TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

TACWA

A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO TEXAS WATERS

TACWA Meeting Minutes
Houston, Texas
July 21, 2023
9:00 a.m.

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting on July 21, 2023, was hosted by Gulf Coast Authority and the City of Houston and sponsored by Brown and Caldwell, Carollo Engineers, CDM Smith, Plummer Associates, Inc., and STV Inc.

See attached sign-in sheet – Total attendees signed in was 58.

Business Meeting:

- President Bill Gase opened the business meeting, welcomed guests, and thanked Gulf Coast Authority and the City of Houston for hosting and the sponsors for their contributions.
- Welcome was provided by Yvonne Forrest, City of Houston, Director, Houston Water.
- Approved the May 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

Regulatory Updates:

Meg Pierce-Walsh

- WEAT Nutrient Committee – Met with TCEQ on July 12 to discuss implementation procedures for nutrient limits in TPDES permits. Reviewed approach by other states. Next steps include revitalizing the nutrient stakeholder group and developing implementable actions for TCEQ 's consideration.
- TCEQ currently has 10 – 12 municipal writers now. Some have 6 months to a year of experience. Review all permits carefully and include comments in your mark-ups.

Julie Nahrgang See "Legislative Update – Nahrgang" for details at TACWA.org under this meeting.

- 88th Regular Legislative Session. Property tax relief and border security were discussed. A resolution was signed into place on property tax relief.
- Unexpected event this session includes an unanticipated $34B budget surplus due to higher tax income (inflation and oil/gas revenue). This has led to a large money grab.
- Tracy King, previous Chairman of House Natl Resources Committee will not seek re-election.
- Highlights for water– SB 28 will have $1B appropriated (if SJR 75 passes). It will be on the November 7th ballot. All together $2.5 billion for water infrastructure.
- Twenty-five per cent or at least $250M must go into that new water supply fund. New water, according to Senator Perry, is water that comes from desalination projects, produced water projects not intended for oil/gas, ASR project and infrastructure to transport. Plan is to increase water supply in Texas by 7 million acre-feet in next ten years by these funds.

- Bills that passed – Sunset Bill, Water Infrastructure Bill, SB 28, Licensing Bill, Ground and Surface Water Bills, and Metcalf/Perry Bill – Allows provisional licensing for qualified high school students when a 20-hour course is passed, provides career pathway to operations.

Jody Zabolio - NACWA Update

- Jody has been elected, and will soon be officially on the NACWA Board
- Patty Cleveland was inducted into the NACWA Hall of Fame
- 3M class action lawsuit– currently, if you receive action for wastewater, cannot do same for water and vice versa. There is pushback on this, but legal council should be aware.

Future Meetings:

a. September 22, 2023 – San Antonio, SAWS
b. November 17, 2023 – TACWA, Garland, City of Garland
c. January 26, 2024 – TACWA, El Paso, EPW
d. March 2024 – TBD
e. May 17, 2024 – TACWA, Flower Mound, UTRWD

Technical Presentations:

9:30 – 10:00 *Challenges and Rewards of Implementing a BNR Process to an Expanding Facility,* Perran Hutton, P.E. - **Plummer Associates, Inc.**

10:00 – 10:30 *Playing 3-Shell Monte with Peak Flows – A Technical-Economical Analysis of Storm Flow Management Alternatives,* Rudy Kilian, P.E. - **Carollo Engineers**

10:30 – 10:45 *Break*

10:45 – 11:15 *City of Houston's 69th St WWTP Oxygen System Replacement Project,* Chris Varnon, P.E., Principal Engineer - CDM Smith; Amanda Liu, EIT Project Engineer - **CDM Smith**; Mariluz Padilla, P.E, Supervising Engineer – City of Houston; Shari Lin, P.E., Supervising Engineer – City of Houston

11:15 – 11:*45* *Digital Reporting for Capacity Remedial Measures Planning: A Case Study of Houston's Digital Transformation Journey*, Fazle Rabbi, P.E., Managing Engineer - City of Houston; Alexis Winder, EIT, ENV SP, Graduate Engineer – **STV Inc.**

11:45 – 12:15 *The Inflation Reduction Act - "Show me the Money",* Susana Blauser, P.E.; Jeff Lange, P.E. – **Brown and Caldwell**

President Bill Gase closed with thanks to Gulf Coast Authority and the City of Houston for hosting and to the sponsors Brown and Caldwell, Carollo Engineers, CDM Smith, Plummer Associates, Inc., and STV Inc.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM

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