



TACWA Meeting Minutes
Houston, Texas
July 26, 2019
9:00 a.m.

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of July 27, 2019, was hosted by the City of Houston and the Gulf Coast Authority and sponsored by Carollo Engineers, CDM Smith, Freese & Nichols, Garver, and RPS Group.

Those in attendance included:

Magda Alanis - City of Houston; Ron Patel - City of Dallas; Bill Gase - City of Garland; Wes Kucera - City of Garland; Gordon Pederson - GCA; Julie Nahrgang - WEAT/TACWA; Tammy West - City of Austin; Lance Phillips - City of Dallas; Stephen Conner - City of Garland; Edward Hickle - City of Houston; Jack Canfield - City of Houston; Neranga Gamage - City of Houston; Raghavender Nednur - City of Houston; Shannon Dunne - City of Houston; Walid Samarneh - City of Houston; Brianna Morales - GCA; Denise Ehrlich - GCA; Leonard Levine - GCA; Lori Traweek - GCA; Temple Williamson - SAWS; Aaron Schindewolf - SJRA - Woodlands Division; Jody Zabolio - UTRWD; Vinoth Manoharan - AECOM; Wendy Lundeen - AECOM; Anna Stehouwer - Arcadis; Charles Schoening - Arcadis; John D'Antoni - Black & Veatch; Carol Serna - Carollo Engineers; Cory Dow - Carollo Engineers; Felicia James - Carollo Engineers; Amber Batson - CDM Smith; Chris Patin - CDM Smith; Chris Varnon - CDM Smith; Jason Venier - CDM Smith; Marisa Vergara - CP&Y; David Munn - FNI; Murali Erat - FNI; Raymond Longoria - FNI; Dan Olson - Garver; Chris Kaakaty - Gresham Smith; Gary Rabalais - Jones|Carter; Amy Byland - LAN Inc; Lynn Chamberlain - LAN Inc; Nathan Vassar - Lloyd Gosselink; Jainil Shah - Parsons; Michael West - PENCCO; Janet Sims - Perkins Engineering; Mark Perkins - Perkins Engineering; Chris Pasch - Plummer; Peggy Glass - Plummer; Ashok Varma - RPS; Kenneth Tillman - RPS; Sylvester Johnson - RPS; William Xu - Tetra Tech; Sam Irrinki - Weston Solutions; Sofie Thorgaard - Consulate of Denmark;

Business Meeting:

- President Alanis opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the City of Houston and the Gulf Coast Authority for hosting and the sponsors.
- Welcome – Eric Dargan, Chief Operating Officer, City of Houston, Public Works.
 - Mr. Dargan welcomed everyone to Houston. Thanked the attendees for the work they do to protect the public health.
- Approved the May 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes.
- Informed attendees about the future meetings this year.



Peggy Glass:

- TDS Coalition [WEAT, TACWA and WaterReuse Texas] Update: The last meeting with TCEQ was productive. They seemed open to allowing an increase in TDS when compared to the source water. The committee is proposing a 400 mg/L increase in TDS from the source water. The committee is working on scheduling a meeting in August 2019 to meet with TCEQ. A survey about the increase in TDS may be sent out to utilities in Texas, if TCEQ confirms this possibility is under consideration.

Janet Sims:

- The Clean Water Act Analytical Methods Update Rule (MUR) Stakeholder Meeting has been rescheduled for August 20. The previous two scheduled meetings were postponed. Accreditation for the new methods identified in 40CFR Part 136 [608.3, 624.1, 625.1] are now available. You will be required to use an accredited lab for these methods.
- Electronic reporting to be required in 2020. Narrative requirements that are in permits will be in the system. If a report is submitted late, enforcement will automatically be notified. There will no longer be any grace period for submitting late reports.
- The TCEQ is falling behind in processing permits. They have identified ways to reduce the time for processing and issuing permits. One way is to send draft permits to applicants electronically for review, not mailed. Because of the electronic transfer, the allowable time to review a draft permit will be shortened to 7 days instead of the traditional 10 days.
- The Pretreatment Knowledge Committee [WEAT and TACWA] submitted a letter to TCEQ requesting a meeting and listing concerns [modification review, processing time, transparency in audits, guidance on developing local limits, influent & effluent monitoring requirements]. TCEQ has a goal of reviewing and approving 50% of the Streamlining Rule modifications this year for those that have been submitted. TCEQ has a stakeholder meeting scheduled for September 19.

Julie Nahrgang:

- State Legislative Update: The State Legislature is no longer in session. The items of interest are listed on the WEAT website and soon to be on the new TACWA website. Big session on state flood planning, funding, and repair (SB7, SB 8, and HJR4). Not many water quality bills were passed, none with major consequences to our industry.
- Chapter 312 BioSolids Rules might go to the TCEQ Commissioners Meeting on Oct 9.
- Federal Update: PFAS is all over the news currently. Can impact the regulation of biosolids and POTW effluent monitoring.
- Deadlines and upcoming events. WEAT BioSolids Conference [July 31 and Aug 1], Consent Decree Conversation [Aug 5], Strategic Assessment Management [Aug 15], TXWater 2020 Abstract Deadline [Sept 10].
- New TACWA website and database will be coming soon. Currently the new site is being tested and should be released before the September 2019 meeting.



Wes Kucera (NACWA Update):

- Gave an update on the winners of the EPA Region 6 Platinum Peak Performance Award. UTRWD received the Silver Award for Excellence in Management. Informed everyone on the newly elected NACWA Officers. The Fall Leadership Meeting will be in Austin on November 18 and 19.

Gordon Pederson (NACWA Update):

- It is a good time to join NACWA. Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of NACWA.

Technical Presentations:

- “PFAS 101: An Introduction to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances” - Amber Batson, P.E. CDM Smith
- “EPA’s Blending Policy and the Future of Wet Weather Management at WRRFs” - Murali Erat, PE Freese and Nichols Inc
- “Can Safety and Accuracy Co-exist in a WW Meter station?” - Kenneth Tillman, P.E. RPS Group
- “Optimizing Operations to Reduce WRRF Costs: A Case Study of the City of Richmond” Dan Olson, Garver USA
- “Leveraging Big Data for Intelligent Asset Management for Utilities” – Felicia James, Carollo Engineers