



TACWA Meeting Minutes
Houston, Texas
July 24, 2026
8:50 a.m.

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting on July 24, 2026, was hosted by City of Houston (Houston) and Gulf Coast Authority (GCA), and sponsored by Carollo, Brown & Caldwell, Black & Veatch, and CDM Smith.

- New President, Walid Samarneh welcomed guests and thanked Houston and GCA for hosting and the sponsors for their financial contributions.
- Welcome remarks were given by Liz Fazio Hale, CEO of GCA and Gabriel Mussio, Deputy Director of Houston Public Works.
- Introductions by attendees.

Business Meeting:

- President Walid Samarneh opened the business meeting.
- Approved the June 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Regulatory Updates:

- **Liz Fazio Hale**
 - EPA Office of Water highlighted upcoming PFAS and water reuse regulatory priorities.
 - Water Reuse Action Plan discussions should be monitored, especially related to industrial reuse and data-center growth.
 - PFAS Biosolids Draft Guidance comments are due Sept. 4, 2026; NACWA is developing comments. EPA requested input on the draft guidance, supporting science, state implementation experience, and Federal Register questions.
 - PFAS Manufacturer ELG proposal is expected in late 2026 and should be monitored for pretreatment impacts.
 - Method 1633 approval is expected soon; potential lab and sampling impacts should be tracked.
 - EPA is reviewing approximately 700 comments on PFAS Human Health Criteria after the 2025 comment period closed.



- **Jody Zabolio**

- NACWA's recent conference was held in Cleveland last week.
- Key conference topics included data centers and PFAS.
- NACWA recently released a data centers white paper that is available to members.
- NACWA also introduced a new public education campaign to help utilities communicate key clean water issues.
- NACWA's Winter Conference is scheduled to be held in Houston in February 2027.

- **Janet Sims**

- TCEQ is moving forward with proposed revisions to the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS) and Implementation Procedures (IPs).
 - No significant changes are proposed to the TSWQS; updates are expected to focus on site-specific standards based on studies. New salinity criteria for bays and estuaries are not expected.
 - IP revisions are expected to address pH screening procedures, reasonable potential determinations for WET limits, endangered species updates, critical conditions, and ambient water quality updates.
 - Revisions to the Minimum Analytical Levels (MALs) are not expected at this time.
 - TCEQ plans to process the TSWQS and IP revisions concurrently, with proposals expected for public comment in the fall and adoption anticipated in summer 2027.
- The current Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for stormwater discharges expires August 14. The MSGP renewal has been approved by the TCEQ Commissioners.
 - Facilities covered under the MSGP must submit a new Notice of Intent and update their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan before November 12.

Legislative Updates:

- **Julie Nahrgang**

- Discussed the key themes reviewed at the two interim House Natural Committee meetings on February 10 and June 23. The primary topics included:
 - Groundwater capacity and management, data center water usage, SWIFT funding capacity
 - Implementation of SB 7 and HJR 7/ Prop 4
- There is an upcoming committee hearing in Weslaco, TX on August 24 where program capacity will be discussed.
- Upcoming WEAT/TACWA Horizon Conference is on November 12 in Austin, TX.



Future Meetings:

- September 18, 2026 – San Antonio
- November 10, 2026 – Austin (Horizon)
- January 2027 – El Paso
- March 2027 – Austin
- May 2027 – UTRWD
- July 2027 – Houston

Technical Presentations:

- **9:30 – 10:15** Utility Panel – Data Centers and AI (Liz Fazio Hale, *GCA*; Jody Zabolio, *UTRWD*; Sterling Beaver, *City of Baytown*; Ye "Jin" Xuerui, *City of Webster*; Moderated by Liz Fazio Hale)
- **10:15 – 10:45** Playing Nice in the Sandbox: Coordinating Four Construction Contracts at the City of Houston's Southeast WWTP– Gauher Khan, *CDM Smith*; Singarpal Sekhon, P.E., *COH*
- **11:00 – 11:30** AI: It's Not What You Think, Building Actual Intelligence Before Artificial Intelligence – Jennifer Steffens, P.E., *Carollo*
- **11:30 – 12:00** Wastewater Operations Training: We Must Evolve to a New Level to Face New Challenges - Lance Mason, P.E., *Brown & Caldwell*

President Walid Samarneh closed with thanks to City of Houston and GCA for hosting and to the sponsors Carollo, Brown & Caldwell, Black & Veatch, and CDM Smit. Thank you Sponsors!

Adjourned for Lunch & Networking at 12:00 PM