



Standard development progress from the 2nd ISDC meeting in Milwaukee, USA



From October 25th-28th, AWS hosted the second meeting of the International Standard Development Committee (ISDC) in Milwaukee, USA. The ISDC is the group that is tasked with overseeing the development of the International Water Stewardship Standard. Focusing on a number of pertinent issues related to the Standard, the ISDC members made a number of key decisions related to the direction of the upcoming International Water Stewardship Standard. In particular, the following conclusions were drawn:

The first draft of the Standard will:

- Be global and as inclusive as possible
- Address Economic, Environmental and Social aspects of the criteria
- Be designed to be implemented by legal or recognized entities that use water within a watershed, leading to certification
- Be designed to be applied at site/facility level and take into account the watershed itself in which it is located. Conversely, the ISDC noted that the Standard should not focus on products.
- Initially be structured around three primary principles: Water Quantity, Quality and Governance. Furthermore, the Standard will address capacity development and the capacity of management needed to meet the Standard.
- Have three levels of achievement and recognition. In general more external engagement will lead to a higher achievement/recognition level. The measure of conformity with the Standard will relate to the actions within the control of the entity seeking to apply the Standard, as well as their efforts to engage with stakeholders at the watershed level.
- Not seek to explicitly certify companies or supply chains, but may take such issues into account at higher levels of recognition, especially where those supply chains are located within the same watershed.

The ISDC:

- Recommended to the AWS that the Standard be made freely available in order to promote good water stewardship, even if an entity is not pursuing certification
- Drafted a first inventory of principles and criteria which will be used to develop the first draft of the standard that is foreseen to be released in March, 2012
- Reiterated that the Standard must include both performance- and process-based indicators and should acknowledge and reward effort (process) as well as achievement (performance)
- Will work with the AWS Secretariat, and stakeholder input to date, to produce a draft Standard that will

then be modified based on stakeholder feedback.

Note, all of these conclusions are open to stakeholder input, and no final decisions shall be made until the final version of the Standard is completed in 2013. Until that time, these conclusions should be treated as preliminary and open for discussion.

The ISDC also reiterated that the Standard must include both performance- and process-based indicators and should acknowledge and reward effort (process) as well as achievement (performance).

From here, the ISDC will work in conjunction with the AWS Secretariat to create an initial draft which will be discussed at the 3rd ISDC meeting, scheduled for January in Melbourne, Australia. Any questions or comments should be directed to the Global Water Roundtable Coordinator, Alexis Morgan (alexis.morgan@wwfus.org)

Frequently asked questions now available

AWS has prepared a list of frequently asked questions surrounding its overall stewardship program and the development of the International Standard. These can be accessed from our homepage at <http://allianceforwaterstewardship.org/>

AWS Around the World

Middle East

With the UN Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) taking place in July next year, many preparatory events are taking place, organized by a variety of major international players. In September AWS participated in a panel discussion on “upgrading technology transfer and environmental standards” at a conference co-organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The conference on the “Role of Green Industries in Promoting Socio-Economic Development in the Arab Countries” was held in Beirut and provided a good opportunity to promote our stakeholder-based approach to key players in one of the world’s most water-stressed regions. The audience included representatives from governments, the UN, industry and civil society.



AWS also presented on progress in developing an International Water Stewardship Standard, experience in testing regional water stewardship standards in Africa, and plans for pilot testing the draft International Standard at a parallel workshop, also in Beirut, on voluntary sustainability standards. This workshop was co-organized by GIZ and ESCWA, this time with an audience including local and international standards-based initiatives.

The Power and Water Leaders’ Forum, held in Abu Dhabi in October, was a third opportunity for publicizing our work in the Middle East. This event was held alongside the Power and Water Middle East exhibition and attracted leaders from public and private sector. We are aiming to link up with appropriate organizations to establish stakeholder engagement processes and pilot test the draft International Standard in the Middle East region.

China

During a visit to Beijing in October AWS Executive Director Adrian Sym held several meetings with interested parties and presented AWS at the 6th China International Water Business Summit. With the breadth of water challenges facing China it is hugely important to ensure a robust stakeholder input into the development of the International Standard, and for the draft Standard to be tested in China. With this in mind, AWS is hoping to organize a stakeholder meeting in China within the next few months in order to establish a Coordinating Committee and prepare for pilot testing the draft Standard.

North America

AWS hosted its first North American public meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on October 25th. The meeting was co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and the Milwaukee Water Council and hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences.

Rich Meeusen, CEO of Badger Meter and Milwaukee Water Council Co-Chair, provided a keynote address. Several members of the AWS International Standard Development Committee, including both representatives from North America, participated in the event.



Small group discussions were held to provide feedback on AWS and the development of the draft International Water Stewardship Standard. A report summarizing feedback from the event will be posted to the AWS website in coming weeks.

In the meantime, hear some first-hand feedback thanks to Milwaukee Public Radio: http://www.wuwm.com/programs/lake_effect/le_sgmt.php?segmentid=8252

For more information, email Lisa Downes, AWS North America Regional Coordinator at ldownes@tnc.org

Latin America and the Caribbean

In November, AWS and The Nature Conservancy organized the final Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Workshop for 2011 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The theme of the workshop was "Towards the Construction of an International Water Stewardship Standard". This was the 5th in a series of workshops for the region that will feed into the 2nd LAC Regional Forum, taking place in November in Mexico.

In Sao Paulo, several leaders from the hydropower, energy, water utilities, industry, academy, government and civil society get together to discuss potential criteria (based in the Brazilian context) for water quantity, quality, governance and transparency, biodiversity and ecosystem; and equity on access to water.

CoCriar participated as the main facilitator for this workshop. The Carbon Disclosure Project and UN Habitat were also co-convenors, and a member of Fundacion Chile from Santiago de Chile, also participated.

Asia-Pacific

Water Stewardship Australia (WSA) has appointed an expert Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the water stewardship standard and make recommendations to the stakeholder workshop being held in Melbourne on the 1st and 2nd of February. The TAC comprises a group of people with expertise in a range of areas who will review feedback received by WSA on the standard as well as work by the international Alliance for Water Stewardship. The group will prepare an issues paper of topics for discussion and then work through these issues with a view to making recommendations for consideration by stakeholders. The TAC has already started work and would welcome any additional feedback on the existing standard or other elements of water stewardship between now and the 10th of January. This process is being supported by the Murray Darling Basin Authority. Send comments to michael@waterstewardship.org.au

Europe

In November, AWS presented at a session organized by its Board Organization, the European Water Partnership, at the International Water Week in Amsterdam. The session was titled "European Water Stewardship: the practical tool for implementing sustainable water management in Industry and Agriculture" and included presentations by BASF and Coca Cola Company, both of whom have implemented pilot tests of the draft European Water Stewardship Standard. EWP also convened a second session in Amsterdam focusing on Urban Water Management, and is working closely with AWS to enhance understanding of urban water stewardship and ensure that this knowledge inputs into the International Standard.

Upcoming events in November and December

The second AWS-LAC Regional Forum, to be held in Monterrey, Mexico on November 29th and 30th, 2011 at

Monterrey Tech and Hotel Fiesta Inn Tecnologico. This Regional Forum's aim is to solidify regional input gathered so far, largely through the workshops organized this year in Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador and Brazil, and contribute it to the development of the International Water Stewardship Standard. Also, regional working groups will also be established, bringing in additional stakeholders. For more information please contact Ricardo Monsivais: rmonsivais@tnc.org

AWS is co-hosting a hot topic session with CEO WM and WBCSD on corporate water stewardship at the "Bonn 2011 Conference: The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus - Solutions for the Green Economy"

Water Stewardship Australia will hold an important stakeholder consultation workshop in Melbourne on the 1st and 2nd of February 2012. This will be an opportunity for interested people and organizations to participate in the revision of the WSA standard. This meeting is being supported by the National Water Commission. For more information or to register your interest contact James Taylor – james@waterstewardship.org.au

On November 24th the European Water Partnership will launch the European Water Stewardship (EWS) system at a flagship event in Brussels. EWS will be comprised of a regional European Water Stewardship Standard and related documents (glossary and guidelines), an inspection and certification scheme, and a communications framework. For more information or to register for this event, please visit <http://www.ewp.eu/events/ews-launch/>

AWS will present on "City water stewardship: concepts and practice" at the IWA Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from November 21-24

AWS has been invited to present its pilot testing of Australian and European draft Standards around Lake Naivasha at a workshop in Nairobi in December. The event is co-organized by the International Trade Centre, the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya and PIP and will focus on carbon and water management in horticultural exports from East Africa.

AWS will present at AIChE's Water Initiative and Institute for Sustainability Water Sustainability in the Pulp and Paper Industry Workshop in Rhode Island in November

AWS will present at the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, 2011 Canadian Meeting

For more information on AWS events, please email adrian@allianceforwaterstewardship.org.

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Alliance for Water Stewardship
ATTN: Karin Krchnak, c/o The Nature Conservancy
4245 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22203
US

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