



**TACWA Virtual Meeting Minutes**  
**TACWA**  
**July 23, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of July 23, 2021 was co-hosted by the Gulf Coast Authority and the City of Houston. The meeting was sponsored by Arcadis, Ardurra, Black & Veatch, Brown and Caldwell, Carollo, CDM Smith, Clean Water Strategies, CP&Y, Inc., Freese and Nichols, Inc., Garver, Gresham Smith, Gupta & Associates, Hazen and Sawyer, HDR, Inc., Isle Utilities, Jacobs, Jones|Carter, Kennedy Jenks, Lloyd Gosselink, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Pacheco Koch, Parsons, Perkins Engineering Consultants, Inc., Plummer Associates, Inc., Tetra Tech, Wastewater Training & Compliance and Weston Solutions Inc.

**Those in attendance included:**

Bill Gase, Ron Patel, Wes Kucera, Alex Stuart, Lisa Boatman, Tammy West, Jody Zabolio, Ehrlich, Denise, Larry Patterson, Sidney Bomer, Shannon Dunne, Neranga Gamage, Allison Osborne, Tina Hanson, Monteyor, Lisa – HPW; Sidney Bomer, Sunil Kommineni, Phillip Cook, Md Rashid, Alok Shah, James Belew, Harrison Steed, James Schlaman, Randy Palachek, Javier Esquivel, Matt Manges, Cindy Wallis-Lage, Dan Rodrigo; Gretchen Gardener, Alondra, Gordon Pederson, Kelly Clark, Randy Bush, David Briggs, Kelly Clark, Christopher Varnon, Leonard Levine, Chris Pasch, Gregory Shaw, Jason Venier, Jennifer Harrison, Sam Irrinki; Leisa Nelson, John Dantoni, Segler, Stephanie; Gilbreath, Steve, Adam Evans, Kyle Swank, Crystal Spence, Md Rashid, Keith OConnor, Mackrena Ramos, Andy Shaw, Samir Matta, Sarah Vuskov, Elaiza Alvarez, Paul Wood, Jainil Shah, Susan Butler, Melissa Mack, Tina Hanson, Sunil Kommineni; Ehrlich, Denise, Marisa Vergara, Jeffrey Sober, Pena-Tijerina, Ana; Fariborz Fakheri, Phillip Cook, Jessica Fritsch, Kirk Westphal, Ryan Owen, Justin Rackley, Camille Sowell, Harrison Steed, Jeffrey Sober.

**Business Meeting:**

**Chris Pasch:**

New approach to MSGP TXR50000 (Stormwater Industrial dischargers) on track to be renewed in middle of August. 90 days to submit Notice of Intent (NOI) was permit becomes effective. General pesticide General Permit is coming up in the fall, most likely no action required on that. Water quality standards revisions are moving along. TCEQ stated it is on hold. Issue related to utilities that needs to be resolved before proceeding.



### **Julie Nahrgang:**

In the first, of at least two, special sessions tacked onto the end of the 87<sup>th</sup> legislative session. No new water bills passed this first special session. Guaranteed to have a second special session, it is unknown if we'll have a third and even fourth session to advance the Governor/Lieutenant Governor's agenda.

Regular session, it did not appear that it would be a water session until winter storm Uri appeared. Due to the winter storm, the direction of passing laws to weatherize and winterize and essentially build up resiliency and utilities to make sure all water providers with at least one customer must maintain at least a 20 psi.

Due to winter weather, where temperature dropped at least 25 degrees, the effort on the utility side coalesced into Senate Bill 3, along with a number of bills addressing weatherization and resiliency in the house. Those bills pointed at a single issue, resulting in Senate Bill 3 to omnibus bill, but carried this important issue of weatherization.

Big piece of SB3 is that utilities will be required to submit a Preparedness Plan to TCEQ by March 2022, an exceedingly quick timeline. Each utility will be required to meet to prove or show how they will meet 1 of 14 different points on the preparedness plan, GCT will then improve that and push that up to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The deadline will likely come in advance of the TCK developing rules. This is the biggest water story of the session and impact every potable water provider this fall. We will have folks in the TCK as well as other experts speak to that citadel and implementation and how its going to impact you at our one of our meetings.

### **Gordon Pederson (NACWA Update):**

We just finished the summer leadership program on this Tuesday and Wednesday. The next leadership program is going to be a face to face in Charleston, South Carolina on November 15, 2021. At the end of the Leadership program, the National Clean Water Law Enforcement program will occur and they are taking applications right now for housing and attending both of those meetings.

During our leadership summit we talked about is Environmental Justice, and NACWA has entered a leadership program with Core Consulting.

### **Wes Kucera:**

At our recent NACWA Board of Directors meeting, the following officers were elected:

- **Kishia Powell**- COO, Executive Vice President DC Water - **President**
- **Tom Sigmund**-Executive Director, New Water Green Bay, Wisconsin - **Vice President**
- **Oluwole 'OJ' McFoy**—GM, Buffalo Sewer Authority Buffalo, New York – **Treasurer**
- **Diane Taniguchi-Dennis**- CEO, Clean Water Services Hillsboro, Oregon – **Secretary**

The NACWA membership has grown by 18 new members in FY21. There are 435 members, which includes 342 public agencies. We represent 269 out of 435 congressional districts.



The following Texas wastewater facilities received the Platinum award and numbers of years at that level:

- Houston Public Works Sims Bayou North P-5.
- Upper Trinity Regional Doe Branch P-5.
- El Paso Fred Hervey P-7.
- North Texas Municipal Water District Panther Creek P-10.
- Upper Trinity Regional River Bend P-13.
- San Jacinto WWTP #3 P-14.
- Houston Public Works Homestead Plant P-16.
- Trinity River Authority Denton Creek P-16.
- Upper Trinity Regional Pensacola Plant P-17.
- Trinity River Authority Ten Mile Creek P-19
- Trinity River Authority Red Oak P-21.
- Upper Trinity Regional Lakeview P-22
- Trinity River Central Plant P-27. Let's do a virtual hand clap for all those representatives. And if you were curious as to the longest running utility Platinum Award, it's Hanover Sewerage Authority in New Jersey at Platinum 32.

I would like to give a shout out Houston Public Works they received 21 silver awards and 11 gold awards.

**Ron Patel:**

Thank you with the Kudos and Congratulations to all the winners. Hopefully this would be that tail end of our virtual meetings. Our future meeting date is September 17<sup>th</sup>. The virtual meeting will be in San Antonio and the meeting will be sponsored by SAWS. The November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting is in Conroe Texas and will be sponsored by the San Jacinto River Authority. On January 31, 2022 the host will be the City of Garland, and the meeting on March 26, 2022 will be in the City of Austin and sponsored by the City of Austin. Once again, thanks to the Gulf Coast Authority in the City of Houston for hosting today's event. And thanks to our sponsors for their continued support. This concludes the business portion of the meeting. I would like to have a motion to close the business meeting.

**Bill Gase:**

I move to close the business meeting.

**Ron Patel:**

Can I have a second?

**Wes Kucera:**

This is where I second.

**Ron Patel:**

Thank you. I would like to open the floor for the presentation portion. The first presentation is the City of Houston Consent Decree. Our speaker today is Shannon Dunne, Senior Assistant Director of Water and Wastewater Operation. For the people joining late, Shannon is a Senior Assistant Director

of Houston Public Works. He assumed leadership of Water and Wastewater Operation Houston Public Works in September of 2017. Mr. Dunne has over 40 years of experience within the public utility industry, she currently leads an organization of over 780 employees. There he is responsible for the collection and treatment of sanitary wastewater. Approximately, 83 billion gallons annually, 39 permitted Water Resource Recovery facilities, 383 lift stations in 6200 miles of Collection line. With that I give the floor to Shannon.

**Technical Presentations (11:36-1:51:03):**

- “City of Houston Consent Decree” – Shannon Dunne, Senior Assistant Director Water/Wastewater Operations, Houston Public Works.
- “Measuring Climate Change Impacts on Water Supply and Source Water Quality” – Mr. Dan Rodrigo, CDM Smith.
- “One Water Planning Provides a Foundation for the Future” – Cindy Wallis-Lage, Black & Veatch.

**Ron Patel (1:50:40-1:53:16):**

Closing remarks