



TACWA Meeting Minutes
Austin, Texas
March 22, 2019
9:00 a.m.

The Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA) meeting of March 22, 2019, was hosted by the Austin Water and sponsored Alan Plummer (APAI), Carollo Engineers, Garver and Perkins Engineering.

Those in attendance included:

Magda Alanis - City of Houston; Ron Patel - City of Dallas; Bill Gase - City of Garland; Wes Kucera - City of Garland; Julie Nahrgang - WEAT/TACWA; Gordon Pederson - GCA; David Galindo – TCEQ; Heather Cooke - City of Austin; Lisa M. Boatman - City of Austin; Max Brekke - City of Austin; Tammy West - City of Austin; Carol La Breche - City of Houston; Leonard Levine - GCA; Jeff Haby - SAWS; Marco Ramos - SAWS; Mike Frisbie - SAWS; Temple Williamson - SAWS; Cynthia Robinson - TRA; Larry Patterson - UTRWD; Alicia Smiley - AECOM; Chris Pasch - APAI; Chris Young - APAI; Peggy Glass - APAI; Rex Hunt - APAI; Charles Schoening - Arcadis; Sherri van der Wege - Atkins; Hani Michel - Carollo Engineers; Jason Anderson - Carollo Engineers; Ellyn Weimer - CDM Smith; Charles Miney - CP&Y; Gopal Guthikonda - CP&Y; Lindsay Webb - CP&Y; Raymond Longoria - FNI; Edward Keenan - Garver; Greg Swoboda - Garver; Marcela Sion - Hazen & Sawyer; Fred Ramirez - Jacobs CH2M; Jason Bybel - Kennedy/Jenks; Charles Shumate - LAN Inc; Nathan Vassar - Lloyd Gosselink; Mel Vargas - Parsons; Randy Palachek - Parsons; Janet Sims - Perkins Engineering; Mark Perkins - Perkins Engineering; Ashok Varma - RPS; Jesse White – Schneider Electric; Roger Cooley - Wadetrim; David James - Wastewater Training & Compliance; Sam Irrinki - Weston Solutions

Business Meeting:

- President Alanis opened the meeting, welcomed guests and thanked the Austin Water for hosting and the sponsors. Informed attendees about the future meetings this year.
- Welcome – Lisa Boatman Supervising Engineer with the City of Austin (Austin Water).
 - Ms. Boatman talked about current activities happening in Austin.
- Magda welcomed Mr. Mike Frisbie the new COO with SAWS to the meeting.
- Approved the January 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes.



Peggy Glass:

TDS Coalition Update: We have made some progress. The state is going to do an abbreviated update to the Implementation Procedures (IPs) on items that they have agreement on with the EPA. They are going to keep on working on the IPs and take them through to the next standards revisions in 2021. We made seven (7) suggested changes to the IPs. In February [The committee met with TCEQ on Friday February 15, 2019.] we received feedback from TCEQ. They like some of the items and had reservations about some of them. How to screen unclassified waters with no stream standards needs further work. TCEQ agreed the use of harmonic mean flow in mass balance calculations may not always be appropriate. They were also open to providing an option to calculate screening values based on expected flow versus permitted flow. TCEQ is looking at the possibility that the permit provisions for dissolved salts could be based on best management practices and not a numeric limit. TCEQ may accept passing a WET test as a basis for an exemption from a permit limit for dissolved salts, at least in some cases. There is no resolution on the request to provide a fixed amount of increase in TDS (perhaps 400 mg/L) as a basis for an exemption from a permit limit for dissolved salts for domestic/municipal permittees, but TCEQ is open to further discussion of this concept. Discussion is still open on whether Net Environmental Benefit or No Environmental Harm could be a basis for an exemption; the TCEQ would like input on what parameters would be considered in such an evaluation. The next meeting with TCEQ on this subject is tentatively planned for June 2019.

Janet Sims:

The Draft 2016 Integrated Report (IR) was adopted in October 17, 2018. The EPA is still holding off on their approval. The Water Quality Planning Group with TCEQ is still working on the 2018 IR. Maybe out later this spring. TCEQ is also working on the 2020 report. We supplied comments to TCEQ about the assessment methods used for 2018 IR. It was recommended that TCEQ take into considerations the drought conditions of the potable water supply sources when assessing dissolved salts data in streams that had municipal discharges. TCEQ acknowledged our comments but indicated that there will be no changes to the 2018 IR assessment methods for streams.

Gordon Pederson (NACWA Update):

Gordon introduced Wes Kucera as the newest NACWA Board Member. Talked about the Water ReUse Plan, the EPA has reissued the plan for comments. NACWA is developing a PFAS Action Plan. NACWA is making some minor changes to its Awards Program. Gordon urged everyone to apply for Awards. The awards should open by the end of March. Also the deadline for applying for the PEAK Performance Award is at the end of March.

Wes Kucera (NACWA Update):

Wes talked about the WIFIA program. Wes passed out a brief summary from NACWA. Gave an update on the WOTUS rule. The NACWA Water Policy Fly-In is scheduled for April 3 to 4. Informed everyone that the NACWA Pretreatment Workshop will be in May and that the NACWA Leadership Conference will be in July.



Julie Nahrgang:

Gave an update on the 86th Texas Legislature as part of the Technical Presentations.

Technical Presentations:

- “Legislative Update” – Julie Nahrgang, Executive Director, Water Environment of Texas
- “TCEQ Water Quality Update” – David Galindo, Director, Water Quality Division, TCEQ
- “Continuous Performance Improvement Process: Implementing Lean Six Sigma at a Wastewater Treatment Plant” – Ron Patel, P.E., City of Dallas, Dallas Water Utilities
- “Efficiency, Reliability and a Whole Lot More: Combining Aeration Systems for Big Savings at the South Austin Regional WWTP” – Jason Anderson, P.E., Carollo Engineers
- “Optimization that Resonates: A Case Study on Pump Station Challenges Focused on O&M” – Ed Keenan, Garver