



**TACWA Meeting Minutes  
San Antonio, Texas  
September 23, 2022  
9:00 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting on September 23, 2022, was hosted by San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and sponsored by San Antonio Water System, Freese and Nichols, Plummer, Garver, CP&Y an STV Company, and Burns McDonnell.

See attached sign-in sheet – Total attendees signed in was 40.

**Business Meeting:**

- President Bill Gase opened the business meeting, welcomed guests, and thanked SAWS for hosting and the sponsors for their contributions.
- Welcome to San Antonio was provided by Jeff Haby, P.E., Vice President, Production and Treatment; and Gregg Eckhardt, Senior Resource Analyst, Office of the Chief Operating Officer
- Steven Clause Retirement Celebration – Career Highlights and Lowlights - Clean Water
- Approved the July 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

**Regulatory Updates:**

**Meg Pierce-Walsh**

**Regionalization**

- TCEQ recently issued a guidance document on regionalization, providing a bit more concrete information in addition to what TWC 26 details. It identifies three factors to consider, if you have a new or proposed plant:
  - Is there a system within three miles of proposed site?
  - Was service requested from that nearby facility and was permission granted (or denied)?
  - Can you be granted an exception or is it cost prohibitive to tie into the neighboring facility?
- A stakeholder public comment meeting was held regarding regionalization at TCEQ recently. A discussion on whether current regionalization guidance still applies and whether the additional three factors (noted above) should still be taken into consideration. Currently posted on the TCEQ website with comments due October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CERCLA**

- EPA has talked about designating PFAS compounds, specifically PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA hazardous substances. On September 6, the proposed rulemaking was added to the Federal Register with a 60-day public comment period that ends November 7<sup>th</sup>.



- National organizations, NACWA, AWWA, WEF and others have submitted a letter requesting an additional 120-day comment period, due to the extensive and impactful nature of this. In addition, the letter points to the need for an economic analysis/justification.

#### WEAT Nutrient Committee

- A summary letter of information gathered over the past approximate 18 months was recently sent to committee members. Looking at how the TCEQ will implement this in permits and how this group can impact that. On November 3 in Austin at the Center for Environmental Research Auditorium at Hornsby Bend, an Eckenfelder Lecture will wrap up findings and decisions made on what to present to TCEQ. Contact Peter Reale for additional information. Early registration fees end October 27<sup>th</sup>, and the link follows:  
[Water Environment Association of Texas | Eckenfelder Lecture 2022 \(weat.org\)](https://www.weat.org/Eckenfelder-Lecture-2022)

#### TDS Coalition

- TDS Coalition met with TCEQ to discuss Implementation Procedures for TDS. It was a high-level meeting with great discussions and input. A letter was issued to the TDS Coalition members; it provides an overview of the discussion and relates some of the TCEQ questions/responses.

#### Julie Nahrgang

- Elections start on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The following Tuesday is always the first day of pre-filing for the next legislative session; the 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session pre-filing start date is Nov 14<sup>th</sup>. The first date of legislative session is January 10, 2023.
- The interim period between the two legislative sessions held two late hearings in August 2022 from the Natural Resources Committee. Their interim report is due late October, early November. It should provide a hint at what to expect during the legislative session and a look at what the committee's focus may be. The expectation is Tracy King will be Chairman again.
- Water caucus may occur this session due to drought and continual low rainfall in Texas. Preliminary workings began last spring with several organizations (WEAT, TWCA, Texas Rural, etc.) pushing to get water quality and supply issues into sharper focus. This caucus will allow for a larger platform and audience to bring forth discussion topics.
- Proposed legislation submitted by WEAT is in legislative council right now that is intended to shorten discharge permit turnaround time by allowing online TPDES notifications, in lieu of newspaper notifications. This brings Texas in line with federal regulations.
- Note that CERCLA proposed rulemaking in the federal register has a reporting threshold of one or more pounds of PFAS generated every 24 hours in your discharge or residual. Rudimentary NACWA studies show that some will not meet this threshold. TCEQ guidance on testing and measurement not here yet.
- HORIZON Conference is November 15<sup>th</sup> in Austin from 9 am to 4 pm, one day after the pre-filing kick-off. We will have elected officials. Among the speakers are Andrew Sawyers, Director of the Office of Wastewater Management at EPA HQ, Yvonne Forrest, Deputy Director of Houston Water for City of Houston, and Jenna Covington, Executive Director and General Manager of the NTMWD. Early registration ends October 28 at the following link:  
[Water Environment Association of Texas | 2022 Water Environment... \(weat.org\)](https://www.weat.org/2022-Water-Environment...)



The HORIZON conference follows the TACWA business meeting, to be held at 8 to 9 am the same day (November 15<sup>th</sup>).

Some important legislative dates:

November 8 – election day

November 14 – First day of prefilings (bills get filed)

November 15 – TACWA/WEAT Water Environment Horizon Meeting

January 10, 2023 – First day of 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session

### Technical Presentations:

**9:30 – 10:00 AM** An Update on SAWS Wastewater Modeling and Capacity Management Program; **Bob King Johnson, P.E., PMP and Abel Borunda, P.E., San Antonio Water System and Steven Rhodes, P.E., Freese and Nichols**

**10:00 – 10:30 AM** Breaking News: TCEQ Declares TDS a source Subject for Dischargers; SAWS Responds with a Salty Solution!; **Tres Koenings and Kristin Arnold, Plummer**

**10:30 – 10:45 AM** Break

**10:45 – 11:15 AM** Master Planning for Future Nutrient Limits at one of the Largest Water Recycling Centers in the Nation; **Ila Dryzmala, P.E., Ph.D., San Antonio Water System and Jeff Sober, P.E., BCEE, Garver**

**11:15 – 11:45 AM** Advancing your Operator Training with Customized Curriculum; **Jeff Haby, P.E., San Antonio Water System and Felipe Gutierrez, P.E., Ph.D., CP&Y**

**11:45 – 12:15 PM** Cloudy with a Chance of Windfalls: Improving CIP Cost and Schedule Certainty; **Chitra Foster, P.E., DBIA and Dave Kinchen, DBIA, Burns McDonnell**

### Future Meetings:

- a. November 2022 – WEAT/TACWA Horizon Conference (includes TACWA business meeting just prior)
- b. January 27, 2023 – TACWA, City of Corpus Christi
- c. March (TBD), 2023 – TACWA, City of Austin

President Bill Gase closed with thanks to **SAWS** for hosting and to the sponsors Burns McDonnell, CP&Y an STV Company, Freese and Nichols, Garver, Plummer and San Antonio Water System.

**Thank you Sponsors!**

**Adjourned for Lunch/Networking at 12:45 PM**