



Multi-Agency Water Reuse Programs: *Insights into Interagency Collaboration*

July 7, 2021

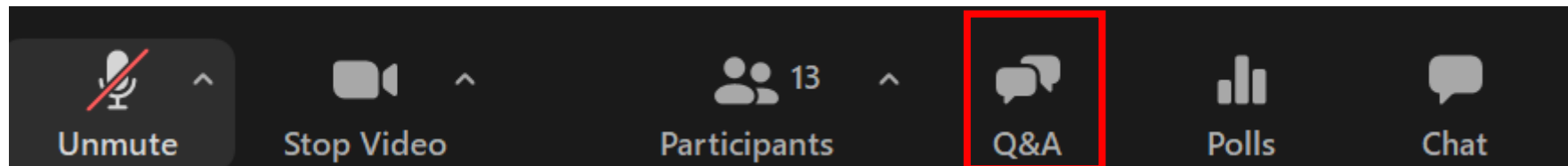


WaterReuse Webcast Series

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A Few Notes Before We Start...

- Today's webcast is scheduled for 60 minutes.
- There is one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) available for this webcast. Please email the PDH form (afurneaux@watereuse.org)
- Please type questions for the presenters into the Q&A box located at the bottom of your screen.



Today's Presenters



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EPA National Water Reuse Action Plan

NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN

Update on Collaborative Progress April 2021



The WRAP collaborative was developed with federal, state, tribal, local, and water sector partners to build technical, financial, and institutional capacity for communities to pursue water reuse practices. When considered as part of an integrated, watershed-based management approach, reuse can enhance water security, sustainability, and resilience and help to solve local water resource quantity and quality challenges.



Action 2.2.16: Identify Challenges, Opportunities and Models for Interagency Collaboration

Support Local and Regional Reuse Projects

Support Local and Regional Reuse Projects by Identifying Challenges, Opportunities, and Models for Interagency Collaboration (Action 2.16)

Action Attributes

Action Team

Implementation Milestones

Outputs and References

Implementation Milestones

Expand All

1. Develop the project implementation approach.

2. Perform a literature review.

3. Prepare and submit a proposal for a session at the 2021 WaterReuse Symposium.

4. Identify governance models and case studies.

5. Prepare report on governance models.

6. Present webinar on report findings.

7. Present findings at the 2021 WaterReuse Symposium.

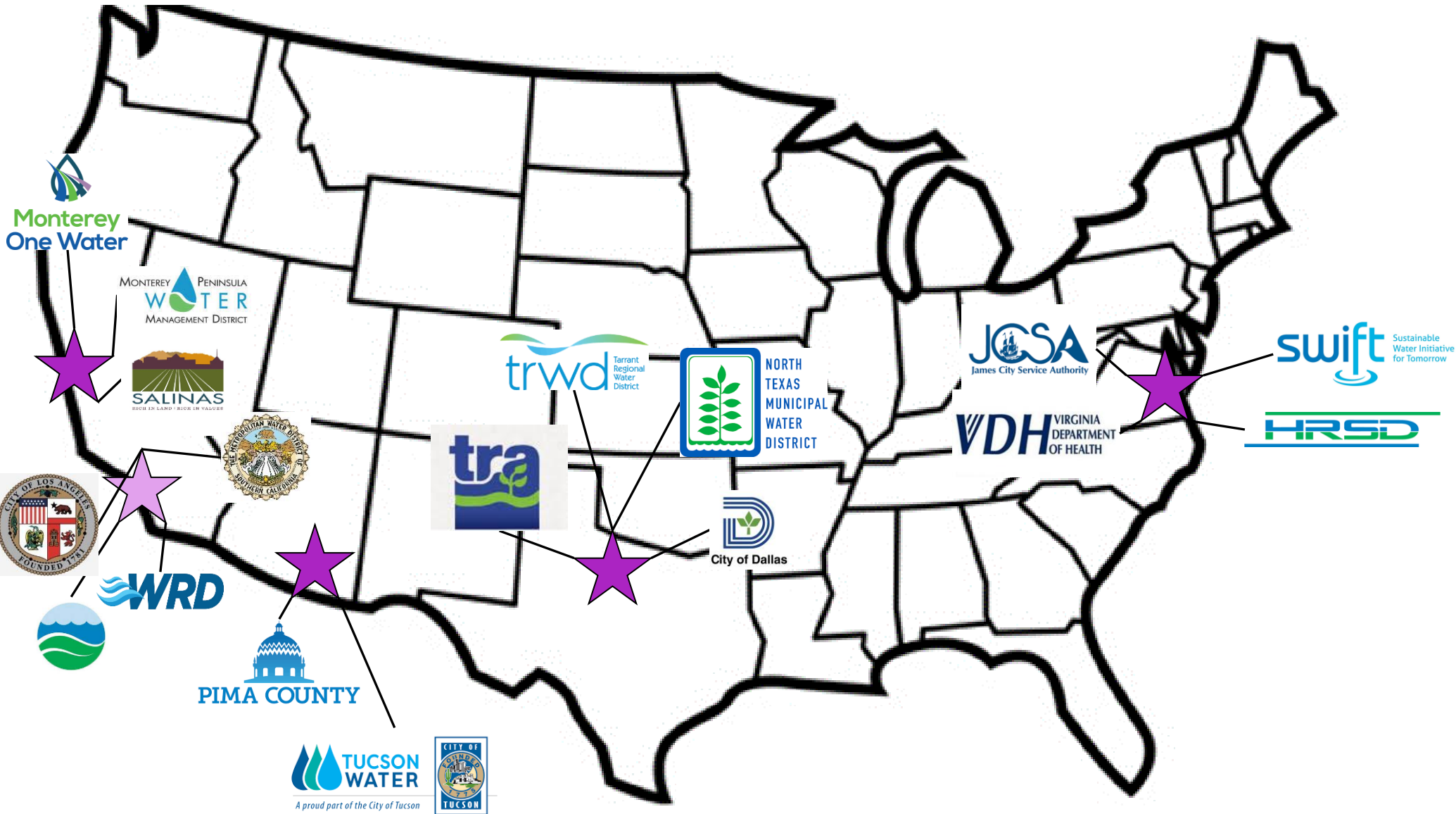
8. Identify local or regional settings where governance is a challenge.

9. Conduct workshops at candidate sites.

Factors influencing collaboration

- **Governance:** the legal and management structure which reflects an agency's purpose and priorities
- **Regulation:** the rules and regulators that agencies must engage with successfully to reuse water
- **Economics:** reuse program costs and benefits, including “triple bottom line” benefits, funding needs, and allocation of costs between partners
- **Operations:** the technical demands of the reuse system, and how agencies work together to meet their day-to-day O&M responsibilities
- **Leadership:** the impact of the people involved in the reuse program, who demonstrate their organization's vision, culture, and interpersonal styles





Governance Observations:

Building and sustaining trust between agencies

- The environment in which a utility was created continues to evolve more quickly than the agency.
- The benefits of reuse extend beyond agency boundaries.
- Effective agencies define their missions broadly to create “economies of scope.”
- Written agreements specify both goals and roles.
- The level of trust—not the type of agreement—determines a successful collaboration.

Regulatory Observations:

Hallmarks of successful projects



- **Engage regulators in common vision for the community good**
 - Don't see as dragons to be slain, but as potential partners
- **Engage early and often with regulators and regulations**
 - Map out the regulations with the long view
 - Formally (and informally) engage with regulators
- **Engage early and help shape regulations**
 - State framework (if helpful)
 - Individual engagement

Economic Observations:

*Recognizing value,
sharing costs*

- **Critics challenge the value of reuse projects**
 - Reuse appears expensive compared to current price of water
 - Who pays? How much? For what?
- **Key Triple Bottom Line Benefits often include**
 - Significant avoided costs for utilities, customers
 - Increased regional water supply reliability and resilience, environmental enhancement
 - Environmental support, opportunity for grants



INVESTING IN WATER REUSE
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION,





Economic Observations: *Recognizing value and sharing costs*

- **You are pursuing reuse for good reasons**
 - Be prepared to address “high unit cost per volume” of reuse water produced or sold
 - Clearly communicate all benefits to utilities, communities, environment, businesses
 - Compare costs to new water supply options
- **“Different pockets, same pair of pants.”**
 - The “beneficiary pays” approach of allocating reuse costs across utilities is useful, but recognize that the same people pay.
 - Collaborative approaches may expand opportunities for grants, financing.

Operational Observations:

Working together, learning together

- Collaboration begins with shared vision, depends on defined duties and measured accountability.
- Staff level collaboration determines the speed and success with which a program is implemented.
- Pilot projects provide opportunities for joint learning and problem-solving and builds trust between partner agencies.



Operational Observations:

Working together, learning together

- Collaboration begins with shared vision, depends on defined duties and measured accountability.
- Staff level collaboration determines the speed and success with which a implemented.
- Pilot projects provide opportunities for joint learning and problem-builds trust between partner agencies.
- Go to lunch together!

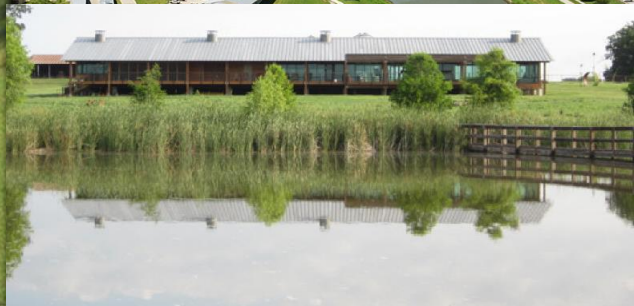
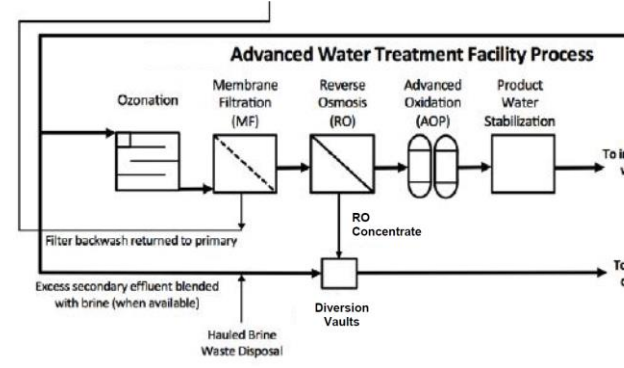


Leadership Observations:

- **Permanent whitewater:** When planning for a resilient future, the only fixed presumption is that change will be constant.
- **A culture of leadership:** Successful water reuse projects demonstrate support for leadership at the individual and organizational level.
- **Shared accountability:** When utilities and agencies set goals together, they increase the likelihood of successful implementation by embracing and responsibility for the process.
- **Embrace a common vision.** The leader must be able to convey the benefits so others are moved to follow.



Questions?



Let us hear from you!

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