Region 4 AWOP Meeting
Virtual Knoxville, TN
August 11-13, 2020
Maintaining the Program

Internal Support

- Upper management is supportive of the idea for drinking water optimization.
  - No changes since last region meeting.
  - Currently have a contract with TAUD (Tennessee Rural Water) for targeted technical assistance under TN H20 initiative.
  - Staff participation in optimization is voluntary basis as long as primary work assignments are being completed.
    - Same for wastewater nutrient optimization program.
Maintaining the Program

Institutional Barriers

• Viewing optimization as a secondary assignment.
• Engage Data Management Assistance Input in tracking.
  – Start receiving data from water systems and track goal adherence.
  – Possibly add data into electronic reporting process???
  – Current Status Component Tracking System would require individual staff to track input so there may not be full buy-in for the extra work.
Maintaining the Program

Core Team Structure & Capacity

• AWOP participation is voluntary in addition to Sanitary Surveys and other regulatory job assignments

• Currently three core team members
  – David Money, AWOP Coordinator
  – Lonnie McCloud, Cookeville Field Office
  – Erich Webber, Knoxville Field Office

• Adding key staff members in each regional field office across the state.
  – Staff in each field office except our Memphis field office are copied on AWOP events or topics
Maintaining the Program

Program Assessment

• Still a work in progress, somewhat hinder by this thing called COVID 19.

• Developed a draft status component
  – Used Alabama and North Carolina as examples for developing a rating system for water systems.
  – Excel spreadsheet that tracks individual water treatment plants and systems.
  – Looks at items reviewed during MOR submittals (turbidity, chlorine), DBP data, ETT scores.
Targeted Performance Improvement Implementation

Activities

• Web-site has been created detailing TN AWOP goals, tools, and contact information at:
  – https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/tn-plant-optimization-programs/tn-area-wide-optimization-program--awop-.html

• Created a TN AWOP Logo

• Worked with our Tennessee Conservationist magazine Art Director to develop an AWOP certificate for systems that participate in AWOP.
• TN AWOP staff are working with Tennessee Association of Utility Districts in implementing AWOP.
• Constructed hydrant samplers and purchased new UV 254 meters for field use.
TPI Implementation

Building Awareness

• Implementing AWOP principles into survey process discussing participation in program or implementing optimization practices with water systems.

• Plan on continued participation in Kentucky / Tennessee Performance Based Training.

• Planned introductory seminar on AWOP for Middle Tennessee region Summer 2020.
AWOP Impacts

Tennessee Health Based Violations - 2nd Qtr 2020

- LCR
- LT1ESWTR
- LT2ESWTR
- RTCR
- Stage 1 DBPR
- Stage 2 DBPR
- SWTR

CWS with Violation
Number of Violations
AWOP Impacts

First UD of Knox County Settled Vs. Finished Turbidity

Date

Turbidity


Series 1 Series 2
Lessons Learned

• Learning new ways to keep the program moving forward during the pandemic.
  – Opportunity to work on program.
  – Adding in optimization discussions to surveys.
    • More time to review reports and look closer at data reported on MOR.
    • Roane County systems high (0.2 NTU) finished water turbidity.