



**TACWA Virtual Meeting Minutes**  
**TACWA**  
**March 19, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting on March 19, 2021 was hosted virtually by the City of Austin and sponsored by Plummer, CP&Y, Garver, Gupta & Associates, Inc., Perkins Engineering Consultants, Inc., Pacheco Koch, Freese and Nichols, CDM Smith, Weston Solutions, Wastewater Training & Consulting Services, Tetra Tech, HDR, Hazen and Sawyer, Brown & Caldwell, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Clean Water Strategies, Parsons Water & Infrastructure.

**Those in attendance included:**

Julie Nahrgang - WEAT/TACWA; Ron Patel - City of Dallas; Brianna Morales - GCA; Heather Cooke - City of Austin; Lisa M. Boatman - City of Austin; Tammy West - City of Austin; Farida Goderya - City of Fort Worth; Stacy Walters - City of Fort Worth; Alex Stuart - City of Garland; Allison Osborne - City of Houston; Carol La Breche - City of Houston; Neranga Gamage - City of Houston; Phillip Goodwin - City of Houston; Raghavender Nednur - City of Houston; Walid Samarneh - City of Houston; Aubrey Spear - City of Lubbock; Denise Ehrlich - GCA; Elizabeth Fazio Hale - GCA; Gordon Pederson - GCA; Leonard Levine - GCA; Jonathan Sandhu - GCA; Phil Spitzer - NTMWD; Amber Batson - SJRA; Daniel Hilderbrandt - SJRA; Cynthia Robinson - TRA; James McDonald - TRA; Amy Stelter - TRA; Matt Jalbert - TRA; Patty Cleveland - TRA; Jody Zabolio - UTRWD; Michelle Carte - UTRWD; Alondra Hernandez - WEAT/TACWA; Tye Jordan - Ardurra; Hasibul Hasan - Ardurra; Marcus Naiser - Ardurra; Temple Williamson - Ardurra; Ignacio Cadena - Black & Veatch; Lauren Gonzalez - Black & Veatch; Sri Koduri - Brown & Caldwell; Adam Evans - Brown & Caldwell; Rajendra P. Bhattarai - Clean Water Strategies; Charles Miney - CP&Y; Donna Renner - CP&Y; Lindsay Webb - CP&Y; Kira Iles - FNI; Charles Kucherka - FNI; Heather Wootton - Garver; Marcela Sion - Hazen & Sawyer; Jonathan Vorheis - Jacobs CH2M; Matt Berg - Jacobs CH2M; Aurora Gonzalez - Kennedy/Jenks; Mark Jensen - LAN Inc; Mario Chapa - LAN Inc; Nathan Vassar - Lloyd Gosselink; Jainil Shah - Parsons; James McMillen - Perkins Engineering; Janet Sims - Perkins Engineering; Mark Perkins - Perkins Engineering; Chris Pasch - Plummer; Ellen McDonald - Plummer; Rex Hunt - Plummer; Tres Koenings - Plummer; Ana Pena-Tijerina - Plummer; Kelly Davis - Save Our Springs Alliance; Judith Ibarra-Bianchetta - Tetra Tech; Sam Irrinki - Weston Solutions;

**Business Meeting:**

- President Patel opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the City of Austin for hosting and the sponsors.
- Welcome – Lisa Boatman Supervising Engineer with the City of Austin (Austin Water).
  - Ms. Boatman talked about current activities happening in Austin
- Approved the January 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes.



### **Rex Hunt:**

The antidegradation regulations found in the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards protect designated existing uses of surface water bodies from water quality degradation by wastewater discharges. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) typically performs an evaluation of the potential for water quality degradation during the permitting process for Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permits. In 2020, there were two permitting actions that ultimately may affect how the TCEQ evaluates antidegradation in the future. In both cases, Protestants argued that the TCEQ's evaluation of antidegradation was flawed. Both cases are still in process. The first case was in Dripping Springs, Texas, for a new discharge permit. The other case was the Port of Corpus Christi for a brine discharge permit. The Dripping Springs case is currently in appeal in District Court. The State Office of Administrative Hearings proposed denial of the Port of Corpus Christi permit. The TCEQ is still considering whether to deny the permit. Ultimately, these cases may force the TCEQ to rethink antidegradation rules and/or implementation.

WEAT is hosting an Antidegradation Webinar on April 14, 2021 at 1:00pm that will further discuss the Antidegradation Policy.

### **Julie Nahrgang:**

Please refer to the attached presentation for legislative and regulatory updates.

### **Technical Presentations:**

- "Regulatory and Legislative Updates" – Julie Nahrgang, Executive Director, WEAT/TACWA
- "TCEQ and the 87th Texas Legislative Session" – David Galindo, Director, Water Quality Division, TCEQ
- "Wastewater-based epidemiology in Austin, Texas for severe-acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)" – Mary Jo Kirisits, Ph.D., Associate Professor - The University of Texas at Austin & Kerry A. Kinney, Ph.D., Professor - The University of Texas at Austin
- "Sewage Sludge to Biosolids: A Century of Biosolids Management" – Rajendra Bhattarai, President – Clean Water Strategies