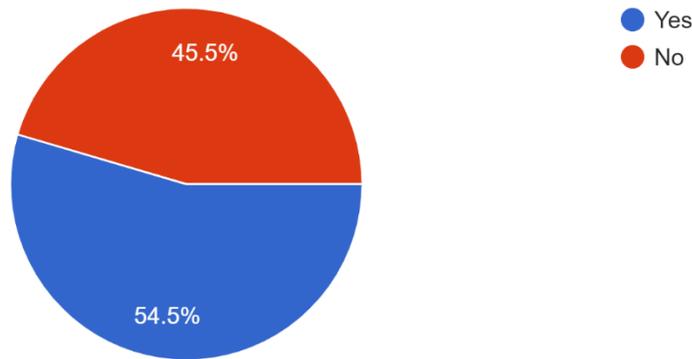


August 4th, 2020 Turf Breakout Questionnaire Responses

These are responses collected from a questionnaire distributed during the August 4, 2020, Turf Breakout Meeting.

Do you support this general structure for calculating golf course allotments? Please refer to the "Proposed Method" (slides 9-13) in the presentat...dia/2020-08-04_Turf_Breakout_Presentation_4.pdf
11 responses



(*Note: Different colors are diffent reponses)

Please explain your answer:

I like that this is proposal is more simplified than previous management plans and that it hits higher acreage turf facilities a little harder since they use a higher proportion of the groundwater.

It doesn't take into account low water usage area's

To answer question, the general structure is good of a start as any.... attempting to be considerate of all Users. My concern is where does it stop.... Golf course Supts are managing the Owners largest asset and are generally very good stewards of the environment, water, natural habitats.

The calculation is clear. There is a single table for each AMA. It demonstrates the impact of reduced overseeding.

It seems that the two main goals of reduced groundwater use, and equitable measures are being reached.

Golf is an important economic driver for the state of Arizona. This has all the potential to destroy what is beneficial to the state in job creation, tax dollars, real estate values, tourism, the list goes on and on. Golf courses in general are very respectful of their water use largely driven by the expense of watering. It is simple economics.

I would have preferred more than three steps in the progressive allocation method, but, I will settle for this.

This information was gathered by the Arizona Department of Water Resources.

There is not enough variables such as weather. This year is a great example of lack of rainfall and higher than normal temps. This hurts the courses, lakes and desert area vegetation.

I don't see any allocation for low water use landscape acres. For courses built after 1989 with significant surface acres of lakes, surface water over the .14 can only be filled entirely with direct use effluent. Mixed or blended water to the lakes will not qualify for additional allotment. This needs to be changed to; Facilities must receive an amount of effluent equal to or greater than the amount requested to fill lakes at 6.2 x surface acres. Change this so courses don't have to put 100% effluent water in their lakes.

I liked the overall . I was wondering if ADWR could phase the 5th plan over a period of time for courses that have over 90 acres. It will take time to remove turf and cost factor to consider. I also thought courses that want to reduce turf are going to have to be reimbursed for turf and irrigation changes. There is a huge cost factor involved.

Do you have any comments about the AMA specific customization for calculating the golf course conservation allotments?

I appreciate handling the AMA's a little differently and basing changes on the local data

Golf courses already deficit irrigate, they are overseeding less to not be in excess of allotments, they irrigate less to be affordable. .

It is too penal and will drive golf courses to substandard conditions and as a result will have a dramatic impact on the economy and tourism. It also appears the driving factor is to reduce the ground water consumption. I can understand and respect that. Then I ask, why are those who have invested millions into effluent water user both from a water rights standpoint, continued capital improvements, debt service, operational expense, and invested millions into their facilities to handle effluent water and high saline water are being punished and falling under similar guidelines for ground water users. Sure, you have provided a slight "credit" for effluent water usage, but it still is overbearing and impacts these facilities and their ability to survive. The use of effluent water requires a leaching factor and once again I feel this is being ignored. We are utilizing a commodity and reducing expenses that normally cities would bear and now being punished. Sit back, and think about that.

I did not notice anything for desert plant irrigation. Should have a factor to include unusual weather

Not sure, but using the 5MP calculator they have supplied, I will have 186 AF less than I do now. Even with Effluent Adjustment, I will not come close to making allotment. Thank goodness I am not a groundwater user!

I wonder if the conservation allotments could be more simplified. One number for your course ? I like the calculator.

How should the effluent adjustment be structured? (e.g. tiered, flat rate, AMA specific customization)

AMA customization seems necessary since I've heard of differences just between the Phoenix and Tucson AMAs. I think we need to have a longer conversatio about the effluent adjustment. I understand the quality has gotten better over the years but I know with the facilities on the RWDS system have had issues with the city pushing the limits of the quality and raising prices, etc. I am still unsure about lowering the incentive for using effluent because then I am not sure how many groundwater users would even be willing to consider it given the inital costs to switch. Right now, I would favor a flat rate over a tiered rate because a tiered rate would increase the complexity and I think a proper effluent adjustment would be enough of an incentive for a facility to want to use more. I think we'll need to have a longer conversation in the next meeting after people have had some time to think about it

Simplicity is good.

I believe it should be structured with the guidelines recommended by ADEQ; "It is the work group's recommendation that the five reclaimed water classes are satisfactory to ensure the safe use of reclaimed water for the existing uses." Perhaps for now it is enough to identify the five classes in the effluent adjustment anticipating additional future distinction by class.

AMA specific customization

again, see above. the effluent credit is insignificant and those who use effluent water are being penalized. If the goal is to reduce ground water use then effluent users should not be penalized. You should encourage effluent water use. The price of water will deter the excessive usage of water. Water is our largest expense next to labor. We do not abuse it.

I have a serious challenge to this. The existing 0.6 is burned into the whole conservation strategy of modern golf courses. Almost none of the quality golf courses that contribute to economic impact can make the numbers if this is changed.

Not sure

I don't know, but 0.6 wouldn't be enough under 5MP, so 0.8 hurts.

I believe the effluent factor should be kept the same. Each course has its own individual factors to be considered when using effluent water- soil types, salts , elevation , weather patterns , water quality of the effluent . Each municipality has different qualities of effluent water. If there is a change it should be very small amount because of the above factors that I mentioned. I almost think that the effluent factor has to be based on each individual course or at the very least regionally . The changes if made should be phased in so course can adjust . Effluent water is very expensive and is getting more expensive for courses each year.

Do you have any comments about how flex accounts should be managed for the 5th Management Plans?

I do like keeping the flex account system so people have a little insurance for variable years.

A savings plan that considers allotment against wet / dry years is necessary

Flex accounts enable turf water users to manage changing weather cycles over years and should be retained through each change in MP. Retaining the Flex account balance incentivizes conservation.

5th Management plan needs to be slowed down. Monitor the impact of the 4th prior to proceeding. No body should make decisions until they realize the impact of the 4th management plan, both positive and negative. Flex accounts should not be zero'd, they need to remain in place and consider increasing allotted amounts to allow for years of drought.

There should be no limit. The water saved is from the courses doing a good job. They should be able to bank as much as possible to save for a "non" rainy day

With the 5MP, I don't think flex will matter, nobody will be able to save water.

I'm glad that it's being proposed that flex accounts will carry forward from the fourth to fifth plan. I was hoping that a course could use a little more water than that's being proposed for each year from the flex account. It might be helpful to slightly increase the factor to figure out flex account each year.

Do you have any comments regarding the recommendations for allotment additions for the 5th Management Plans?

A lot of Phoenix AMA courses are scheduled to do big irrigation system renovations so we definitely need to consider that with the newly turfed area proposal. I know of a course doing a renovation right now so we could share their data of water use changes after having to grow the turf back. Since the 5MP is incentivizing larger acreage courses to remove turf I do have a concern about removing the revegetation allotment. I am not sure what the water changes are when removing turf and replacing it with xeriscaping. Might be something to look into if we'll have more courses converting larger acreages of turf.

There is no incentive to convert our courses to low water usage plants. 2 of our course have drip to the low water usage plants. This time of the year these areas need to run water. They will die if they are not watered.

How would you remove the allocation for low water use plants without negative effects.... home values, dust-erosion, revenues

"high TDS" may already be defined, if not, it should be.

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A facility can get addition water to fill lakes as part of their yearly allotment if they use direct use effluent, (no mixing water sources). We need to change that.

Newly turfed areas is something that I think should be kept in .When courses re sod - it's a very expensive proposition. Courses that use reclaimed water have to be very proactive when they re sod - might have to use more efficient water . Course do not want to re sod unless they absolutely have too . Maybe they can re sod every other year?

Do you have any ideas for potential modifications to the non-golf turf facilities conservation program?

Total acres per Landscape approach using zoning for category allotments eg: residential, commercial, industrial, agriculture, public structures and spaces(parks, schools, libraries, government buildings). This is used for GI/LID modeling and it will help with seamless water conservation, and flood control methods.

Not at this time but that is mostly because I don't think I know enough about them.

They need to link there irrigation controllers to some type of a rain sensor or ET program.. I often see these areas running during the rain.

I think it would be a good be idea to start education and information program . This would be accomplished by contacting cities ,landscaping associations, homeowners associations, and maybe through the Dept of Agriculture. Make presentations at there meeting . You would present to the Dept of Ag when people are getting licensed ?? Just an idea. Send out info to the largest landscaping companies on conservation programs

How can we improve these subgroup meetings?

I enjoy the current format. There are breaks with acquitted time for questions. You all are doing a fabulous and concise job!

I like the current process - virtual meeting with follow-up.

I like the addition of the timer so we have time to type out responses. The information seems to come a lot faster than with in person meetings (might be because you have less interruptions through). The timer gives me a moment to think as well as type. Maybe increase it to 90 seconds?

Send out a more complex agenda before hand.

Provide some information ahead of time. This would be helpful to analyze the information and how it affects the golf courses. We then could have discussions during meeting about the proposals. I really feel that these meeting have been very well run and helpful.