



Published Quarterly for Members of the Texas Lone Star Chapter of SWANA

Recap of the Regular Session of the 89th Texas Legislature

by Ty Embry & Audrey Cooper, Lloyd Gosselink

The 89th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature came to an end earlier this month on June 2nd. The last two legislative sessions have been some of the most unusual Regular Sessions the citizens of Texas have ever seen, navigating the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and Winter Storm Uri during the 87th Legislature in 2021, and the impeachment of Attorney General Ken Paxton during the 88th Legislature in 2023. By comparison, this legislative session felt like a return to business as usual. The Legislature was able to wrap up their work on Sine Die with less drama or fanfare.

The Regular Session kicked off on January 14th with the election of Rep. Dustin Burrows of Lubbock, Texas as the new Speaker of the Texas House. Speaker Burrows has served in the Texas House since 2014, and has held key roles on committees focused on state elections, higher education, agriculture, trade, and financial services. The legislators were busy this session; a total of 11,503 bills and resolutions were filed during the Regular Session, 1,213 House and senate bills passed.

Governor Abbott has already signed into law and vetoed two bills that were sent to him prior to the final 10 days of the Regular Session. For the vast majority of bills that passed the Legislature during the last 10 days of the Regular Session, Governor Abbott can either sign the bills into law, allow the bills to become law by taking no action or veto the bills by the June 22 deadline established in the Texas Constitution.

Early in the Regular Session on February 2nd,

Governor Abbott delivered his annual State of the State Address and set his legislative priorities for the Regular Session, which included property tax relief, investment in water infrastructure, and school vouchers. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick identified his own priority bills for the Senate, including banning THC in Texas and increasing the reliability of Texas’ electric grid. Both Governor Abbott and Lt. Governor Patrick were able to accomplish the bulk of their legislative priorities this session, and it seems unlikely that the legislators will be called back for a special session in the near future.

There were a substantial number of bill filled during the Regular Session that could have had an effect on the municipal solid waste industry in some way. This article summarizes the key bills passed by the Texas Legislature during the Regular Session this spring that could impact the solid waste industry in some way, as well as key bills that failed to pass.

Bills of interest to TxSWANA that passed the Texas Legislature:

HB 3071 (Geren) – Relating to cancellation of certain solid waste disposal permits issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. HB 3071 requires the TCEQ to cancel permits issued to municipal solid waste landfills that haven’t accepted waste for 25 consecutive years. However, this bill only applies to facilities in counties with a population greater than 2.1 million that are located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the county’s princi-

(Continued on page 4)

Table of Contents

Message from the TXSWANA President	3
SWANA-TEXAS Lone Star Chapter Notice of Election of Directors and Officers	5
TxSWANA 2025 Annual Conference—Photos & Sponsors	6-10
Engaging Solid Waste Workers in Safety	14

TXSWANA

Officers & Board of Directors

(effective September 1, 2024)

President:

Brian Boerner
City of Denton
1527 S Mayhill Road
Denton, TX 76208
(940) 349-8001
brian.boerner@cityofdenton.com

Vice President:

Clifton Gillespie
City of Dallas
3112 Canton St, Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75226
(214) 671-5345
clifton.gillespie@dallascityhall.com

Treasurer:

Shaquawanna Carter
City of Midland
P.O. Box 1152
Midland, TX 75702
(432) 685-7226
slcarter@midlandtexas.gov

Secretary & Director:

Scott Pasternak
Burns and McDonnell
8911 N Capital of Texas Hwy
Suite 3100
Austin, TX 78759-8496
(512)-589-3411
spasternak@burnsmcd.com

Past President:

Jeffrey D. Mayfield, P.E.
North Texas Municipal Water District
P.O. Box 2408
Wylie, TX 75098
(972) 442-5405
jmayfield@ntmwd.com

A.B. Rep & Director:

David Vartian
City of University Park
3800 University Blvd
Dallas, TX 75205
(214) 987-5454
dvartian@uptexas.org

Director:

Samantha Best
Brazos Valley Solid Waste
Management Agency
2960 SH 30
Anderson, TX 77830
(979) 764-3878
sbest@bvswma.com

Director:

Rey Flores
City of Corpus Christi
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, TX 78469
(361) 826-1975
reyf@cctexas.com

Director:

Brenda A. Haney, P.E.
City of Denton
1527 S Mayhill Rd
Denton, TX 76208
(940) 349-8056
Brenda.haney@cityofdenton.com

Director:

Robert H. "Holly" Holder, P. E.
Parkhill, Smith & Cooper
4222 85th Street
Lubbock, TX 79423
(806) 473-2200
hholder@team-psc.com

Director:

Richard McHale
City of Austin
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767
(512) 974-4301
richard.mchale@austintexas.gov

Director:

Jeffrey S. Reed
Lloyd, Gosselink,
Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 322-5835
jreed@lglawfirm.com

Director:

Michael G. Rice, P.E.
City of Abilene
555 Walnut Street
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 676-6386
michael.rice@abilenetx.gov

Director:

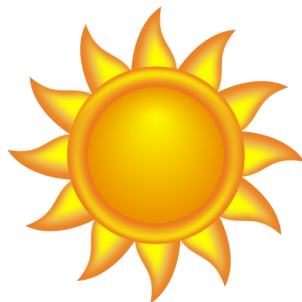
Josephine Valencia
City of San Antonio
PO Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283
(210) 207-6406
Josephine.valencia@sanantonio.gov

Director:

Mark Wilfalk
City of Houston
611 Walker Street, 12th Floor
Houston, TX 77208
(713) 837-9176
Mark.wilfalk@houstontx.gov

Director:

Nicholas N. Ybarra, P.E.
City of El Paso
7968 San Paulo Drive
El Paso, TX 79907
(915) 212-6025
ybarraNN@elpasotexas.gov



Visit www.swana.org
for a membership
application.

Message from the President

by Brian Boerner

It has been a busy quarter in the state of Texas.

We've completed another successful TXSWANA Conference. Thank you, Richard McHale and the City of Austin, for the hospitality. We learned a lot and had fun doing it.

We've worked with the Texas Legislature to protect our operations. I appreciate the work of Ty Embry, our legislative subcommittee, and our members as they read, analyzed, and testified to committees on our positions. Our industry is safe for two more years!

We've been working hard to plan for the 2025 Road-E-O. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to ensure this year's competition. Please make sure you thank everyone at the event who had anything to do with its leadership and success. Their efforts are appreciated.

Finally, I would like to commend our drivers, operators, disposal team members, administrative staff, and customer service and dispatch professionals for their hard work in collecting, managing, and disposing of the resulting waste and debris. While we tend to work in the shadows of public works, it is times of emergency and duress where we step center stage and shine. The community is safer and cleaner because of your efforts. Your commitment to your profession and the Solid Waste Industry is commendable. Be Proud! Stay Safe!



Brian Boerner

(Continued from page 1) pal municipality with a population more than 900,000.

HB 5057 (Landgraf) – Relating to exclusive contracts for municipal solid waste management services. HB 5057 requires public agencies, including municipalities, that enter into, renew, or amend an exclusive contract for solid waste management services to publish notice of the contract. Notice must contain a summary of the contract and a description of any changes made by the contract or amendment, and must be published in a newspaper of general circulation, on the public agency’s website, and must be provided to any private solid waste management providers registered to operate within the public agency if the public agency requires registration. Under HB 5057, a privately owned solid waste management service provider that has an existing contract may continue to provide services until the earlier of the date the existing contract expires, or one year after the notice was published. A privately owned solid waste management service provider that does not have an existing contract may continue to provide services for 60 days after notice.

HB 3229 (Lambert, Slawson, and Darby) – Relating to recycling of certain renewable energy components; authorizing an administrative penalty. HB 3229 requires facilities that recycle renewable energy components, including wind turbine blades, solar energy modules, transformers, battery storage cells, and inverters, to file an annual report to TCEQ listing all of the parts that have not yet been recycled; an estimated timeline for recycling or disposing of same; and a cost estimate for recycling same. The owner must post financial assurance of 100% of the cost. The TCEQ must post a list of the facilities on the web that comply and may impose a penalty of no more than \$500 per day on owners of those that do not comply.

SB 2078 (Kolkhorst) – Relating to the regulation of composting in certain counties; authorizing a civil penalty. SB 2078 prohibits individuals from depositing waste that was collected for composting in a municipality with a commercial food waste ordinance at a composting facility in an area that doesn’t have such an ordinance to avoid compliance. Under SB 2078, the Texas Attorney General may bring suit against any individuals that violate this prohibition, and may collect a civil penalty of \$1,000 per violation. SB 2078 does not apply to certain agricultural operations, composting facilities located in counties that have adopted a commercial food waste composting ordinance, or composting facilities that were authorized to operate by the TCEQ on or before January 1, 2025 and accepted such food waste at that time.

Bills of interest that failed to pass during the Regular Session:

HB 464 (Gonzalez) – Relating to the establishment of a grant program to support the elimination of illegally disposed of scrap tires. HB 464 would have established the Scrap Tire Remediation Grant Program to award grants to counties for activities aimed at reducing the number of scrap tires illegally disposed of in public spaces, including coastal water and rights-of-way. The TCEQ would have administered the program and awarded grants for the removal of illegally discarded tires, identifying and prosecuting those responsible for illegal tire disposal, and public education.

HB 1674 (Kerwin) – Relating to the production, sale, and use of certain agricultural products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). HB 1674 would have limited the sale, manufacture, distribution, or application of any biosolids, compost, sewage, or wastewater residuals that contain perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (“PFAS”) chemicals above a certain concentration. HB 1674 would have established exact limits for each PFAS chemical in parts per million, and would have required biosolid manufactures to submit monthly samples to the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Service for testing. If a sample submitted to the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Service for testing contained PFAS concentrations above the limits outlined in HB 1674, then the manufacturer would have been required to dispose of the wastewater residuals / fertilizer from which the sample was taken through an appropriate hazardous waste management unit. Additionally, HB 1674 would have created a criminal offense for the intentional or knowing sale, distribution, or application of biosolids, compost, sewage, or wastewater residuals that contained concentrations of PFAS chemicals above the limits described in HB 1674. Such an offense would have been a Class A Misdemeanor, unless an individual was previously convicted of the same offense, in which case it would’ve been a State Jail Felony.

HB 1730 (Morales Shaw) – Relating to a study regarding the effects of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals on public health. HB 1730 would have directed the University of Houston, the Railroad Commission, and the TCEQ to conduct a study on the effects PFAS chemicals on public health. The study would have assessed the potential health impact of PFAS chemicals in produce, meat, and other food and beverage products, groundwater, rivers, lakes, and other public drinking water sources, and other equipment and materials that likely contain PFAS chemicals.

Ty Embry is the Governmental Relations Practice Group—Chair with Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.

SWANA-TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER
NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

In accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws of the Texas Lone Star Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, an election of Directors and Officers will take place during the Chapter's Annual Business Meeting on August 8, 2025 in Dallas, Texas. Members in good standing may vote in person at the Annual Business Meeting, or by absentee ballot. In accordance with the Bylaws, Article 7.5, "A valid ballot will include a member's identification number." Members who are unable to locate their SWANA member number may obtain their member number by emailing a request for same to the TXSWANA Secretary at Secretary@txswana.org. All ballots must be received not later than July 29, 2025, which is 10 days before the date of the Annual Business Meeting. Ballots may be submitted electronically to Secretary@txswana.org or ballots may be sent by US mail to the address listed at the bottom of this ballot.

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following Slate of Officers for 2025-2026, beginning September 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2026. The Nominating Committee has recommended the following Directors for 2025-2027, beginning September 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2027. Questions concerning this election, including write in votes, should be directed to Scott Pasternak at (512) 589-3411.

SWANA-TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER
NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS, FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
AND FOR DIRECTORS, FISCAL YEARS 2025-2027

- President & Director: Clifton Gillespie, City of Dallas
Vice President & Director: Shaquawanna Carter, City of Midland
Treasurer: Scott Pasternak, Burns and McDonnell
Secretary & Director: Nicholas N. Ybarra, P.E., City of El Paso
Past Pres. & Director: Richard McHale, City of Austin
A.B. Rep & Director: David Vartian, City of University Park
Director: Samantha Best, Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency
Director: Rey Flores, City of Corpus Christi
Director: Mike Friesen, North Texas Municipal Water District
Director: Brenda A. Haney, P.E., City of Denton
Director: Michael G. Rice, P.E., City of Abilene
Director: Josephine Valencia, City of San Antonio

SWANA - TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER
ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR 2025-2027
ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

VOTE FOR RECOMMENDED SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (CHECK BOX)

[]

MEMBER NAME: _____

MEMBER NUMBER: _____

CITY/COMPANY: _____

IF MAILED, SEND COMPLETED BALLOT TO:
TXSWANA Secretary
c/o Scott Pasternak
Burns and McDonnell
6200 Bridge Point Parkway
Suite 400
Austin, Texas 78730

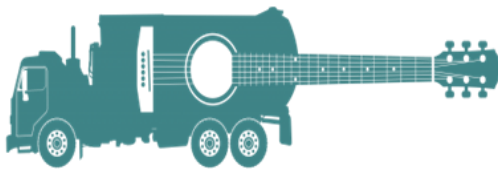
June 9, 2025

TxSWANA Annual Conference

April 20 - 23, 2025 | Austin, Texas



TxSWANA ★ STRIKING A CHORD
AUSTIN '25
Orchestrating Change In Waste Management



TxSWANA Annual Conference

April 20 - 23, 2025 | Austin, Texas



TxSWANA Annual Conference

April 20 - 23, 2025 | Austin, Texas



TxSWANA ★ STRIKING A CHORD
AUSTIN '25
Orchestrating Change In Waste Management



TxSWANA Annual Conference

April 20 - 23, 2025 | Austin, Texas

motive

MOBIUS
FUELS


MORROW
ENERGY


REICH COMPANY, INC.

NewGen
Strategies & Solutions


Rehrig
Pacific
Company
SINCE 1913


Routeware

SIDDONS-MARTIN
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP


INTERNATIONAL
Southwest Trucks



WASTEQUIP[®]

WASTE SYSTEMS
EQUIPMENT, INC.

Tito's

Handmade
VODKA
AUSTIN ★ TEXAS


vanguard
TRUCK CENTERS

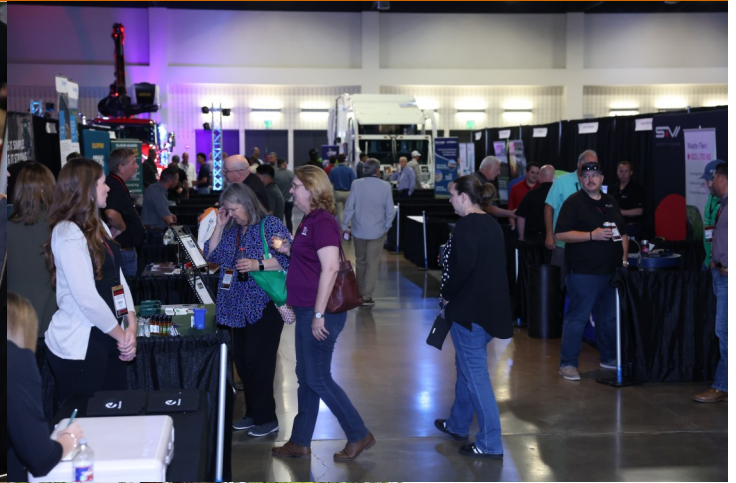

TEXAS
PACK + LOAD

VISIT
Austin
LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD[®]

Toter[®]

TxSWANA Annual Conference

April 20 - 23, 2025 | Austin, Texas



TxSWANA ★ STRIKING A CHORD
AUSTIN '25
Orchestrating Change In Waste Management





“Serving Texas’
Solid Waste Providers
for Over **35** Years!”

www.lglawfirm.com



Open Positions on the Municipal Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Advisory Council

The Municipal Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Advisory Council is seeking dedicated individuals to join the council and contribute to shaping the future of solid waste management in Texas.

Why Join the Solid Waste Advisory Council?

- **Make a Difference:** Your input will impact waste management policies and initiatives in Texas.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals and experts in the field.
- **Professional Development:** Stay updated on the latest strategies and policies in solid waste management.

How to Apply:

1. Find out which open position you qualify for on our website: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/msw/council/>
2. Download the application form and conflict of interest form.
3. Submit your completed application and resume to MSWWRAC@tceq.texas.gov. Positions are open until filled, so submit your application today!

For More Information:

Send inquiries to MSWRRAC@tceq.texas.gov or visit our website for more information. Website: <https://www.waco-texas.com/jobs>

TRUSTED SOLID WASTE
UTILITY ADVISORS –
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
DELIVERED WITH
AN INTEGRATED MARKET
PERSPECTIVE

Solid Waste | Water | Wastewater | Energy

- ✓ Cost of Service and Rate Design
- ✓ Procurement Services
- ✓ Operational Reviews
- ✓ Master/Strategic Planning
- ✓ Financial Feasibility Studies
- ✓ Contract Negotiations
- ✓ Management Plans
- ✓ Franchise Agreements
- ✓ Training & Workshops
- ✓ Valuation Studies
- ✓ Sustainability Planning
- ✓ Stakeholder Outreach

Dave Yanke, CEO/President
dyanke@newgenstrategies.net
(512) 649-1254

Allison Trulock, Managing Director
atrulock@newgenstrategies.net
(407) 247-2370

www.newgenstrategies.net

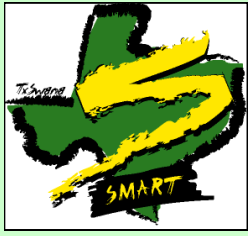


Parkhill

Building

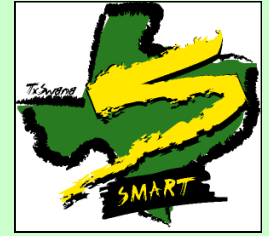
Community

Parkhill.com



Engaging Solid Waste Workers in Safety

by David Vartian, City of University Park



Every June, the National Safety Council (NSC) leads the charge on safety awareness through National Safety Month, a time to reflect, refocus, and recommit to keeping workers safe. For those in solid waste, it's an ideal opportunity to increase safety conversations that directly impact drivers, riders, mechanics, and supervisors. The NSC's 2025 themes include Continuous Improvement, Employee Engagement, Roadway Safety, and Wellbeing which offer a simple, structured way to build engaging safety moments each week. Whether you're managing a small crew or a city-wide fleet, these themes can help you create meaningful conversations and actions.

Week 1: Continuous Improvement (June 1–7)

Solid waste operations constantly evolve, and so should your safety efforts. Use this week to review recent incidents, near misses, or inspection findings. Ask crews: What's one thing we could do better? You might introduce a hazard observation form, create a safety improvement board, or assign a rotating "safety champion" role on each crew to bring ideas forward. When improvement is built into the routine, it becomes a mindset—not just a moment.

Week 2: Employee Engagement (June 8–14)

If safety is a top-down message, it rarely sticks. But when it becomes part of the crew's identity, that's when culture shifts. This week, spotlight workers who demonstrate safe habits whether it's checking controls before a route, coaching a new helper, or calling out a hazard. Let employees lead a safety huddle or toolbox talk. Ask questions like: What makes you feel like safety is taken seriously here? This creates buy-in and shows workers their voices matter.

Week 3: Roadway Safety (June 15–21)

Few industries spend as much time around moving traffic as solid waste. This week, revisit key roadway safety practices: proper PPE, visibility, spotter communication, and vehicle positioning. Emphasize the no riders on steps when backing, exceeding 10 mph, or traveling more than 0.2 miles rule. Walk the yard or a route and ask: Where are we most exposed to vehicle traffic? Then address those risks directly. This week is also a good time to refresh flagging, backing, and emergency pull-off procedures.

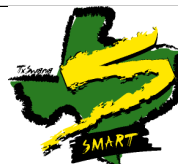
Week 4: Wellbeing (June 22–30)

From heat illness to sprains to long work hours, solid waste work is physically demanding. This final week is about caring for the people who do the work. Provide hydration tips, stretching routines, or even access to mental health resources. Have an honest discussion: What's wearing you out on the job, and how can we help? Supporting workers' health—both physical and mental—leads to safer crews and stronger retention.

=====

This safety tidbit is brought to you by your Safety Management Resource Team (S.M.A.R.T). If you should have any solid waste safety question, please feel free to reach out. You may email our Committee Secretary, Otis Smith @ Otis Smith@midlandtexas.gov, our Committee Vice Chair, Janet Gilbert@jgilbert@dallas.gov, or David Vartian @ dvartian@uptexas.org

As always, please make it a Safe Day!



**Use S.M.A.R.T.
We're part of the Solution!**

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We Welcome the Following New Members (through May 19, 2025)

Isabella Aquirre	SCS Engineers
Everett Bass	EAB Connection Services
Greg Bowman	Commercial Insurance of Texas
Mia Burbage	City of Corpus Christi
Amanda Dyer	City of Waco
Ricardo Espinoza	SCS Engineers
Jack Fain	Waterloo Insurance
Tamera Flowers	Watershed Geo
Kathy Fonville	North Texas Municipal Water District

Zach Gage	Waterloo Insurance
Jameson Green	Allen, TX
Zach Parker	Persons Services Corp
Michael Perez	City of Irving
Sylvain Riba	Geostock Sandia, LLC
Tamara Siskind	Viridi Energy
Mark Smith	City of Tyler
Joe Stead	Motive
Michael Valenzuela	Basin Disposal Inc.

Calendar of Events

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025 MEETINGS

July 11	El Paso
Aug. 8	Dallas
Sept. 12	Austin
Oct. 10	San Antonio
Nov. 14	Houston

2025 RCon
Nov. 12-15, 2025
Columbus, OH

2026 TXSWANA Annual Conference
April 26-29, 2026
El Paso, TX

2026 TXSWANA Road-e-o
2026
North Texas Municipal Water District