TACWA Meeting Minutes
San Antonio, Texas
September 18, 2025
8:50 a.m.

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting on September 19, 2025, was hosted by San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and sponsored by Carollo, Garver, and Pencco.

See attached sign-in sheet – Total attendees signed in was 46.

- President Walid Samarneh welcomed guests, and thanked SAWS for hosting and the sponsors for their contributions.
- Welcome remarks by Andrea L. H. Beymer, P.E., Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, SAWS.
- **Special Recognition:** Outgoing Past President Mike Brinkmann was recognized for his leadership and dedication serving as TACWA President (2023 - 2025). On behalf of the TACWA Board and its members, a commemorative plaque was presented to Mr. Brinkmann in gratitude for his service and contributions to the association**.**
- Introductions by attendees.

Business Meeting:

- President called the business meeting to order
- Approved July 2026 Meeting Minutes

Regulatory Updates:

NACWA Update - Jody Zabolio:

- Federal Clean Water SRF Funding: The U.S. Senate assembled a funding package proposing to reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) at $3.5 billion annually—approximately $3.25 billion higher than previously anticipated funding levels. Final budget enactments remain pending following ongoing emergency and stopgap funding measures.
- CERCLA / Hazardous Substance Designation: A federal appeals court upheld EPA's designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA (Superfund). This decision leaves clean water utilities exposed to significant ongoing treatment, disposal, and potential liability costs.
- Biosolids / Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment: The public comment period for EPA's draft risk assessment guidance addressing PFAS in sewage sludge and biosolids closes on October 5, 2026.

- Public Education & Outreach: NACWA launched the 'We Transform Water' campaign, providing an online resource and media package (wetransformwater.org) to support clean water utilities in community outreach and public education.
- Conferences & Workshops: Upcoming national events include the Comprehensive Overview of Pretreatment Program Requirements Training (October 13–15, 2026, in Irving, Texas); a virtual workshop on Navigating Partnerships with Data Centers (September 23, 2026); the National Clean Water Law and Enforcement Seminar (November 2026); and nominations for the National Environmental Achievement Awards, with honorees to be recognized at the February 2027 conference in Houston, Texas.

Regulatory Update - Meg Pierce-Walsh (Plummer) and Janet Sims (Mead and Hunt):

- Biosolids / Sewage Sludge PFAS Memorandum: Following the January 2025 draft guidance regarding biosolids, EPA issued a broad draft memorandum in June 2026 summarizing PFAS data and offering generalized recommendations (e.g., avoiding application adjacent to water bodies). Public comments close on October 5, 2026.
- Waters of the United States (WOTUS): Following November 2025 rulemaking, EPA issued a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in September 2026 establishing a strict requirement for perennial flow, substantially narrowing federal Clean Water Act jurisdiction. The public comment period closes on October 9, 2026.
- TCEQ Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Industrial Stormwater: TCEQ reissued the MSGP on August 14, 2026. Wastewater treatment plants with design capacities greater than 1 MGD must submit a renewal Notice of Intent (NOI) before November 14, 2026. While sector benchmark monitoring limits for wastewater treatment plants remain unchanged, facilities must update and maintain their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3).
- TCEQ Water Quality Advisory Work Group: The next quarterly stakeholder meeting of the TCEQ Water Quality Advisory Work Group is scheduled for October 13, 2026, accessible both in person at TCEQ headquarters and virtually.

Association Business & Membership Updates

- 2027 Invoices: TACWA is preparing 2027 annual membership invoices for distribution in the fall to accommodate member agencies' fiscal budget cycles.
- Membership Directory & Contact Roster: Contact verification sheets were circulated among attendees to ensure primary organizational and billing contact information remains accurate. Organizations attending two or more meetings annually are encouraged to maintain active membership to access hosting and sponsorship privileges.
- Meeting Sponsorships: Agencies or associate member firms interested in sponsoring upcoming meetings should coordinate directly with Steve Daniels.

Future Meetings:

- November 12, 2026: Horizon Conference, Austin, Texas
- January 29, 2027: El Paso, Texas
- March 2027: Austin Water, Austin, Texas
- May 2027: Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD)

A motion to close the business meeting and transition to technical presentations was made, seconded, and passed.

Technical Presentations:

- **9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Utility Panel Discussion: Operational Continuity through Emergencies**
  Panelists: Mike Brinkmann, Director of Utilities, City of Boerne; Alissa Lockett, P.E., Vice President - Treatment Operations, SAWS; Katie Overstreet, P.E., Utilities Manager, San Antonio River Authority; Jody Zabolio, P.E., Chief Operating Officer, UTRWD.
  Moderator: Dr. Laura Rodriguez, ENV SP, P.E., Carollo Engineers.
- **10:15 – 10:45 a.m. Modernizing San Antonio's Largest Wastewater Plant: Commissioning Six 1.2 Megawatt Turbo Blowers**
  Speakers: Joy Etkins, P.E., SAWS; Chris Ackerman, P.E., Garver; Aron Soto, Area Manager, MGC.
- **10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break & Networking**

- **11:00 – 11:30 a.m. From Rainfall to Results: How Flow Meter Data Targets I&I Reduction Across San Antonio**
  Speakers: Abel Borunda, P.E., Master Planning, SAWS; Blake Littrell, Manager – Distribution & Collection Operations, SAWS; Jeremy Merz, Manager – Treatment Operations, SAWS.
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Multi-pronged Approach to Odor Control in San Antonio's Collection System**
  Speakers: Roland Gutierrez, Manager – Treatment Operations, SAWS; Stephen Daly, Sales Manager, Pencco.

Closing & Adjournment

President Walid Samarneh closed with thanks to SAWS for hosting and to the sponsors **Carollo, Garver, and Pencco.**

Thank you Sponsors!

Adjourned for Lunch/Networking at 12:00 PM