

WRAP Action Item 2.2.16

**Support Local and Regional Reuse Projects by Identifying Challenges, Opportunities and Models for Interagency Collaboration**

**Project Approach (Milestone 1)**

**TECHNICAL APPROACH**

**Task 1. Literature Review (Milestone 2)**

1. Review literature for information on institutional challenges to water reuse projects and solutions that allow agencies to work together as "virtual utilities." Include refereed journals, reports, informal studies and information included in the National WaterReuse Database.

**Task 2. Review past projects and prepare project profiles (Milestone 4)**

1. In conjunction with WaterReuse, solicit input from WaterReuse state sections and other professional associations for additional agency examples and identified issues of concern.
2. Compile a list of candidate sites to investigate as case studies, and prepare profiles of all identified projects reflecting key characteristics including project drivers, implementation issues and lessons learned. Profiles will include a review of the governmental, economic, regulatory, technical and interpersonal issues that impact project implementation, highlighting how these issues interact to influence utility partnerships.
3. Analyze information and identify common barriers that create obstacles to collaboration for reuse and examples of how agencies resolved issues and facilitated project implementation.

**Task 3. Select case studies and develop detailed presentations (Milestone 4)**

1. Based on the profiles developed in Task 2, select four (4) programs to serve as case studies for detailed analysis. In addition to geographic diversity, criteria for selection will include representation of a range of identified issues, inclusion of large and small projects, and reference to some prominent examples of successful reuse.
2. Contact personnel familiar with agency history for illustrative anecdotes and other useful information concerning program planning and implementation. Focus on how economic, regulatory and political issues were resolved and include samples of interagency agreements. (If restrictions on personal contact allow, arrange in-person meetings as appropriate.)
3. Where agreements between agencies have resulted in the development of multi-jurisdictional governance structures (e.g. joint powers authorities, operating agreements etc.) assemble relevant documentation for reference as models.

**Task 4. Analyze issues requiring interagency collaboration (Milestone 4)**

1. Analyze the details of the case studies and identify successful strategies that allowed agencies to work together to design, construct, operate or maintain recycled water systems. In addition to the personalities involved, internal and external factors considered will include agency setting, project motivation, distribution of economic costs and benefits, regulatory and legislative issues, and agreements and governance structures facilitating reuse.

2. Based on analysis of case studies and drawing on technical team experience, categorize obstacles to interjurisdictional cooperation and identify successful strategies for overcoming them. Strategies may include governance models and agreements, agency policies, and interpersonal communication styles instrumental to maintaining productive relationships.

**Task 5. Prepare report on strategies to facilitate implementation of water reuse projects (Milestone 5)**

1. Report on key issues facing agencies implementing water reuse projects and successful strategies to facilitate interagency collaborations.
2. Describe useful approaches in detail with timelines and pathways to graphically illustrate the process. Highlight the role of State and Federal incentives and subsidies in bringing disparate jurisdictions closer together as appropriate.
3. As results indicate, compare the relative efficiency of collaborative strategies as “virtual utilities” to the performance of less coordinated water and wastewater programs in terms of the volume of recycled water produced and the number of projects completed as an indicator of the effectiveness of interagency solutions.

**POST-REPORT OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PLAN**

Concurrent with preparation of the report, the following outreach activities will be conducted:

**Task 1. Session at the WateReuse Symposium (Milestones 3 & 7)**

A session dedicated to action item 2.2.16 will be proposed to the Program Committee planning WateReuse Symposium 36 (March 2021). Assuming acceptance of the proposal, project team members will make presentations highlighting the findings of the project and the path forward for increased uses of recycled water. The session audience will be engaged interactively to solicit experiences and accomplishments that would augment the findings of the project to date.

**Task 2. Webinars (Milestone 6)**

One or more webinars will be prepared under the sponsorship of WateReuse Association to present the project’s findings to those unable to attend the Symposium. In each presentation, input will be solicited from the audience regarding their own cross-jurisdictional experiences and invited to share their experiences in subsequent reports—either visibly or anonymously.

**Task 3. Websites and Publications**

WateReuse may dedicate a page on the [watereuse.org](http://watereuse.org) website to present the findings and materials of this action, and to allow other agencies to share their stories through a curated submission page. In addition, a summary of project findings may be submitted to appropriate journals, including *World Water*, a WEF publication in which WateReuse provides a special “Reuse Section” three times per year.