



# WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

Preserving & Enhancing the Water Environment of Texas

Central Texas Section

September 2015

**Central Texas WEAT Presents:**

**“The 20 Year Saga of a Utility Dealing with Whole Effluent Toxicity Test Failures”**

**Chris Pasch**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.**

In 1994 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drafted a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit with a whole effluent toxicity (WET) limit in response to lethal WET test failures for a utility in southeast Texas. The utility did not believe that WET limits were warranted because plant upgrades had eliminated the WET test failures and objected to the WET limits. EPA did not issue the NPDES permit with a WET limit. In 2002 the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) drafted a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit with WET limits after two lethal WET test failures. The utility again objected to the limit because the WET test failures were believed to be result of laboratory errors. The case was heard before the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). The SOAH judge agreed with the utility and as a result TCEQ issued a permit without WET limits. However, EPA federalized the permit based on sub-lethal WET test failures and issued a NPDES permit with WET limits. The utility objected and the case was heard before EPA’s Environmental Appeals Board (EAB). At about the same time the utility voluntarily initiated a study to determine the cause of sub-lethal WET test failures. The study eventually demonstrated that sporadic sub-lethal WET test failures are associated with the high alkalinity and low hardness of the source water for the municipal supply. After the EAB remanded the permit back to EPA, the EPA sent the permit back to TCEQ and TCEQ issued a TPDES permit in 2013 without WET limits. Chris will present perspectives of the utility, the laboratory, the regulator, the courts, and the consultant.

Chris Pasch is a Project Manager with Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.’s Water Quality/Permitting Team. Chris has over 20 years of experience in assisting clients with water quality studies, municipal and industrial wastewater discharge permitting, industrial local limits development, and whole effluent toxicity studies. He has extensive experience assisting clients in negotiating acceptable permit conditions with TCEQ and the EPA. Chris has assisted clients in reviewing toxicity test laboratory reports, developing toxicity investigation study plans, identifying causes of whole effluent toxicity, determining appropriate responses to toxicity test failures, and negotiating with TCEQ and EPA to identify acceptable whole effluent toxicity permit provisions. Chris is a founding member of NELAC Institute Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee; the committee updates and maintains the NELAC Institute Standard for Toxicity Testing.

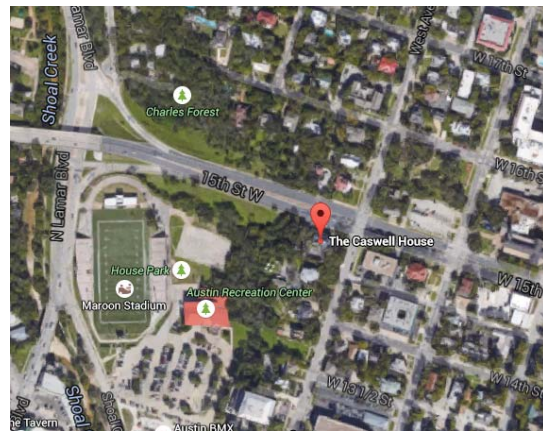
## MEETING INFORMATION

Please RSVP by contacting **Jason Bybel**  
([jbybel@ljaengineering.com](mailto:jbybel@ljaengineering.com)) by **Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**Meeting Cost:** Members and Guests - \$20.00, Students - \$5.00 *Meeting fee covers facility rental, dinner, and non-alcoholic beverages.*

**New Meeting Location:** **The Caswell House**, 1404 West Avenue (SW corner of West Avenue and West 15<sup>th</sup> Street).

Prepay with PayPal  
Pre-pay for each meeting by credit card:  
<http://weat.org/central/paypal-meetings.htm>



## UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	SPONSOR(S)
September 2, 2015	WEAT Webinar: Outcomes of the 84 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session	gotowebinar	WEAT
September 15, 2015	Central Texas Section Meeting	Austin, TX	WEAT
September 26 to September 30, 2015	<b>WEFTEC</b>	Chicago, IL	WEF
September 30 to October 1, 2015	Texas Desal 2015 Conference	Austin, TX	TDA
October 14, 2015	Pints for People	Austin, TX	WEAT/ TAWWA
October 28, 2015	CAC TAWWA Fall Seminar “Utility Resilience and Sustainability”	Austin, TX	TAWWA
November 5, 2015	WEAT/TAWWA Fall Social @ Top Golf	Top Golf Austin, TX	WEAT/ TAWWA
November 19, 2015	Central Texas Section Meeting	Austin, TX	WEAT
January 20-21, 2016	WEAT Collections Specialty Conference “Deeper into the 4Ms of Collection Systems: Siphons, Force Mains, and Lift Stations”  <b>Call for Abstracts – Due September 14, 2015</b>	San Marcos, TX	WEAT

## WEAT CTS OFFICERS AND MEETING TOPICS

Please contact any of the officers if you have questions or would like to get more involved with the CTS chapter.

We are looking for your feedback on topics to be presented at our section meetings and at specialty conferences. Please contact Secretary, **Jason Bybel** if you have any suggestions.

Also, if you are interested in sponsoring a Central Texas Section WEAT event, please contact President Elect, **Kathy Fretwell** for more information.

As always, we thank you for supporting CTS WEAT!!!

### 2015 - 2016 Central Texas Section Officers

- **President – Aldo Sotelo**  
512-328-0011, asotelo@buryinc.com
- **President Elect – Kathy Fretwell**  
512-852-3007, kathyfretwell@kennedyjenks.com
- **Vice President – Rebecca Musk**  
512-617-3133, rebecca.musk@freese.com
- **Secretary – Jason Bybel**  
512-439-4758, jbybel@ljaengineering.com
- **Treasurer – Roman Grijalva**  
512-879-0432, rgrijalva@browngay.com
- **Section Rep. – Ana Karamalegos**  
512-346-1100, karamalegosAM@cdsmith.com
- **Past President – Cara Wilson**  
512-346-1100, wilsonc@cdsmith.com  
Term of office is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

## NEW CENTRAL TEXAS SECTION SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS FOR 2015-2016

New sponsorship alternatives have been developed in a way of keeping meeting cost low for all attendees. Options include a classic dinner sponsorship, Gold, and Platinum sponsorships. Please see the attached **2015-2016 WEAT Sponsorship Letter** for more information.

## CTS WEAT 2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Central Texas Section of WEAT is pleased to announce the award of two 2015 scholarships of \$500 each to Robert (Bo) Briggs and Michaela Moss.



**Robert (Bo) Briggs** is a sophomore at Texas Christian University where he is pursuing a Business degree with plans to focus on their Entrepreneurship program. He is also part of the John V. Roach Honors College program at TCU. Outside of the classroom, Robert plans to remain active in Senseless Acts of Comedy (SAC is TCU's Improvisational Comedy Troupe) and enjoys hanging out with his friends. He is looking forward to another outstanding football year with the Horned Frogs. Robert is the son of WEAT-CTS member David Briggs and his wife, Shannon.



**Michaela Moss** is pursuing a career where she can combine her love of the natural sciences and writing to inspire both connections and learning about the environment. She is attending Texas State and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology with future plans of obtaining a Master's degree. While in high school, Michaela was active in various organizations, including award-winning marching and concert band, The Featherduster newsmagazine, C.U.T.E. Club, and biology club. Michaela is the daughter of WEAT-CTS member Lynne Moss and her husband, Glenn.

Scholarships are made possible by our generous sponsors of WEAT-CTS meetings and activities. With your continued support, WEAT-CTS will continue to provide financial support for educational opportunities for members and their families in 2016 and beyond.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PINTS FOR PEOPLE

Please join WEAT-CTS and TAWWA-CAC for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pints for People event benefiting Water For People on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at Austin Beerworks. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

**When:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Where:** Austin Beerworks  
3009 Industrial Terrace  
Suite 150  
Austin, Texas 78758



water for people

## WEFTEC 2015!



**Save the Date for WEFTEC 2015!**

**September 26-30, 2015, McCormick Place**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**Register Now at: <http://www.weftec.org/>**

## WEAT/TAWWA FALL SOCIAL



TopGolf

The Central Texas Section of WEAT and the Capital Area Chapter of TAWWA will be hosting the annual social event the evening of **November 5<sup>th</sup>** at TopGolf Austin (2700 Esperanza Crossing). Please mark your calendars for a fun evening of food, drink, networking, and golf.

**Volunteers and sponsors are needed to make this event successful. If you can help in any way, please contact Theresa Hlavinka at 512.852.3000 or [TheresaHlavinka@KennedyJenks.com](mailto:TheresaHlavinka@KennedyJenks.com).**

## CAC TAWWA FALL SEMINAR

The Capital Area Chapter of TAWWA will be holding its annual seminar on October 28, 2015 at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant at 2210 South FM 973. While the Central Texas Region is recovering from the multi-year drought thanks to this year's El Niño weather pattern, municipalities must continue striving to deliver potable water to their customers as efficiently as possible. This year's seminar theme is "Utility Resilience and Sustainability" and we're expecting to have presentations which cover the following topics:

- Managing water use at the utility level through water loss programs and conservation efforts
- Tapping into new water supplies by using direct potable reuse, desalination technologies, etc.
- Water quality issues
- The impact of population growth on Texas' water supplies
- Balancing conservation vs. reduced revenues
- Implementing rate changes
- Improving utility operations with limited funds
- Regulatory updates
- Other topics related to the seminar theme

The CAC TAWWA Seminar provides you with the opportunity to hear about leading edge projects, learn from experts, and network with your colleagues. The Seminar is also key in supporting AWWA scholarships in Central Texas.

If you are interested in being a presenter at the seminar, please send a one-page abstract of your presentation to Joe Hoepken at [joe.hoepken@austintexas.gov](mailto:joe.hoepken@austintexas.gov) for consideration. Presenters will be notified by September 4 of their acceptance. For more information on the seminar or to help sponsor the event, contact Joe by email or (512) 773-5455. We hope to see you there!



## WEAT COLLECTIONS SPECIALTY CONFERENCE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### *Deeper into the 4Ms of Collection Systems: Siphons, Force Mains & Lift Stations*

January 20 – 21, 2016

Embassy Suites San Marcos, Texas

*WEAT Collections Committee is seeking submissions of abstracts on the proposed topics to be presented at the 2016 WEAT Collections Specialty Conference:*

#### Proposed Topics:

**Assessment:** How, when and why to assess the condition of siphons, force mains and lift stations in wastewater collection systems?

- Methods, applications, case studies and lessons learned

**O&M:** How often, under what conditions and with what equipment/materials should Operations and Maintenance procedures be performed for siphons, force mains and lift stations in wastewater collection systems?

- Pro-active vs. Reactive maintenance; Operator's viewpoint; odor & corrosion control applications

**Design:** Do's and Don'ts of Infrastructure Design: What do we know today that we didn't before in design of wastewater siphons, force mains and lift stations?

- Application, purpose, materials for sustainability, historical design vs. current design practices, odor and corrosion control implementation in design

**Construction:** Contractor/Owner/Engineer coordination in contractor operations, management and construction Inspection of wastewater siphon, force main and lift station infrastructure.

- Materials, applications, traditional and trenchless construction methods; phasing and working with existing infrastructure; inspection practices

**Planning:** Planning for the Future in siphon, force main and lift station infrastructure before failure.

- Performance indicators, maintenance requirements and schedule; material longevity and planning for future infrastructure needs

To be considered for a technical presentation, submit an abstract by **SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**. Abstracts should be submitted to [leigh.cerda@burgessniple.com](mailto:leigh.cerda@burgessniple.com).

Go to [www.weat.org](http://www.weat.org) for abstract information. Registration and sponsorship information will be coming soon!

## WEAT MEMBERSHIP



**Are you a member of WEAT?** If not, here are a few reasons why you should become a member TODAY:

- Great training and networking opportunities with continuing education credit to maintain licenses
- \$150 savings on Texas Water registration
- Dependents are eligible for multiple scholarships
- Receive the Texas WET magazine and e-Newsletter
- Become an automatic member of your section

You can join online today at <http://www.weat.org/>. Email [julie@weat.org](mailto:julie@weat.org) for more information.

## WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CTS PLATINUM SPONSORS

**Encotech Engineering Consultants** is a full-service engineering firm specializing in MEP and Structural Engineering design and consulting. We also provide Commissioning, Cost Estimating and Construction Administration services. Founded in 1990 in Austin, Texas by our highly-regarded president and CEO Ali Khataw, PE, the firm has grown steadily over the years increasing staff and adding a second office in San Antonio in 2009. More recently, Encotech has greatly expanded the firm's capabilities and service offerings, particularly by providing MEP and Structural Engineering support for civil and transportation projects.

Encotech has been providing Structural and MEP Engineering Services for Infrastructure projects for more than 15 years. Our experience includes water, wastewater, and energy projects. We have provided engineering services to dozens of water and wastewater treatment plants. Our extensive experience with a variety of infrastructure facilities affords us the ability to provide long term, cost effective solutions on an expedited schedule.

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## WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CTS GOLD SPONSORS

**Environmental Improvements, Inc.**, established in 1966, is a Manufacturer's Representative firm specializing in water and wastewater treatment. We represent a complete line of manufacturers capable of treating all variations of municipal water and wastewater applications. Coupled with our product service we have been providing treatment equipment and solutions in Texas for over forty-five years.



## WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CTS MEETING SPONSORS

**ALAN PLUMMER ASSOCIATES, INC. (APAI)** has conducted business with quality and integrity for almost 40 years. A regional firm founded in 1978 with a vision to uphold environmental stewardship and technical excellence, APAI is committed to serving our clients with distinction and integrity. Today, with more than 100 employees and four Texas offices in Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin, and Houston, as well as locations in College Station, Texas, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; APAI continues that commitment.



Dedicated to water resources and environmental engineering, our firm balances sound engineering principles with innovative technology tailored to our clients' needs. From initial project kick-off, through stringent QC review, to a completed project, our focus stays on developing cost-effective solutions for our clients.

When it comes to water, we can study it, plan it, model it, design it, permit it, and manage it during construction. We have aided our municipal and water district customers in planning and conceptual layout of water distribution systems, wastewater treatment plant service areas, and reuse distribution systems. Our award-winning projects include innovative water resource solutions, such as constructed wetlands, for municipal and industrial applications. If it involves water, we can help.

***These events cannot happen without your support! If your company is interested in sponsoring a section meeting please contact Kathy Fretwell at 512-852-3007 or [KathyFretwell@KennedyJenks.com](mailto:KathyFretwell@KennedyJenks.com).***

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## ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY IN THE CTS NEWSLETTER!!

The Central Texas Section is including business card size advertisements in our newsletters. The cost is \$150 for five ads. If interested, please contact **Kathy Fretwell** at [KathyFretwell@KennedyJenks.com](mailto:KathyFretwell@KennedyJenks.com) or **Jason Bybel** at [jbybel@ljaengineering.com](mailto:jbybel@ljaengineering.com).