



TACWA Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2021  
Hosted by  
San Jacinto River Authority

1. Introductions – Ron Patel  
First in person meeting and Ron’s last meeting as President.
2. Introductions – Thanks to SJRA for hosting and Sponsors
3. Opening Remarks – Jace Houston  
SJRA’s core function, long term water planning. River authorities fill a niche by providing regional water supply and/or treatment. As a wholesaler we build, maintain, and operate treatment plants. After Harvey, SJRA was tasked with flood management. Don’t have a tax base so had to raise money to start a flood control study. Have evolved over 80 years to serve needs of communities. Vacancies are an issue. Talking with a local community college to stand up a trade division to train mechanics.
4. Business Portion of meeting, motion to approve September minutes, Bill moved, Lisa second.
5. Regulatory Update  
Rex Hunt – antidegradation is becoming an issue, part of CWA has become a focus for opposition groups and TCEQ. Environmental groups are pressing for changes, can impact discharge permits for new permits and amendments. Texas politics also play into policy.  
Janet Sims – MALS being proposed by TCEQ will impact all major facilities and Pretreatment programs. Had a conference call with TCEQ in September, discussed methods which are no longer used by labs. Asking them to do real data evaluation and not just literature research. TCEQ has been listening, we will impress on Earl Lott how important it is to get MAL’s correct. Will have follow up meetings with TCEQ. On October 26, had a virtual WQAWG meeting with TCEQ. Presented updates on all the rules. Paul Brochi gave a summary of proposed 217 updates. TCEQ has videos posted on Youtube. Stakeholder meetings will start in April and will publish draft in October 2022 with adoption in February 2023. Schedule is tentative. Next meeting is scheduled for January 2021.  
Julie Nahrgang – Legislative update. Lots going on in legislature due to Sunset review. Citizens group wants major changes to TPDES program at TCEQ or they want to EPA to take over. EPA doesn’t have the bandwidth to take TPDES over but we are taking this seriously. TACWA/etc. provided a written response to petition in support of TCEQ. The petition listed public participation, public hearings and antidegradation. Listed Port of Corpus Christi and Dripping Springs. Water Quality Division is formulating a response to the petition. Earl Lott wants to put together a small group on permit streamlining. Opportunity to talk about what we want changed, due in large part to Sunset Revision. Earl outlined 9 efficiencies to streamline the process. TCEQ will be more diligent



in enforcing the 180 deadline for permit renewals/amendments. You better bring lawyers, guns and money if you are planning for an amendment, Rex Hunt.

Infrastructure Law has 50 billion for water improvements, 14.5 dedicated to clean water SRF, 11.5 for drinking water. Remainder for loans and grants. CSO and SSO initiatives and stormwater money. NACWA and WEF opposed the “buy America requirement” which was extended to all manufactured goods.

Congrats to Ron Patel, outgoing president during a very difficult time, COVID.

6. Future meetings: January 28, City of Garland, March 25, City of Austin.
7. Business portion of meeting closed, Bill Garland moved, Lisa second.