



**TACWA Meeting Minutes**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**November 15, 2022 @ 7:45 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies business meeting was held on November 15, 2022, at the Long Center for the Performing Arts Event Center in Austin, prior to the Water Environment Horizon Conference. Horizon 2022 was hosted by WEAT/TACWA. Event was sponsored by Garver, CCI Commerce Controls, SEH, Mead & Hunt, Black & Veatch, WEAT and TACWA. See attached sign-in sheet – Total number of attendees signed in was 19.

**Business Meeting:**

- Julie Nahrgang, Executive Director of WEAT/TACWA greeted guests and thanked all for attending.
- TACWA Vice-President Lisa Boatman opened the business meeting and thanked the sponsors for their contributions.
- Approved the September 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

**NACWA Update: Jason Isakov, Director, Legislative Affairs, NACWA**

- Bipartisan infrastructure law – there was a five-year influx of mandatory dollars about \$50B - \$13B for the Clean Water side specifically through the state revolving fund (SRF). Those are mandatory community appropriations over the next five years and are in addition to the annual funds.
- Water Resources Development Act is typically a U.S. Army Corp of Engineers vehicle for policies and projects. It typically will not impact the water utility sector, but this year there are Environmental Infrastructure Projects for water/wastewater utilities. Your utility would have already applied.
- Most effective communication tools for your utility to address congress is getting to know your DC representatives and creating a connection with the local district director.
- Farm Bill is coming up to be reauthorized next year. NACWA's engaged here on conservation programs and getting permit recognition for upstream investments. Farm Bill set to get authorized next congress – delays are common.
- PFAS issues still of concern. Rules may go through as proposed with minor tweaks. No exemptions from EPA. We must rely on congress. Getting federal exemption through congress may be possible.

**Attendee Introductions**



## **Regulatory Updates:**

### **Meg Pierce-Walsh**

- Phase II (Small) MS4 General Permit renewal – TCEQ is in the process of renewing the TPDES Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, which expires on January 24, 2024. In May 2022, they started an internal permit review to identify needed revisions. A draft permit is under development based on stakeholder comments (from a meeting in September 2022) to simplify and shorten the process. It will likely be available in the summer of 2023.
- TCEQ Staffing - The permit area is understaffed. Turn-around is slow, so balance requests.

### **Janet Sims**

- Public Involvement Plan Form for Permit and Registration Applications (TCEQ-20960)  
The Public Participation Plan covers TCEQ's expectations for meaningful public involvement. It ensures Texans are notified, understand the proposed decision, and have an opportunity to provide input and ask questions before TCEQ action.
  - Call TCEQ with questions and/or visit the TCEQ website:  
[Title VI Compliance at TCEQ - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)

### **Julie Nahrgang**

- Thanked everyone again for attending today in Austin. All enjoyed her plugging in the neon "DANG!" sign on the wall while talking about Texas politics.
- Stakeholder meeting in December 2021 focused on "How can we improve permit turn-around times?" Newspaper notices were discussed as expensive, with articles difficult to find because they appear for only one day in a newspaper. TACWA/WEAT worked with TCEQ on language still in legislative counsel which addresses this. Federal guidelines allow on-line public notices. The new legislation the utility to choose either newspaper or on-line.
- The Pristine Waters Bill will be refiled.
- There will be a water caucus this year. It seeks to inform our lawmakers regarding the important water issues. It can advance industry needs, provide a better understanding of workforce funding issues, and PFAS.

### **NACWA Report by Jason Isakov**

- The 2022 Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) guidance creates an affordability issue. Soon to be released metrics of Biden's administration does not advance us.
- NACWA 2023 Water Week is April 23-29 in Washington, DC. National policy fly-in on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>.



**Future Meetings:**

- a. January 27, 2023 – Corpus Christi
- b. March 24, 2023 – Austin
- c. May 19, 2023 – Flower Mound (host TBD)
- d. July 21, 2023 – Houston
- e. September 22, 2023 – San Antonio
- f. November 17, 2023 - Garland
- g. January 26, 2024 – El Paso

Vice-President Lisa Boatman closed with thanks to our attendees and our sponsors Garver, CCI Commerce Controls, SEH, Mead & Hunt, Black & Veatch, WEAT and TACWA.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am**