



TACWA Virtual Meeting Minutes
TACWA
May 21, 2021
9:00 a.m.

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of May 21, 2021, was hosted by the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTWRD) and sponsored by Arcadis, Brown and Caldwell, CDM Smith, Clean Water Strategies, CP&Y, Inc., Freese and Nichols, Inc., Garver, Gresham Smith, Gupta & Associates, Hazen and Sawyer, HDR, Inc., Isle Utilities, Lloyd Gosselink, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Pacheco Koch, Parsons Water & Infrastructure, Perkins Engineering Consultants, Inc., Plummer Associates, Inc., Tetra Tech, Wastewater Training & Compliance, and Weston Solutions Inc.

Those in attendance included:

Ron Patel - City of Dallas; Bill Gase - City of Garland; Shannon Dunne - City of Houston; Lisa Boatman - City of Austin; Gordon Pederson - GCA; Julie Nahrgang - WEAT/TACWA; Tammy West - City of Austin; Stephen Moore - City of Denton; Alex Stuart - City of Garland; Allison Osborne - City of Houston; Carol LaBreche - City of Houston; Neranga Gamage - City of Houston; Phillip Goodwin - City of Houston; Aubrey Spear - City of Lubbock; Denise Ehrlich - GCA; Leonard Levine - GCA; Cynthia Robinson - TRA; James McDonald - TRA; Patty Cleveland - TRA; Brian Kelm - UTRWD; Larry Patterson - UTRWD; Michelle Carte - UTRWD; Alondra Hernandez - WEAT/TACWA; Charles Schoening - Arcadis; Megan Martin - ARDURRA; Randel West - ARDURRA; Ashok Perera - Atkins; Brandy Martinez - Brown & Caldwell; Sri Koduri - Brown & Caldwell; Anton Dapcic - Carollo Engineers; Darryl Corbin - Carollo Engineers; Amy Robinson - CDM Smith; Chris Patin - CDM Smith; Gregory Shaw - CDM Smith; Sarah Jakositz - CDM Smith; Donna Renner - CP&Y; Brian Queen - Eurofins; Justin Rackley - Garver; Paul Banschbach - Garver; Brandt Miller - Hazen & Sawyer; Joel Cantwell - HDR; Arifur Rahman - Jacobs; Arun Srinivasan - Jacobs; Raj Mehta - Jacobs; Robbin Kersey - KSA Engineers; Charles Shumate - LAN Inc; Elaiza Alvarez - LAN Inc; Paul Wood - LAN Inc; Nathan Vassar - Lloyd Gosselink; Stephanie Silvia - LNV, Inc; Josh Davis - McCarthy; Thomas Wilshusen - Parsons; Heather Goins - Perkins Engineering; James McMillen - Perkins Engineering; Janet Sims - Perkins Engineering; Mark Perkins - Perkins Engineering; Joe Wells - PICA Corp; Alan Tucker - Plummer; Ana Pena-Tijerina - Plummer; Andre Garces - Plummer; Ashley Lewis - Plummer; Chris Pasch - Plummer; Collin Davies - Plummer; Ellen McDonald - Plummer; Jenni English - Plummer; Kristin Arnold - Plummer; Marshall Plunk - Plummer; Peter Reale - Plummer; Rex Hunt - Plummer; Tres Koenings - Plummer; Evert Cowdin; Jacob Valentien; Jeff Miner; John Levitt; Laura R Wilson; Meg Pierce-Walsh

Business Meeting:

- President Patel opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTWRD) for hosting and the sponsors. Informed attendees about the future meetings this year.



- Welcome – Larry N. Patterson, P.E., Executive Director, Upper Trinity Regional Water District.
 - Mr. Patterson shared information about the Upper Trinity Regional Water District Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants and the status of the new Lake [Lake Ralph Hall].
- TACWA Executive Director Nahrgang informed everyone about the TACWA Secretary Vacancy and the need to create a Deputy Secretary.
- Nomination of Shannon Dunne with the City of Houston Secretary with TACWA. Members approved the nomination by unanimous consent.
- Approval for the creation of the Deputy Secretary Position was by unanimous consent.
- Nomination of Lisa Boatman with Austin Water for Deputy Secretary with TACWA. Members approved the nomination by unanimous consent.
- Approved the March 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Rex Hunt:

There is a lot going on this year at the EPA. You can expect a significant role out of new rules at the federal level. It will eventually affect us at the state level. You will see changes in the nutrient regulations, biosolids management regulations, water quality standards and issues on environmental justice. See attached for a summary of water quality regulations that are going on at both the State and Federal levels. This summary can also be found on the TACWA Website here → https://www.tacwa.org/cms_assets/Files/2021-05-21-TACWA-REGULATORY-SUMMARY.pdf

Rex covered four items that are more critical for this group:

- WEAT Nutrient Ad Hoc Group is continuing to meet. In June, we will hopefully meet with a representative from TCEQ. The group will then focus on a white paper. A discussion on where the industry in Texas needs to be headed with where nutrient regulations are headed.
- PFAS is beginning to filter down to the wastewater side. The EPA produced a memo directing states to begin requiring Wastewater Permittees to start collecting data on PFAS levels in effluent. The EPA says that this should start once the state approves a specific testing method for PFAS in wastewater. There is currently a draft method. It is coming to Texas.
- Antidegradation update. In 2020, there were two permitting actions that ultimately may affect how the TCEQ evaluates antidegradation in the future. In both cases, Protestants argued that the TCEQ's evaluation of antidegradation was flawed. Both cases are still in process. The first case was in Dripping Springs, Texas, for a new discharge permit. The other case was the Port of Corpus Christi for a brine discharge permit. Unclear to where the state is going to end on it. WEAT will provide periodic updates on this issue
- TCEQ staffing changes. There has been a significant departure of staff over the last few years. David Galindo left his position in the last six weeks ago. Erika Crespo is now the Assistant Deputy Director of the Water Quality Division, Matthew Udenenwu is now the Wastewater Permitting Section Manager. In June, a new Pretreatment Team Lead will be named. Julie also noted in the meeting chat that Robert Sadlier has been named the new Deputy Director of the Water Quality Division.



Janet Sims:

Before David Galindo left TCEQ the situation and status of the proposed Minimum Analytical Levels (MALs) were discussed. He stated that we could have a meeting to discuss what they are proposing one more time. Janet has been talking to Erika Crespo, who is currently acting Deputy Director of the Water Quality Division. She is interested in knowing more about our concerns and she understands that we want to have a meeting with her staff and would like to include laboratories. She understands that our concern is that the proposed changes to the MALs need to be based on more than just literature search. Erika will pass on the concerns to Robert Sadlier who will take David's position as Deputy Director in June.

Julie Nahrgang:

This update is the second Technical Presentation.

Gordon Pederson (NACWA Update):

NACWA, WEF, AWWA, and WaterReuse have been spending a lot of time talking to Congress about infrastructure funding. This is a big issue with everyone. All the issues that Rex talked about are available on the NACWA website. There are several meetings coming up: SWAN 11th Annual Conference, May 24; 2021 Strategic Communications: H2O Virtual Event, June 14; and 2021 Utility Leadership Virtual Event, July 20 with NACWA's Annual Association Business Meeting and 2021 Awards Ceremony will take place during the second day of the event. Gordon also presented the agenda for July 23rd TACWA Meeting.

Technical Presentations:

- "Permitting Discharges to Lewisville Lake" – Ben Kelm with UTRWD, Chris Pasch, Ashley Lewis and Kristin Arnold with Plummer
- "Updates on the 87th Texas Legislative Session: Law in the Time of Coronavirus" - Julie Nahrgang, Executive Director, WEAT/TACWA
- "The Impact of PFAS on Municipal Utilities and Biosolids Management: A Cost Analysis" - Sarah Jakositz, E.I.T. with CDM Smith Inc.