



**TACWA Meeting Minutes
Fort Worth, Texas
January 27, 2017
9:00 a.m.**

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of January 27, 2017, was hosted by the City of Fort Worth and sponsored by CDM Smith, Freese and Nichols, McCarthy Construction, Garver, and CP&Y.

- **Those in attendance included:** Raj Bhattarai – City of Austin; Wes Kucera – City of Garland; Ron Patel – City of Dallas; Lance Phillips – City of Dallas; Shrirang Golhar – City of Dallas; John Carman, City of Fort Worth; Buster Fichera, City of Fort Worth, Farida Goderya – City of Fort Worth; Dena Johnson – City of Fort Worth; Stacy Watters – City of Fort Worth; Shannon Dunne – City of Houston; Phil Spitzer – North Texas Municipal Water District; Rick Shaffer – City of Weatherford; Ana J. Pena-Tijerina – City of Fort Worth; Magda Alanis – City of Houston; Karen Menard – UTRWD; Jody Zabolio – UTRWD; Christopher Steele – UTRWD; Patty Cleveland – Trinity River Authority; Cynthia Robinson – Trinity River Authority; Julie Nahrgang – TACWA/WEAT; Alan Davis – APAI; Janet Sims – APAI; Peggy Glass – APAI; Lauren Gonzalez – APAI; Jeff Caffey – APAI; Preston Dillard – APAI; Betty Jordan – APAI; Amy Robinson – CDM Smith; Kathy Fretwell – Kennedy Jenks Consultants; Nicole Conner – Kennedy Jenks Consultants; Tracey Long - Hazen and Sawyer; Scott Hardy - Hazen and Sawyer; Noel Ruiz – Arcadis; Sam Irrinki – Weston; Dev Chelliah – HUU Associates; Jeff Sober – Garver; Jason Iken – City of Houston; Tina Hanson – Garver; David Wallace – McCarthy Construction; John Frazier - McCarthy Construction; David Wallace - McCarthy Construction; Clint Bissett – Pacheco Koch; Thelma Box – Pacheco Koch; Chris Jones – Pacheco Koch; Brad Castleberry – Lloyd Gosselink; Bret Pugh – BGE Inc.; Michael Graves - CP&Y; Tye Jordan – CP&Y; Donna Renner – CP&Y; Ignacio Cadena – Black and Veatch; Scott Hubley - Freese and Nichols, Inc.; Ray Longoria – Freese and Nichols, Inc.; Gary Green – Parsons; Eric Loveless – Parsons; Randy Bush – CP&Y; Chris Kaakaty – Gresham, Smith and Partners; Donald Lange – BGE Inc.; Stephanie Coffman – Freese and Nichols

Business Meeting:

- Carman, Director of Fort Worth Water Department welcomed guests.
- President Kucera opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the sponsors, and then requested introductions from all the attendees.

Raj Bhattarai:

On November 18, 2016, TACWA submitted our comments to EPA on its proposed information collection request (ICR) for a mandatory survey, “National Study of Nutrient Removal and Secondary Technologies: POTW Screener Questionnaire.” We also shared our comments with NACWA staff



who included it in their comments to EPA. Thanks to the members who took the time to review the survey and shared their comments with us. EPA will now review the comments and most likely revise the survey based on the comments. We will continue to monitor the issue, and will keep you updated.

Janet Sims:

1. TCEQ held a Water Quality Advisory Work Group Meeting on January 17th. Peter Schaefer, TCEQ Standards Implementation Team leader indicated that there were no new revisions planned for the Surface Water Quality Implementation Procedures than those discussed in previous Advisory meetings. However, there are plans to schedule a stakeholders meeting in the future. A date for the meeting has not been set yet.
2. Peter Schaefer, when contacted after the Advisory Work Group meeting, said that the opportunity for proposing changes to the procedures for assessing discharges for dissolved salts for TPDES permit application is still available.
3. EPA published proposed emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants for POTWS. The proposed rule was published in the December 27th Federal Register. Comments are due by February 27, 2017. There are potential impacts of these rules to pretreatment programs. The WEAT Pretreatment Knowledge Committee is reviewing the proposed rule and if appropriate will prepare comments.
4. The new categorical Effluent Guidelines for Dental Offices was signed by EPA on December 15, 2016. Publication of the rule was anticipated for February. The Trump administration has put a freeze on pending rules not related to urgent or emergency situations. The effective date of the new dental office rule is pending until further review. The rule that was signed in December had been revised favorably based on comments to the proposed rule. The most notable change to the rule is that dental offices will not be considered significant/categorical industrial users unless the Control Authority determines an office should be regulated as one. The rule requires the installation of amalgam separators in offices that routinely remove dental amalgam from patients. Best management practices for operating, inspections, and maintaining the separators are specified in the signed rule. A One-Time Compliance Report to Control Authority within three years of the effective date of the rule for existing sources and within 90 days of discharge for new sources is required for the dental offices that are subject to the regulations.
5. The EPA Industrial User Inspection and Sampling Manual for POTWs was release a day prior to the Trump freeze policy on January 20th. TCEQ Pretreatment Team leader, Rebecca Villalba indicated that the manual will be used only as guidance or for clarification of the established regulations.

Julie Nahrgang:

The 85th regular Session of the Texas State Legislature began on January 10 with few fireworks. As expected, State Rep. Joe Strause was unanimously voted in as Speaker of the House and did not



face a challenger as he did in the 84th Session. January 11, however, was an abnormally long second day due to an attempt to add an amendment to House Resolution 3.

After the pomp and circumstance of the first few days of session, lawmakers began to get down to business, Senate Committee assignments were established, bills began flying, and this week we saw an uptick in legislation that could have major impacts for WEAT and TACWA members..

Currently, the bill with the most significant potential impact for the water quality community and water quality professionals in Texas is Representative Wray's anti-biosolids bill, HB 1250. HB 1250: Relating to the authority of certain counties to prohibit the land application of certain sewage sludge in the county or a portion of the county is heavily bracketed and appears to only cover Ellis Co. In essence, it would allow County Commissioners to prohibit land application of ALL classes of biosolids in the county. This is demonstrative of the ongoing anti-biosolids sentiment across the state and what we believe is the first of several bills that target biosolids land application. As WEAT/TACWA have stated previously and those in the industry know, bills like HB 1250 are regressive, deny farmers access to a valuable soil amendment, reverse the trend of turning a waste into resource, force utilities to landfill a beneficial product, and set a dangerous precedent damaging to biosolids programs across the state.

We may see additional bills limiting biosolids land application and/or giving regulatory authority to County Commissioners coming from lawmakers whose districts cover Bosque, Hood, Johnson, and Victoria Counties.

Technical Presentations:

- Taking Control – Peak Flow Management at Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility- Part 1
Dena Johnson, P.E., Fort Worth, Amy Robinson, P.E., CDM Smith, Michael Graves, P.E., CP&Y
- Taking Control – Peak Flow Management at Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility- Part 2
John Frazier and David Wallace, McCarthy Construction
- “When River and Infrastructure Collide – A Resiliency Approach to Infrastructure Management”, Stephanie Coffman, P.G., Scott Hubley, P.E., C.F.M, Freese and Nichols, Inc.
- “The Nitty Gritty: Houston’s Grit Evaluation Tool – Tina Hanson, PE, Garver and Jason Iken, PE, City of Houston