# Updating Your Communities' Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plans

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# What's the Difference?

- **Water Conservation Plan**
  - Ongoing, drought or flood
  - Metering, rates, efficiency, education
  - Long-term
- **Drought Contingency Plan**
  - Water shortage
  - Capacity issue
  - Landscape and other restrictions
  - Immediate, usually short-term

# Required when….

- **<u>Water Conservation Plan</u>**
  - Over 3,300 connections
  - Own water rights of over 1,000 ac-ft
  - Financial assistance with TWDB > $500,000
- **<u>Drought Contingency Plan</u>**
  - ALL PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIERS!!!
- ***<u>Both plans must be updated by May 1, 2014</u>***

# Water Conservation – Many Other Reasons for a Plan

- Peak Demand capacity for water system?
- Wastewater treatment capacity?
- Customer or community demand?
- Specific measure is required.

# Step 1: Develop a baseline profile

- Taking a snapshot of how water is used in your community
  - Monthly and daily water use
  - Residential, multi-family, commercial, institutional, industrial, wholesale
  - Over time, minimum 3 years
- What is your gallons per capita per day use?
  - Population served
  - Residential GPCD and total GPCD

# What does your baseline reveal?

- Daily use – customer class, connection, person
- Peak to average water use ratio
- Compared to other utilities?
- Highest water users?
- Changes over time?
- Projected growth

# Step 2: Set goals and strategies

- What are the drivers?
- Where will strategies make the biggest difference?
- How will strategies support the utility?

# Preliminary Goal Setting

- Decrease overall gallons per capita per day (GPCD)
- Decrease peak to average ratio
- Decrease utility system water loss by xx%
- Delay additional infrastructure to meet peak demand by xx years.

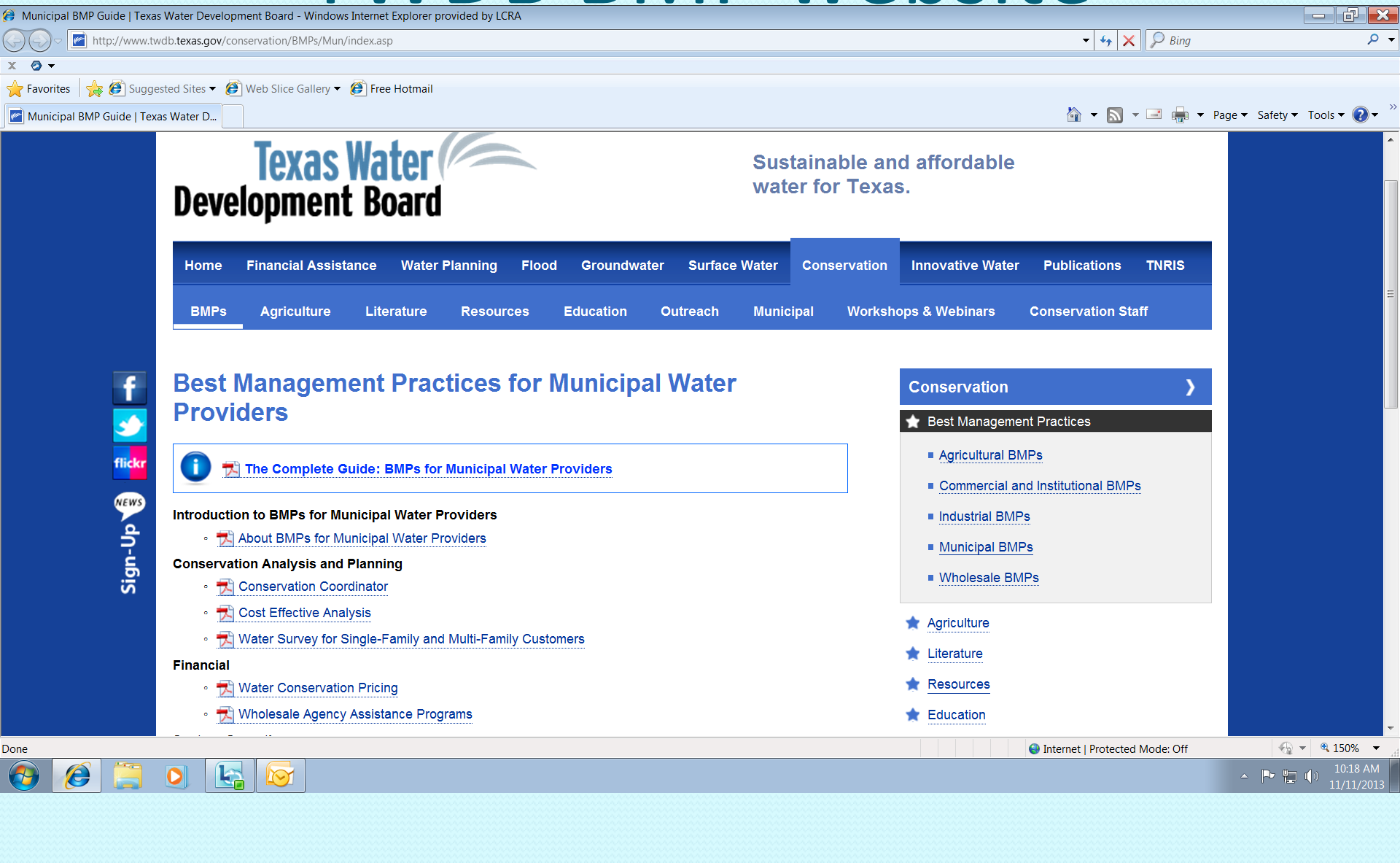
# Step 3: Strategies

- Begin with 288 requirements
  - - Leak detection and repair
  - - Meter repair/replacement
  - - Conservation rate
  - - Education and Outreach
  - - Other strategies deemed appropriate.

# Additional measures

- **Types of measures**
  - By demand: indoor and outdoor water use, water loss
  - By customer class: residential, multi-family, commercial
  - Existing customers versus new customers
- **Implementation strategies**
  - Education
  - Incentives
  - Regulatory, codes
  - Pilot project

# TWDB BMP website



# Screen Measures

- Cost-effectiveness
- Technology/market maturity
- Service area match
- Customer acceptability
- Ability to implement

*Source: AWWA M52 Manual. Water Conservation Programs – A Planning Manual*

# Step 4: Stakeholder Input

- **What do you want to accomplish?**
- **Identify stakeholders**
  - opinion leaders, affected industries, customer lists
- **Communication methods**
  - email and e-newsletters, website, customer mail outs, presentations
- **Incorporate input into final plan**

# Step 5: Plan Approval and Implementation

- Finalize plan
- Present to governing body for approval
- *Develop work plan for implementation*

  "a plan is only as good as the paper it is written on"

# State Conservation and Drought Planning Rules

**Water Conservation Plans**

TWDB

www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/index.asp

www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/UP.asp

TCEQ

-http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/legal/rules/rules/pdflib/288a.pdf

**Drought Contingency Plans (TCEQ)**

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/legal/rules/rules/pdflib/288b.pdf

# Resources

**Guidance and Methodology for Reporting on Water Conservation and Water Use**

www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/doc/SB181Guidance.pdf

**Conservation Plan Checklist**

www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/municipal/plans/doc/WCPChecklist.pdf

**Water Loss Audit (TWDB)**

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

# Resources

- TWDB web site: www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs/index.asp
- Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council web site: www.savetexaswater.org

**Questions?** Nora Mullarkey, LCRA
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