



TACWA Virtual Meeting Minutes
Austin, TX
April 30, 2020
11:45 a.m.

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting on April 30, 2020, was hosted virtually by the City of Austin and sponsored by Plummer, Arcadis, Carollo, Garver, Kennedy/Jenks, Hazen & Sawyer, Parsons, Perkins, Gupta & Associates, Freese & Nichols and Black & Veatch.

Those in attendance included:

Julie Nahrgang - WEAT/TACWA; Ron Patel - City of Dallas; Bill Gase - City of Garland; Brianna Morales - GCA; Wes Kucera - City of Garland; Gordon Pederson - GCA; Heather Cooke - City of Austin; Lisa M. Boatman - City of Austin; Ian Moede - City of Austin; Tammy West - City of Austin; Richard Wagner - City of Dallas; Ana Pena-Tijerina - City of Fort Worth; Madelene Rafalko - City of Fort Worth; Stuart Bakken - City of Garland; Alex Stuart - City of Garland; Dylan Loving - City of Garland; Stephen Conner - City of Garland; Fred Norris - City of Garland; Makenzie Vega - City of Garland; Allison Osborne - City of Houston; Phillip Goodwin - City of Houston; Walid Samarneh - City of Houston; Aubrey Spear - City of Lubbock; Denise Ehrlich - GCA; Leonard Levine - GCA; Phyllis Frank - GCA; Shannon Miftari - GCA; Amy Middleton - SARA; Dienna DeVries - SARA; Cynthia Robinson - TRA; Patty Cleveland - TRA; Ben Hodges - UTRWD; Michelle Carte - UTRWD; Todd Warrix - AECOM; Wendy Lundeen - AECOM; Charles Schoening - Arcadis; Ross Standifer - Arcadis; Alexander Kuzovkov - Black & Veatch; Lauren Gonzalez - Black & Veatch; Leigh Cerda - Black & Veatch; Amber Batson - SJRA; David Briggs - CDM Smith; Sofie Thorgaard - Consulate of Denmark; Donna Renner - CP&Y; Lindsay Webb - CP&Y; Marisa Vergara - CP&Y; Terry Winn - CP&Y; Megan Martin - CP&Y; Katelyn Backhaus - CP&Y; Michael Graves - CP&Y; Randy Bush - CP&Y; Ryan Owen - CP&Y; Walter Chiang - CP&Y; Jason Cocklin - FNI; Daniel Ghobrial - GAI; Greg Swoboda - Garver; Ian Toohey - Garver; Jeff Sober - Garver; Marcela Sion - Hazen & Sawyer; Anna Whiting - Jacobs CH2M; Jonathan Vorheis - Jacobs CH2M; Michael Ancell - Jacobs CH2M; Nieves Alfaro - Jones|Carter; Dietrich Bankhead - Khafra; Alberto Mercado Flores - LAN Inc; Paul Wood - LAN Inc; Scott Harris - LAN Inc; Nathan Vassar - Lloyd Gosselink; Randy Palachek - Parsons; James McMillen - Perkins Engineering; Janet Sims - Perkins Engineering; Chris Pasch - Plummer; Ashok Varma - RPS; Susan Turrieta - Smith Turrieta Eng.; Sherri van der Wege - Tetra Tech; David James - Wastewater Training & Compliance; Sam Irrinki - Weston Solutions;

Business Meeting:

- President Patel opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the City of Austin for hosting and the sponsors.
- Motion approved - nominate Gordon Pederson, Chief Technical Officer, Gulf Coast Authority for a second three-year term as Board Member representing Region 6.
- Approved the January 31, 2020 Meeting Minutes.



Gordon Pederson (NACWA Update):

- NACWA's website has useful resources listed on their website for COVID-19. Operational Plans for COVID-19 are available for access on NACWA's website but a password is needed to access this plan. Press releases for COVID-19 are also available for review.
- On July 15, 2020 NACWA will be meeting virtually. At 1:00pm the regular business meeting will be held, and the Board Meeting will be held at 2:00pm
- NACWA's 50th Celebration will be held in July of 2021.
- Recommendation to review latest Supreme Court Ruling for Maui County v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund.

Wes Kucera:

- In fiscal year 2020, 22 new members have joined NACWA bringing the membership total to 431 memberships. The 431 memberships are comprised of 336 public agencies, 57 corporate and 27 legal entities.
- NACWA had a virtual board meeting on April 27, 2020 and at this time there will be no increases in dues for 2021.
 - Consumption declines due to COVID-19 were discussed and the following cities reported the following: Boston, MA reports a 15% decline, New York City, NY reports a 10% decline, Springfield, MO reports a 17% decline, Little Rock, AR reports a 16% decline and Garland, TX reports between 10-20%
- Kishia Powell, NACWA's Treasurer has accepted a job as chief operating officer for DC Water, the District of Columbia's water utility.

Peggy Glass:

- TDS Report – The TDS Committee was working to schedule a follow-up meeting with the TCEQ but, due to COVID-19, this follow up meeting is on hold.
- Surface Water Quality Standards Advisory Work Group met on March 9, 2020. Peter Schaefer covered the following items:
 - He rolled out two possible changes to the Implementation Procedures that reflect requests that the TDS Committee has made. These are proposed at this time, not approved.
 - If a permittee is passing whole effluent toxicity and discharging to an unclassified segment it will not get a TDS, chloride, or sulfate limit.
 - Permittees that are not seeing much growth may have an option to be screened for Reasonable Potential based on something less than their full permitted flow. Although not yet specifically addressed, it is assumed the permitted value wouldn't change.
 - Further discussions need to be had regarding the use of something other than harmonic mean flow when performing the screening for dissolved solids (TDS, sulfate and chloride). The use of harmonic mean flow is punitive to dischargers to small or intermittent streams.
 - pH Screening was discussed, if you have less than a 1MGD flow you would have TBEL's of 6.0-9.0. If you have flow greater than 1MGD or are an industrial process, then you would have TBEL's based on the pH in the receiving stream after mixing.



- Changes were proposed to MAL's; laboratories need to review these to confirm that these levels will not create false positives.

Julie Nahrgang:

Texas Legislative Updates

- The second joint committee meeting was scheduled for April 30, 2020 between the Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development and the Senate Committee on Water and Rural Affairs. This meeting was postponed, and it has not been rescheduled. The first joint meeting was held on January 21, 2020. Senator Perry invited testimony about future water supply interim chart. Testimony discussed current laws, processes, water storage options and availability and recommendations. Testimony was in relation to HB 2771.
- Stephanie Bergeron Perdue has retired as the Deputy Executive Director for the TCEQ.
- Rulemaking Adoption - Chapter 312, Sludge Use, Disposal, and Transportation Administrative Updates to the Sludge Rule was adopted at the March Commissioners Meeting even though the meeting was not held in person.
- Navigable Waters Rule – There have already been several challenges filed in court.
- The WRRDA Bill is moving through the senate right now and that authorizes multiple funding streams like the Clean Water SRF.
- The Blending Rule Package is still forthcoming. It is on hold for the moment due to COVID-19.
- TCEQ & EPA have both issues memos on enforcement. Asking for operations to be maintained and they are holding back on enforcement for the moment.
- Maui County v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund – Supreme Court issued a 6:3 decision in favor of expanded NPDES standards to include point source discharges as well as functional equivalents. Conduit theory of discharge permitting is still alive and well and neither the groundwater exemption to jurisdictional waters nor the existence of the UIC regulatory program are enough to stop NPDES coverage.

Technical Presentations:

- “Austin Water – Introduction and Discussion Regarding the Effects and Challenges Currently Being Faced Due to COVID-19.” – Lisa Boatman, Supervising Engineer, Austin Water.
- “NACWA Presentation – Introduction and Discussion regarding COVID-19 Congressional Response, WRDA processes underway and updates on key activities at EPA including WOTUS and PFAS.” - Kristina Surfus Director Legislative Affairs for NACWA, Emily Rimmel Director of Regulatory Affairs NACWA, Amanda Aspatore Chief Legal Counsel NACWA.
- “Drones at a Wastewater Treatment Plant: Using Aerial Photography for Inventory Control and Reducing Fire Risk” - Ian Moede, Environmental Program Coordinator, Austin Water.