

A Message from the Executive Director

By Carol Batterton, Executive Director



Current Rulemaking at TCEQ

Surface Water Quality Standards and Implementation Procedures. TCEQ's proposed rules and implementation procedures (IPs) for surface water quality standards are scheduled for adoption on June 30, 2010. WEAT and the coalition of other water organizations provided comments on key elements of the proposed rules. These comments are posted on WEAT's Government Affairs website at <http://www.weat.org/regulatory-affairs.shtml>.



left to right: Susan Kelly, Central Texas Section, Carol Batterton, WEAT Executive Director, Tim Williams, WEF Director of Public Policy, Nick Bardis, WEF Government Affairs staff, Robert Matthews, Chair of WEF Government Affairs Committee at the Congressional Breakfast in the Rayburn House office building on Capitol Hill.

The proposed rules outline expanded categories of recreational use for surface waters. Categories include primary contact, secondary contact 1, secondary contact 2, and non-contact. Freshwater classified as primary contact must meet a bacterial standard of 206 colonies per 100 ml of E.coli. The proposed new standards also include numerical criteria for nutrients and screening levels for reservoirs. Numerical nutrient criteria are expressed as the long-term average of chlorophyll a in the main pool of the reservoir.

Key provisions in the portions dealing with Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) limits include a reasonable potential (RP) determination performed at permit renewal or amendment that would be based on a review of the previous five years of WET testing history. RP is for lethality and is presumed if there have been more than 2 failures in the past two years or more than 3 failures in the past five years. If RP is determined, then the permit will be issued with WET limit effective following one year investigative period and 3 year compliance period.

Laboratory Accreditation. These proposed rules adopt new standards for laboratory accreditation to be effective in July 2011. The proposed rules also increase accreditation fees for laboratories. These rules were proposed on April 14, 2010. A public hearing is scheduled for May 24, 2010, and adoption is anticipated on September 15, 2010.

The new laboratory accreditation standards will be the subject of a specialty conference hosted by WEAT in Allen, Texas, on June 17-18.

Water Environment Federation Washington Briefing

Susan Kelly of the Central Texas Section and I attended the Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Washington Briefing held on March 15-16 in conjunction with the New England Water Environment Association. This event provided an opportunity for WEAT members to get updates on current events in Congress and at EPA and to visit some of our Texas Congressional delegation.

In addition to meeting with staff in the offices of Cong. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Joe Barton, Pete Olson, Lamar Smith, and Lloyd Doggett, we also heard presentations by Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Cong. James McGovern of Massachusetts, and Jim Hanlon of EPA.

42 Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser a Success!

During Texas Water we held the first annual 42 Tournament as a fundraiser for the scholarship program. Seven teams participated and the event location was supplied and sponsored by CDM. Congratulations are in order to the winning team of Ricky Garrett and David Goodman, both with the City of Waco. Ed and Linda Motley put up a valiant fight and came in second place losing the final match on the very last mark. David Wheelock (BRA) and Wayne Owen (TRWD) placed third. The winning team received a custom set of dominoes engraved with the Corpus Christi Texas Water logo as a keepsake, as well as trophies. The best part is that the event raised over \$500 for the Ron Sieger Endowment under the VM Ehlers Scholarship Fund. Special thanks to the event planners – Brad Castleberry, David Wheelock, Kelly Payne and Curtis Smalley. And an extra special thanks to our sponsors CDM, Lloyd Gosselink, EI2, and Veolia Water.