



**TACWA Meeting Minutes
Austin, Texas
November 8, 2018
8:34 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of November 8, 2018, was hosted by Austin Water, TACWA and Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) and sponsored Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., CDM-Smith, Data Flows Systems, Freese & Nichols, Kennedy/Jenks, and Perkins Engineering Consultants, Inc.

Those in attendance included:

Magda Alanis - City of Houston; Ron Patel - City of Dallas; Bill Gase - City of Garland; Wes Kucera - City of Garland; Julie Nahrgang - WEAT/TACWA; Gordon Pederson - GCA; Lisa M. Boatman - City of Austin; Carol La Breche - City of Houston; Walid Samarneh - City of Houston; Denise Ehrlich - GCA; Leonard Levine - GCA; Jeff Haby - SAWS; Cynthia Robinson - TRA; Michelle Carte - UTRWD; Chris Pasch - APAI; Peggy Glass - APAI; Nathan Vassar - Lloyd Gosselink; Ty Embrey – Lloyd Gosselink; Meredith McCall - Pacheco Koch; Mark Perkins - Perkins Engineering; Ashok Varma - RPS;

Business Meeting:

- President Alanis opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked Austin Water, TACWA and Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) for hosting and the sponsors. Informed attendees about the future meetings this year.
- Approved the September 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Julie Nahrgang:

Discussed the Water Policy Fly-In. The WEF/NACWA Water Policy Fly-In to DC is scheduled during the week of Texas Water. WEAT and TACWA will be partnering with the Texas AWWA group and attend the AWWA Water Fly-In the week before Texas Water. We will meet with WEF/NACWA via a WebEx briefing by NACWA and WEF or meet on site to make sure we have our organizations talking points.

Ty Embrey:

Legislative Update: Make-up of the House has shifted. The number of Democrats in the House and Senate has increased. One of the priorities for the next session will be Hurricane Harvey Recovery, Transportation Improvements and Property Tax Relief. Expect to see bills filed in regards to the land application of bio-solids. State to address Landfill issues and regulations. Still no word on who will be the next Speaker of the House. Six candidates have filed to be the next Speaker.



Peggy Glass:

Regulatory Topic Update: TDS Coalition Update: The committee has been working with TCEQ to get modifications to how they approach permitting of dissolved solids, chlorides and sulfates. The committee is scheduled to meet with TCEQ on Tuesday November 13th to discuss our draft revisions to the Implementation Procedures in regards to TDS. Looking at putting in best management practices, use of temporary standards, and other items.

Nathan Vassar:

Federal Update: Blending Rule, EPA is looking at rule instead of guidance to indicate when blending is acceptable at the plant. NACWA's offered written comments emphasizing that compliance needs to be measured at the discharge point and not within the plant. The rule is expected out sometime next year. EPA's Enforcement Office has moved away from national enforcement initiatives to compliance initiatives. Early next year you can expect to see the next three years of compliance initiatives outlined from the EPA. The repeal and replace efforts of the Waters of the US [WOTUS] is still in progress. The repeal is expected to be final by March of 2019. The replacement rule proposal is expected in the fall of 2019, with additional details anticipated in the coming months. As a result of recent court actions, the proposed 2015 WOTUS rule is not in effect

Leonard Levine:

EPA Update: EPA is conducting a study that will take a holistic look at how the Agency, states, tribes and stakeholders regulate and manage wastewater from the oil and gas industry. Current regulations pretty much require deep well injection of this waste. The Gulf Coast Authority is working with NACWA and WaterReuse and industry groups to try to get a more reasonable approach to set appropriate discharge limits to keep the water in the environment and more available for beneficial use.

Gordon Pederson (NACWA Update):

Next week (week of 11/12) is a NACWA Water Law Conference in San Diego. The next NACWA conference is the Winter Conference and will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 5th thru the 8th. The Fall Strategic Leadership Meeting was a couple of weeks ago. Only one city in Texas applied for an award and that was Corpus Christi. They applied for two awards, Workforce Development and Educational Video. They were awarded each one of them. They will be presented these awards at the Winter Conference. Anyone that is doing outreach should apply for awards next year. Raj will be honored in Albuquerque with a Distinguished Service Award. NACWA in 2020 will change its format for the entire year in honor of the 50th anniversary of NACWA.

President Alanis closed the meeting by thanking Austin Water, TACWA and Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) for hosting and the sponsors.

Adjourned at 8:59am to attend the Water Environment Horizon Conference



Water Environment Horizon Conference Agenda:

- L'Oreal Stepney –Deputy Director, Office of Water, TCEQ
- Representative Dade Phelan –Vice Chair, House Natural Resources Committee
- Brooke Paup–Board Member, TWDB
- Planning in a Post Harvey Texas: Phillip Goodwin, City of Houston; Brian Butscher, City of Sugar Land; and Mindy Conyers, TWDB
- Texas Legislative Horizon – Election Update and 86th Session Forecast: Ty Embrey, Lloyd Gosselink Attorneys at Law
- Back to Biosolids: All Roads Lead to Resource Recovery: Matt Berg, Jacobs; Ben Davis, RendaEnvironmental; Brian Sierant, TCEQ
- Washington Update –Today and Tomorrow's National Legislation and Regulation: Erica Spitzig, NACWA
- A Day in the Life of Utility Decision Makers: Jeff Haby, SAWS; Laura Wilson, City of Midland; FernieRico, El Paso Water, Glenn Clingenpeel, Trinity River Authority
- Closing Remarks