Because so much of bill is base bill, price signal for water conservation may not be sufficient, alone, to prompt conservation



#### Another Option: Decouple Water Conservation and Cost Savings

Providing excellent water service – need to pay for the service you receive

Conserving water so that we can have water now and into the future

Two completely different things

#### Resource

Free guide written for utility managers in June 2009

http://www.efc.unc.edu/publi cations/2009/GuidelinesDes igningRateStructures.pdf Designing Rate Structures that Support Your Objectives: Guidelines for NC Water Systems

June 2009





Funding support for these guidelines provided by the Public Water Supply Section of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency



# Medium







## **Operating Budget**

#### **Reserve Funds**

- Operating Cash Reserve Fund Covers unexpected revenue shortfalls
- Planned Repair/Replacement Reserve Fund (Also called Short-Term Reserve) — Purchase, repair or rehabilitate items with a 1 to 10 year life span
- Planned Capital Improvements Reserve Construct or upgrade facilities in response to growth or change, including new regulations; can lesson debt load; can pay for pre-construction expenses
- Unscheduled/reactive maintenance or Emergency Reserve — Provide funds for unforeseen repairs or replacement
- Debt Service Reserve Ensure funds are available to meet debt repayment terms

## Reserve Goals and Minimums

Reserve Account	Reserve Goal	Reserve Minimum
Operating Cash Reserves	3 to 6 months' worth of operating and PM	2 months worth of operating and PM
Unscheduled/reactive maintenance or Emergency Reserve	Average expenditure for past 5 years reactive repairs + 10% + current cost of most expensive item not included in spare parts inventory	Amount equal to the most recent typical year's expenditure for reactive repairs + 5% + current cost of most expensive item not included in spare parts inventory
Planned Repair/ Replacement Reserve	Predicted by AM Plan or R&R Schedule	5% of total system replacement cost or 3 months of operating expenses

## **Reserve Goals and Minimums**

Reserve Account	Reserve Goal	Reserve Minimum
Planned Capital Improvements Reserve	Predicted by AM Plan or Capital Improvement Plan	10 to 30% of the future cost of anticipated capital projects
Debt Service Reserve	Specified by loan agency	Level required by debt covenants



Repair & Replacement



# Financial Indicators

#### When you know better you do better

Maya Angelou

# Financial Ratios

Ratio	What Ratio Measures	Method of Calculation	Levels
Liquidity Ratio	Ability to pay current liabilities	Current assets divided by current liabilities	< 25, cause for concern <1 a major cash liquidity problem
Leverage Ratio (or Debt Ratio)	How much a utility relies on debt	Total liabilities divided by total assets	0.5 or less good
Operating Ratio	The utility's profitability or stability	Operating revenues divided by operating expenses	<1 financial distress 1.25 to 1.5 required by many lenders
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	The utility's ability to pay it's debt	Net Operating income plus current depreciation divided by total debt service	<ul> <li>1 = just enough</li> <li>revenue to cover</li> <li>debt</li> <li>1.15 or greater =</li> <li>required by many</li> <li>lenders</li> </ul>

### **Questions/Comments**





# **Funding Options**

**Funder presentations** 



# Water System Collaboration

**Cooperative Approaches to Drinking Water Challenges** 

#### Water System Challenges

#### Technical

- Infrastructure -Inadequate or aging
- Source Limited, poor quality/quantity
- Lack a certified operator

#### Financial

- Limited part time management attention
- Lack of expertise in long-term water system planning or operations

#### Managerial

- Diseconomies of scale (few households = high costs)
- History of water rates that are too low
- Limited knowledge of financing options

#### **Overcoming Water System Challenges**



#### Water System Partnerships are a **tool** for building capacity

### **Different Types of Partnerships**



Source: EPA Office of Water



Loose, Less Formal Arrangements Defined, More Formal Arrangements

#### $\leftarrow ---- \rightarrow$

#### Any kind of collaboration can be helpful



No. of Concession, Name

#### Less Formal

#### More Formal

#### Buying Consortium



Systems work together to buy equipment or supplies

#### Less Formal

#### More Formal

#### Information Sharing



Systems share information regarding regulations, planning, infrastructure

#### Less Formal

# Equipment





Systems share equipment so each one does not have to buy/own/rent all the equipment they need

#### More Formal
#### Mutual Aid/Emergency Assistance



Systems assist each other during an emergency or time of need

More Formal

#### More Formal

#### Emergency Interconnect



Systems have a physical connection that is only used during emergencies

#### More Formal

#### Operational Collaboration



Systems share an operator or contract with the same operator or operation company

#### **More Formal**



Managerial Collaboration

> Systems share management structure but systems are not interconnected



#### More Formal



**Regional Entity** 

Systems form a regional entity either as a separate option or the only option. All have a role on the board.

#### More Formal

Systems dissolve into neighboring entity

Systems lose independence. Only one utility remains.



## **Partnership Benefits – Big Picture**

#### System

- Economies of Scale
- Long Term Savings
- Improved Customer Service
- Planning for Future Operations
- Increased TMF Capacity

#### State

- Improved
  Compliance
- Potential Reduction in Number of Regulated Systems
- Resource Savings
- Improved Customer Relations

#### Customer

- Improved Water Quality
- Reduced Long Term Costs / Lower Water Bills
- Increased Reliability

## Motivations for Collaboration Or What's in it for me?

- Cost savings!!!!
- Addressing Staffing Needs
- Increased ability to comply with regulations
- Ability to access professional services
- Increased access to necessary equipment and/or supplies

## **Movement Towards Partnerships**

- System are struggling with a complex suite of existing rules requiring simultaneous compliance; as well as key health advisories.
- High expectations on the part of the public for safe drinking water for everyone.
- Water systems need a high level of technical, managerial, and financial capacity to meet all of their obligations.
- Need for leveraging lowered available resources.
- Technology to allow system to work in more informal partnerships exists.

## **Common Concerns with Collaboration**

- Desire for Autonomy
- Mistrust of Other Systems
- Lack of Knowledge of Other Systems
- Lack of Knowledge of the Options
- No Outside Independent Force to Get Collaboration Started



## **Elements of Successful**



# "Without clear goals you have no light at the end of the tunnel."

- Stephanie Wasylyk

It's important to have a thorough understanding of what you want to get out of the partnership

The organization must have agreement from the leadership on down regarding the goals.

The goals for each party must be clearly articulated to the others.









## **Outside or Neutral Facilitation**



Look for resources within the community or outside the community to assist in facilitating discussions

Communication is the key

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# What are the Financial

## Implications?

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## **Case Studies**

# **Regional Entity for New Supply**

- In Central Texas
- Several systems had problems meeting regulatory requirements
- New source could potentially solve the problem
- Formed a regional entity for the sole purpose of securing the new supply
- One member of each water system serves on the board of the new entity
- All individual water systems remain

# Shared Operators and Managers for Rural Water Systems

- Several small systems owned and managed by one entity
- Systems wanted to be bought
- Each system financed separately
- Operators on regional basis
- Operators know each others system
- Three levels: Operator, Regional Operator, Head Operator

# **Sharing Bookkeeping**

- Several small systems in southern New Mexico use the same accounting firm
- No connection between systems other than using the same firm
- Systems save considerable \$\$\$ and receive higher level expertise than they would otherwise be able to afford
- Added benefit, "We didn't want to shut you off, the firm made us"

# **Buying Consortium**

- Entities work together to negotiate agreements for cheaper prices
- Take turns negotiating and leading the consortium
- If a utility won't take its turn, they are eliminated from the consortium
- No other relationship between systems

## Talking Led to Greater Collaboration

- Systems started by talking: Monthly meetings with guest speakers and topics of mutual interest
- Led to a mutual aid agreement
- Led to three utilities interconnecting
- Led to cooperation to obtain legislation
- Led to cooperation to protect utilities from lawsuits

# **Conversion to Another Utility Type**

 Utility started as municipality and became regional Authority



# **Tools and Resources**

## **Disasters Declared in TX include:**

- Hurricanes
- Flooding
- Wildfires / Structure Fires / Road Fires
- Tornadoes
- Straight-Line Winds
- Severe Storms
- Explosions
- Tropical Storms

#### WARN

Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network

"A mutual aid and assistance network provides water and wastewater utilities with the means to quickly obtain help in the form of personnel, equipment, materials and associated services from other utilities to restore critical operations impacted during an emergency."

"Becoming a member of a mutual aid and assistance network before an emergency can make all the difference when your community's water or wastewater system is in need of help. Use the resources below to ensure you have an effective support system in place."





#### REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Click the link above to request assistance

#### **TXWARN** Partners

#### COMMUNITIES

#### Welcome to TXWARN!

The mission of the Texas Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (TXWARN) is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual aid assistance for public and private water and wastewater utilities.

Working closely with the TCEQ and the State Emergency Operations Center, TXWARN is prepared to assist water and wastewater utilities in response and recovery during major system outages and increase your preparedness by providing new tools and proven practices that can enhance your utility's readiness to recover should disaster strike.

#### Become a TXWARN member today!

- Updates on news & events
- Access to online resources
- And much more!

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!!



https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/water-system-partnerships



## **Resources Available**

WATER SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS:

STATE PROGRAMS AND POLICIES SUPPORTING COOPERATIVE APPROACHES FOR DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS



\$EPA

## Questions?










## SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

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## Visit the EFCN Website – www.efcnetwork.org

### for more information on upcoming events, funding, and resources.



## **Upcoming Events Calendar**

### Select "Upcoming Events" under the Workshops & Webinars Tab.









Туре	Date/Time	Event
-	03/09/2017 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	WEBINAR   Preparing Winning Financing Applications for Water Infrastructure Projects
-	03/22/2017 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	WEBINAR I Water Audits and Water Loss Control: Entering Your Data into the Spreadsheet
2		Maryland I Rates and Finance Workshop for Small Water Systems Easton Utilities, Easton MD
-	04/04/2017 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	WEBINAR: Workforce Development: An Overview of Key Components
2	05/11/2017 9:00 am - 4:30 pm	Virginia I Rates and Finance Workshop for Small Systems The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Danville Virginia
2		Arkansas I Rates and Finance Workshop for Small Water Systems Beaver Water District, Lowell AR
		Pennsylvania I Rates and Finance Workshop for Small Water Systems Pennsylvania American Water Co, New Castle PA

## **Funding Tables By State**

Select "Funding Sources by State" under the Resources Tab.



### Funding Sources by State

Note: Some states may have additional resources listed below the map.



# Click on an individual state to view funding table.

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rgen Water and Wastewater Fund

## **Request Technical Assistance**

Select "Request Assistance" under the Assistance Tab off the EFCN homepage to access and submit the TA request form electronically.



### REQUEST ASSISTANCE



## **Rates Dashboards**

Select "Map of Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboards" under the Resources Tab, and click on any state in blue to view its dashboard.



Click a state in blue to view its dashboard

This map shows Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboards created by the EFCN:



## **E-Learning Modules**

Select "E-Learning Modules" under the Resources Tab off the EFCN homepage.



As part of its continued effort to provide resources and training to small water systems, the Environmental Finance Network is creating E-Learning modules on finance and management topics for system managers.

E-Learning modules provide training through pre-recorded content. You will be able to access the content, watch presentations, complete quizzes and exercises, and access tools and resources at your own pace.

### Financial Sustainability for Small Systems

### Click Here to Access the Course on AWWA's website

This eLearning course is made possible through a USEPA grant for small systems training in conjunction with the EFCN's training partner, AWWA.

## **Resource Library**

Select "Resource Library" under the Resources Tab off the EFCN homepage.



### View All Tools | View All Publications | View All Posts

For an overview of some of the tools and resources available in our Resource Library, please view our Tools and Resources flyer.

### What does your system need help with?

+ We treat more water than we sell.

## **Resource Library Continued...**

Click on a what your system needs help with to reveal tools and publications related to that topic.

We have insufficient revenue to cover our costs. Tools February 16, 2017 November 7, 2016 Online Water Rate Checkup Tool Modelo de Análisis para las Tarifas de Agua y Aguas Residuale February 17, 2016 January 26, 2016 Water Utility Customer Assistance Program Cost Estimation Tool Financial Health Checkup for Water Utilities September 3, 2014 August 15, 2013 Water & Wastewater Residential Rates Affordability Assessment Tool Rates and Financial Benchmarking Dashboards December 16, 2012 November 20, 2012 Plan to Pay: Scenarios to Fund your C.I.P. Water & Wastewater Rates Analysis Model November 15, 2012 November 4, 2012 Dashboard for Using Capital Reserve Fund to Avoid Rate Shock Loan Analysis Tool Publications April 14, 2014 August 29, 2013 Rural and Small Systems Guidebook to Sustainable Utility Management Setting Small Drinking Water System Rates for a Sustainable Future August 29, 2013 August 27, 2013

### Asset Management: A Handbook for Small Water Systems

Designing Rate Structures that Support Your Objectives



### Thank you for participating today. We hope to see you at a future workshop!

www.efcnetwork.org



