



**TACWA Meeting Minutes  
Flower Mound, Texas  
May 20, 2022  
9:00 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting on May 20, 2022, was hosted by the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) and sponsored by Freese & Nichols, CDM Smith, Black & Veatch, Archer Western Construction, LLC, Garver, and Plummer

See attached sign-in sheet – Total attendance was 59.

**Business Meeting:**

- President Bill Gase opened the business meeting, welcomed guests, and thanked the UTRWD for hosting and the sponsors for their contributions.
- Welcome to Flower Mound was provided by Jody Zabolio, P.E., Director of Operations and Water Resources.
- Approved the March 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes.
- Motion approved for Wes Kucera to serve, and he agreed to another term as NACWA Board representative.

**Ernest To:**

- TDS – WEAT total dissolved solids workgroup requested a meeting with TCEQ, now scheduled for June 2022 to discuss modification to TDS screening procedures.
- Nutrients - The WEAT nutrient committee has finalized the white paper on their nutrient standards and implementation. The white paper highlights the difficulties of implementing standards as effluent limits in permits and proposes a path forward for implementing nutrient limits in permits. The document will go out to the WEAT community at large, then on to the TCEQ for discussion.
- PFAS – Ten water sector associations (including AWWA, WEF and NACWA) sent a joint letter to key senate and house committee chairmen seeking an exemption for public wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, and water reuse utilities from PFAS liability if the chemical is deemed a CERCLA hazardous substance. That designation could shift burden of cleanup costs and liability onto communities. The letter points to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act to address the demands on our sectors.

**Janet Sims:**

TCEQ is beginning to implement the revisions to the Public Notice rules that were adopted in 2021. The revisions require applicant to publish hearing notices in applicable alternative language newspaper, provide translators for public meetings (if interest is there), post on website alternative language notices if an alternative language newspaper is not available in the area, and submit a Plain Language Summary (PLS) that describes the permit and treatment facilities. All permit applications submitted after May 2 are required to provide a PLS in English and, if applicable, the appropriate alternative language. TCEQ will post the PLS on



its website. The PLS postings for water quality permits can be found by searching *Pending Permit Application Information: Water Quality Permits*

**Julie Nahrgang:**

- Currently in the interim, in the year between the 87<sup>th</sup> and 88<sup>th</sup> legislative sessions
- 87<sup>th</sup> had 3 special sessions. Interim charges on the House side in mid-March and Interim charges on the Senate side April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- House Natural Research Committee, chaired by King, some issues in Corpus area and irrigation districts and municipality issues in the valley. A committee hearing by early fall.
- Senate Water Ag Rural Affairs Committee – met April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, looking at water charges and how different bills are being implemented. Senate Bill 3 - Over 130 utilities applied for extensions and waivers.
- May meeting for House Environmental Reg – orphaned and abandoned wells and surrounding cleanup environmental cleanup. Topic receiving some press recently.
- Sunset advisory - TACWA and WEAT are focused on TCEQ side and making positive impact through the advisory commission. Late May, TEC report on TCEQ will be published. TACWA and WEAT are planning to make comments on permit public notice, including NORI and NAPD issues.
- CERCLA exemption for utilities on PFAS – impacts liability on water sectors. Signed on to letter to Congress.
- Wipes labeling – these bills are getting increased support by legislature.
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) promised funding for Texas infrastructure. In review, looking for the guaranteed state funding.
- Some important dates:
  - November 8 – election day
  - November 14 – First day of pre-filing (bills get filed)
  - November 15 – TACWA/WEAT Water Environment Horizon Meeting
  - January 10, 2023 – First day of 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session
- **Wes Kucera (NACWA Update):**
  - April Board Meeting April 2022 - discussed PFAS. Law prohibits land applying biosolids, regardless of PFAS concentration. Actively monitoring.
  - Earmarks are back in 2022. Congress placing money in clean water and drinking SRFs.
  - Thanks to NACWA board members for critical role in CWSRF, helping communities finance infrastructure projects.
  - July 24, 2022 – Face to-face leadership conference in Seattle, WA

**Technical Presentations:**

**9:30 – 10:00 AM New Plant and 2 Expansions in Under 10 Years: Providing Treatment Needs of a Rapidly Growing Population;** Jody Zabolio, P.E. for Elizabeth Boddicker, P.E., UTRWD; Chad Simmons, P.E., BCEE and Allison Hage, P.E. Freese & Nichols, Inc.



**10:00 – 10:30 AM Hickory Creek Lift Station Rehab and Emergency Repair;** Adam McKnight, P.E., UTRWD; Ignacio Cadena, P.E., Black & Veatch; Shawn Durham, Archer Western Construction, LLC

**10:30 – 10:45** Break

**10:45 – 11:15 AM This is Water's Moment: A candid discussion on funding your water and wastewater infrastructure;** Stacy Barna, CDM Smith

**11:15 – 11:45 AM Top 10 Water-Wastewater-Engineering Changes Since 1980 & Top 10 Likely Changes in Next 30 Years;** Randy McIntyre, P.E., Garver

**Future Meetings:**

- a. July 22, 2022 – Houston Texas (City of Houston and Gulf Coast Authority)
- b. September 23, 2022 – San Antonio Texas (SAWS)
- c. November 2022 – WEAT/TACWA Horizon Conference (includes TACWA business meeting just prior)
- d. January 27, 2023 – City of Corpus Christi
- e. March 31, 2023 – TBD

President Bill Gase closed with thanks to UTRWD for hosting and to the sponsors Freese & Nichols, CDM Smith, Black & Veatch, Archer Western Construction, Garver, and Plummer.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM**