



**TACWA Meeting Minutes  
Garland, Texas  
May 25, 2018  
9:00 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of May 25, 2018, was hosted by the City of Garland and sponsored Alan Plummer Associates, Arcadis, Black & Veatch, Carollo Engineers, and Garver.

**Those in attendance included:**

Magda Alanis - City of Houston; Patel, Ron - City of Dallas; Bill Gase - City of Garland; Julie Nahrgang - WEAT/TACWA; Wes Kucera - City of Garland; Raj Bhattarai - City of Austin; Gordon Pederson - GCA; Brandan Hamilton - City of Arlington; Michael Mosier - City of Arlington; Robert Stanley - City of Arlington; Regina Stencel - City of Dallas; Shrirang Golhar - City of Dallas; Farida Goderya - City of Fort Worth; Alex Stuart - City of Garland; Brent Erickson - City of Garland; Carol La Breche - City of Houston; Shannon Dunne - City of Houston; Walid Samarneh - City of Houston; Leonard Levine - GCA; Phil Spitzer - NTMWD; Cynthia Robinson - TRA; Edmund Mach - TRA; John Bennett - TRA; Julie Hunt - TRA; Patty Cleveland - TRA; Jody Zabolio - UTRWD; Michelle Carte - UTRWD; Chris Pasch - APAI; Chris Young - APAI; Jeff Caffey - APAI; Lauren Gonzalez - APAI; Peggy Glass - APAI; Charles Schoening - Arcadis; Estaban Azagra - Arcadis ; Noel Pattengale - Arcadis ; Donald Lange - BGE, Inc.; Dorian French - BGE, Inc.; Erin Magee - BGE, Inc.; Ignacio Cadena - Black & Veatch; Jonathan Shirk - Black & Veatch; Troy Laman - Carollo Engineers; Randy Bush - CP&Y; Walter Chiang - CP&Y; Raymond Longoria - FNI; George Luke - GAI; Tina Hanson - Garver; Tim O'Brien - Gresham Smith & Partners; Preston Dillard - Halff Associates; Brandt Miller - Hazen & Sawyer; Chamindra Dassanayake - Hazen & Sawyer; Joel Cantwell - HDR; Dev Chelliah - HVJ Associates; Alberto Mercado Flores - LAN Inc; Greg Vaughan - LAN Inc; Clint Bissett - Pacheco Koch; Meredith McCall - Pacheco Koch; Janet Sims - Perkins Engineering; Mark Perkins - Perkins Engineering; John Melton - RPS; Sam Irrinki - Weston Solutions;

**Business Meeting:**

- President Alanis opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the City of Garland for hosting and the sponsors for their support. She informed attendees about the future meetings this year.
- Welcome – Wes Kucera, Managing Director, City of Garland Water Utilities
  - Mr. Kucera shared information about the City of Garland Water/Wastewater Systems and upcoming activities at Downtown Garland.
- Approved the March 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes.



### **Peggy Glass:**

Activities related to development and application of TDS/chloride/sulfate standards:

- Responses to the questions from TCEQ
  - Responses were provided on April 23, 2018. The questions were about the following topics:
    - Criteria for chloride for irrigation use
    - Support for an allowable 400 mg/L incremental increase in TDS for municipal use
    - Whether other states use harmonic mean to develop permit limits for TDS

Follow-up with EPA Headquarters

- At a subsequent meeting with Deborah Nagle on another subject, Peggy Glass asked if EPA had taken any action in response to the meeting where problems with TDS standards were discussed. Ms. Nagle said the Office of Research and Development had increased its priority on this issue.

Follow-up with NACWA

- There was a conference call of the Water Quality Committee of NACWA on May 16, 2018, and the following were noted:
  - At the Water Week fly-in, Ms. Nagle brought up the TDS issue and said that EPA was assigning it a higher priority
  - The committee agreed this is a big issue nationally even though it affects different states differently. It is an issue that is not going away.
  - Challenges include both establishing appropriate standards and developing a practical treatment technology for when treatment is actually needed.

Other topics:

- California is still putting the Test of Significant Toxicity (TST) method in permits, and permittees continue to object.
- The proposed EPA policy on Strengthening Transparency in Science may be of interest.

### **Janet Sims:**

Draft 2016 Integrated Report

- On May 4th the draft 2016 Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality was posted on TCEQ's website. Comments to the draft report are accepted until 5:00 pm on June 5th.
- The Integrated Report is a requirement of the Clean Water Act. The conditions of the surface waters in Texas are summarized in the report.
- TCEQ conducted assessments using seven years of quality data to determine if the waters in Texas are supporting of the designated uses. Waters that do not meet the water quality criteria for the designated uses are identified as impaired and placed on the 303(d) list.



- The 2016 Integrated Report is the first time TCEQ has assessed data to determine impairments caused by nutrients. In 2013, chlorophyll a criteria for 39 reservoirs were approved by EPA. TCEQ's nutrient assessment method not only uses chlorophyll a data compared to the approved criteria. Water quality data for total phosphorus, total nitrogen, Secchi depth, and dissolved oxygen are also assessed using threshold values before a reservoir is identified as impaired for nutrients.
- Review of the report and proposed 303(d) impairment list is important to verify that there are no errors because the impairment list is used by TCEQ during the development of TPDES permits.
- TCEQ is planning to have a meeting with stakeholders before the draft 2018 Integrated Report is posted. The meeting is tentatively planned for late summer of this year.

### **Julie Nahrgang:**

Texas Legislative Front – Currently the legislature is in the midst of hearings on charges and The House Natural Resources Committee meet on April 18<sup>th</sup> and conducted a hearing related to Hurricane Harvey flooding issues. Charge reports are due to be out in October or November. One issue during the summer is who is going to be the Speaker of the House.

The Biosolids rule, a draft time line has been published with an anticipated draft rule coming out in October.

Federal Front – Currently the Farm Bill is dead. The WRRDA Bill is still making progress.

The Blending rule has re-emerged. A draft language is expected in July 2019 and for it to be finalized in July 2020. Both WEAT and TACWA provided comments to the EPA.

Save the Date – the Horizon Conference on November 8, 2018 in Austin.

### **Patty Cleveland (NACWA Update):**

This past Monday (May 21, 2018) the NACWA Security hosted a web meeting covering the Impacts, What Worked and Lessons Learned from Hurricane Harvey. This presentation was an update on the presentation that Mike Howe with TXAWWA presented last November. Those that want to see the presentation can obtain it from Mike Howe, NACWA or Patty.



## **Technical Presentations:**

- “Bringing Innovation Into The Smart City” – Michael Mosier, PE, City of Arlington and Brendan Hamilton, City of Arlington
- “Tertiary Filtration – Key Considerations for Operational Efficiency” – Tina Hanson, PE, Garver
- “Preparing for Process Change: Lessons from Implementing/Improving BNR Process” – Jeff Caffey, PE, APAI and John Bennett, TRA
- “Application of Asset Management Principles for Damage Assessment and Recovery Planning” – Esteban Azagra, PMP, PE, Arcadis
- “Out with the new, in with the old: lessons learned during the rehabilitation of a 350 mgd pump station” - Troy Laman, PE, Carollo Engineers and Regina Stencel, PE, Dallas Water Utilities