

Meeting Minutes 12th September 2023

Attendees: Andrew McCarthy, Berry Drijzen, Joerg Koelbl, Mordecai Feldman, Steve Cavanaugh, Will Jernigan, Andrew Morris, Andrew Wallace, Arnaud, Alan Wyatt, Mikal, Stuart Hamilton, Uri, Aisha

Introduction

- Steve Cavanaugh opens the meeting with a greeting and invites everyone to give a brief intro of themselves.
 - Aisha introduced herself, stating that she works for Baseform software company and has previous experience in energy balance, which was the focus of her PhD thesis.
- The meeting minutes are available on the Meetings Recap page at www.LEIgroup.org/recaps

Discussion of LEI Project Flowchart (Resources tab)

- Bambos, Stuart, and Andrew M. created flowchart to help to effectively communicate about the project and gain a deeper understanding of it.
- Stuart emphasized that the project is still in a conceptual stage, with expected gray areas and the need for further editing as it gains more traction. He stressed the importance of establishing a baseline and encouraged feedback. Additional resource information was also discussed.

Update on North American AWWA Committee Report- adjoining IWA LEI efforts

- Will reported that a draft of the report has been developed by a small group and will soon be distributed to the full Water Loss Committee for review. Subsequently, it will be converted into a publication, most likely in the AWWA Journal. This process will span several months and was built upon the LEI whitepaper.

Discussion of Case Studies

- Caribbean projects were mentioned as promising, although specifics couldn't be divulged at this time. The need for whitepapers and case studies was emphasized.
- Alan highlighted the significance of cost considerations associated with projects, as many stakeholders are hesitant to disclose financial information. Aisha mentioned that she has case studies in Tennessee and Portugal and expressed interest in submitting an abstract. The importance of public speaking engagements was underscored.

Discussion of Feedback from Carbon Registry

- Attendees discussed feedback received from the Carbon Registry.
- The discussion then shifted to an update on the availability and timing of the Carbon Balance Software, with Stuart mentioning that there will be another call on this topic tomorrow. The goal is to release it before NAWL in December. The possibility of a limited release beta version was considered to ensure reliability.
- Joerg raised concerns about dealing with investment costs, such as pipe replacements and creating DMAs, which constitute a significant portion (60-70%) of project costs. The question of whether these costs would be estimated with the software was raised.

- Arnaud highlighted the need for information on the water sources and emissions in low-income countries.
- Alan posed the question of whether the carbon produced in the manufacturing of materials that lead to carbon savings should be counted.
- Steve pointed out that the carbon associated with repairs can be mitigated by sourcing lower carbon solutions.
- Andrew shared feedback from the gold standard, noting that they didn't inquire about the carbon cost of making changes, which is worth noting. Although the gold standard did not accept the proposal as is, they recognized modifications and changes. The concept of a reverse incentive methodology was discussed.
- It was mentioned that discussions with the Climate Registry are in progress, and there is no limit to the number of registries to engage with. The intention is to incorporate feedback from the Gold Standard to refine the approach for other registries.

Next meeting – November