Statewide Water Loss Management Gets Creative to Leverage Long-Term Improvements

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Reference: McDowell RJ, CA Pruitt, RA Bahn (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2015 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, April 28-29, 2015, University of Georgia, Athens.

Abstract. In 2012, the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) and Environmental Protection Division (EPD) implemented an over-whelmingly successful 10-month statewide training and technical assistance program for the AWWA Water Auditing and Loss Control Methodology. Over 100 small water systems throughout Georgia were trained in the area of water loss auditing and loss control. In 2013 and 2014, GEFA took the management of water loss from the classroom directly to water infrastructure. GEFA and EPD, in partnership with private consultants, designed and implemented Phase 2 of the Water Auditing and Loss Control training and technical assistance program. Phase 2 leveraged the outcomes of the 2012 training program into "on the ground" technical assistance activities. These activities – including source meter flow verification, customer meter accuracy testing, and pilot leak detection surveys – provided validation to the audits, while providing each water system with critical insight into the most effective next steps for water loss control in their system. With over 75 participating water systems in Phase 2, GEFA conducted a formal qualification process to select the industry's top water loss control companies, then matched those companies with water systems – based on the Phase 1 audit results. These water systems are improving their understanding and efficiency of system operations while the state of Georgia sees improved conservation of water resources. GEFA hopes the investment in Phase 1 training and Phase 2 technical assistance will increase applications for capital project for water loss control.