



**TACWA Meeting Minutes  
Garland, Texas  
May 26, 2017  
9:00 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of May 26, 2017, was hosted by the City of Garland and sponsored by Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., Garver, Gresham, Smith and Partners, and Perkins Engineering.

**Those in attendance included:** Raj Bhattarai – City of Austin; Wes Kucera – City of Garland; Greg McGuire – City of Garland; Alex Stuart – City of Garland; Ron Patel – City of Dallas; Lance Phillips – City of Dallas; Nosa Irenumaagho – City of Dallas; Shrirang Golhar – City of Dallas; Daniel Halter – City of Dallas; Leslie Castillo – City of Dallas; Zachary Peoples – City of Dallas; Steven Daniels – Trinity River Authority; Matthew Jalbert – Trinity River Authority; Fiona Allen – Trinity River Authority; Gordon Pederson – Gulf Coast Authority; Denise Ehrlich – Gulf Coast Authority; Leonard Levine – Gulf Coast Authority; Jenna Covington – NTMWD; Ken Wesson – NTMWD; Morgan Dadgostar – NTMWD; Janet Sims – Perkins; Peggy Glass – APAI; Lauren Gonzalez – APAI; Jeff Caffey – APAI; Chris Pasch – APAI; Betty Jordan – APAI; Dexter May – APAI; Nicole Conner – Kennedy Jenks Consultants; Jeff Sober – Garver; Tina Hanson – Garver; Ashley Pifer – Garver; Lance Klement – Garver; Clint Bissett – Pacheco Koch; Thelma Box – Pacheco Koch; Erin Flanagan - Freese and Nichols, Inc.; Ray Longoria – Freese and Nichols, Inc.; Chris Kaakaty – Gresham, Smith and Partners; Felix Carles – Gresham, Smith and Partners; Tim O'Brien – Gresham, Smith and Partners; Rudy Kilien – Carollo; Toshio Shimada – Carollo; George Luke – Gupta & Associates Inc.; Daniel Ghobrial – Gupta & Associates Inc.; Howie Li – Team One Integration; Mark Perkins – Perkins Consultants; Sam Irrinki – Weston; Ashok Verma - Stantec

**Business Meeting:**

- President Kucera opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the sponsors, requested approval of March 31, 2017 Meeting Minutes, and then requested introductions from all the attendees.
- With the announced retirement of Ricky Clifton, there will be a vacancy on the NACWA Board from Region 6. Gordon Pederson has expressed his interest to serve on the NACWA Board. He has served TACWA as an active member, secretary, vice president and president. He has hosted and organized numerous TACWA meetings and attended many NACWA conferences and is familiar with the issues and challenges facing TACWA and Region 6. Raj Bhattarai made the motion for Gordon Pederson's nomination to serve on the NACWA Board. XXXX seconded the nominations and all members unanimously approved the motion. President Kucera will send a letter to the John Sullivan, NACWA Nominating Committee Chair, notifying him of TACWA's support for Gordon Pederson's nomination for the NACWA Board from Region 6.



## **Peggy Glass:**

- **Committee on Dissolved Salts Standards**

The committee had a conference call on April 13. During that call, the following was discussed:

- The committee reviewed potential responses to the questions raised by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) at the March meeting.
  - Janet Sims and Chris Pasch agreed to prepare a comment letter on behalf of TACWA and the Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) for submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on its proposal that States adopt conductivity criteria based on field studies. The letter was developed and submitted.
  - The committee is working on identifying adjustments to the Implementation Procedures (IPs) to improve the way that the total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, and sulfate standards are applied. While significant adjustments to the standards document cannot be made until the next standards revision, the committee will explore whether it is possible to get some changes in the IPs.
  - The committee will encourage TCEQ to set up a workgroup on standards for dissolved salts that can work with TCEQ to develop revisions for the 2020 standards revisions. It is hoped the committee can meet with TCEQ again in June.

- **Texas Water Conservation Association Letter on EPA Regulations**

EPA has requested public comments on regulations that could be repealed, replaced, or modified to reduce regulatory burdens. The Texas Water Conservation Association submitted comments. Peggy offered to send a copy of the letter to anyone requesting it. Regulations addressed in the letter were water quality standards for bacteria, management of dental amalgam, anti-backsliding, cyanobacterial toxins and perfluorinated compounds, the standardized monitoring framework for drinking water supplies, aquatic life criteria for conductivity, whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing, the Test of Significant Toxicity (TST) WET method, and numeric nutrient criteria.

- **Revisions to Texas Surface Water Quality Standards and Implementation Procedures**

Drafts of these documents are expected to be published for comment in late summer 2017.

## **Janet Sims:**

At the request of the TACWA group in March an objection letter to the EPA Draft Field-Based Methods for Developing Aquatic Life Criteria for Specific Conductivity was prepared. Concerns about the draft method for POTWs in Texas were presented. The letter was submitted on April 24, 2017. It was signed by Jeff Sober, WEAT President, and Wes Kucera, TACWA President. Copies of the objection letter can be obtained by contacting Ms. Sims or downloading from the Regulations.gov website.



**Julie Nahrgang** couldn't attend the meeting because she was traveling, so **Raj Bhattarai** presented Julie's legislative report on her behalf:

As of May 24, 2017, the following bills of interest to TACWA were passed by the Texas legislature. However, all bills are subject to possible Governor veto by June 18, 2017

- SB 1105 (Hinojosa) – Moves \$18 million reserve and about \$2 million per year in future revenue from TCEQ's Used Oil Recycling Account to TCEQ's Water Management Account to fund broad range of water programs. This should help defray some of the increases in the Water Quality Assessment Fee. This bill was supported by TACWA and WEAT.
- HB 2369 (Nevarez) – Allows schools to appeal city water or wastewater fees to the PUC if the fees are based on the number of students or number of school employees. This bill should not affect impact fees.
- HB 2798 (Farrar) – Harris County to implement a reuse water pilot program for subsurface irrigation and toilet/urinal use of wastewater treated at a Harris County facility.
- HB 2943 (Larson) – Clean Water State Revolving Fund can be used for conservation easements for water quality control and broadens CWSRF applicant eligibility
- HB 3618 (King, Tracy) – Repeals synced TPDES permit expirations within the same watershed/river segment. This bill will help lower the permit renewal application load on the permittees as well as the TCEQ staff. This bill was supported by TACWA and WEAT.
- HB 3987 (Larson) – TWDB to use the state participation account to provide financial assistance for ASR or desalination projects by 2022 (with up to \$200 million in bonding capacity) or this authorization expires

The following Biosolids/Domestic Septage Bills are ALL DEAD (unless they are included as amendments to other bills):

- HB 1250 (Wray) – Ellis County commissioners could prohibit land application of all classes of biosolids
- HB 2092 (Morrison) – Prohibits land application of grease and grit waste, including processed grease and grit waste
- HB 2517 (Stephenson)/SB 746 (Kolkhorst) – Prohibits land application of grease and grit waste
- HB 2958 (Thompson) – Temporary moratorium on permits for municipal solid waste facilities (should exclude biosolids)



- HB 3642 (Burns)/SB 1724 (Birdwell) – Permit requirement for domestic septage land application
- HB 3644 (Burns)/SB 1723 (Birdwell) – Soil monitoring sampling from land application of sludge or domestic septage

An interim study may be conducted on biosolids land application issues before the 2019 legislative session – more details will be provided as they become available in the future.

### **Technical Presentations:**

- Evaluating cloth disc filters for improved turbidity and phosphorus removal at the Garland Duck Creek WWTP” – Ashley Pifer, PhD, PE, Garver
- Implementing an Odor Control Program for Garland’s Centralized Biosolids Processing Facility” – James S. McMillen, PE & Mark A. Perkins, PE, Perkins Engineering
- “Prioritizing Competing Needs at DWU’s Southside WWTP” – Tim O’Brian, PE, Gresham, Smith and Partners, & Leslie Castillo, City of Dallas
- The EPA puts the T.D.S. in T.P.D.E.S. – A Regulatory Update” – Chris Pasch, Alan Plummer Associates, Inc
- City of Lubbock Jumps into MBR” – Jeff Caffey, PE, Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.