

**Name: Nancy E. Meilahn Fowler, PE**

**Title:** Deputy Director, Technical

**Affiliation:** Harris County Pollution Control Services, Pasadena, TX

**A&WMA Member Since:** 1995

**A&WMA Section/Chapter:** Southwest Section/Gulf Coast Chapter

### **Education and Professional Credentials**

BS, Civil Engineering, The University of Texas, Austin

PE, Environmental, Texas

PE, Civil, California

### **Biographical Summary:**

I currently work at the Harris County Pollution Control Services department, in a region with one of the highest concentrations of pollutant risk in the country. I oversee a team of approximately 30 staff, with oversight of investigations and responses to complaints and events involving the full suite of environmental media. My team works to protect the health and safety of County residents through monitoring of the County's environmental quality. We provide environmental emergency response and management, complaint and field investigation, laboratory services, and special projects support for the third most populous county in the US.

Prior to joining Harris County, I worked in the consulting industry for over 20 years in technical and managerial roles. For the last 20 years, my primary responsibilities have included sampling and analysis plans for environmental media, ensuring that sites were in compliance with all regulatory requirements, and if not, working to correct the non-compliances. I have extensive experience in compliance auditing, waste management, and remedial investigations and cleanup but have had the opportunity to dabble in regulatory compliance for all media, with a heavy reliance on A&WMA's resources to educate me on the areas outside of my technical expertise.

I am also called upon to wear multiple managerial hats, including contract management and negotiation, personnel training and management, procurement and budgetary oversight, and strategic planning. Additionally, in my public and private sector work, I have successfully and prudently managed department, program, and project budgets ranging from a few thousand to over \$50 MM.

Outside of work, I spend my time wrangling two children under 5, and trying to catch up on reading, sleeping, and fitness, usually in that order.

### **Air & Waste Management Association Activities and Offices Held:**

I have had the honor of serving the A&WMA in numerous membership and leadership roles during my career. Having joined A&WMA over twenty-five years ago, I have a long resume of activities with the Association and have been involved in championing those benefits to students, peers, and colleagues in the corporate world. I was recognized as a Fellow in 2014, and as one of the first Outstanding Young Professional honorees in 2008. My service to the Association includes the following:

International:

Board of Directors: Treasurer (June 2014 - January 2016), Director (2010-2012), Vice President (2012), Executive Committee (2011), Finance Committee Chair (2011), Finance Committee Vice-Chair (2010)

Fellows Committee (2015-present)

ACE ECi Committee (2012-2016)

Newsletter editor (News Committee Chair) for the Young Professionals Advisory Council, 2008-2010

Local:

West Coast Section board member 2009-2012

Central Texas Chapter board from 1998-2008, including Chair (2003), Vice Chair (2001-2002), Secretary (2000-2001), Treasurer (1999-2000), Education Committee Chair (1998-1999), Communication Co-Chair (2007-2008)

University of Texas Longhorn Student Chapter Chair (1995-1996), and Vice Chair (1994-1995)

**Goals/Vision for The Organization:**

Having grown up in the Association, from being a student member, to a Young Professional, to an (ahem!) experienced professional, I have witnessed first-hand the sometimes-rocky road that our Association has traveled. The last few years of A&WMA leadership has resulted in a renaissance, returning from a period of economic downturn and leadership challenges. Now the Association has a strong base from which to build. My vision for the Association is for a fiscally sound, globally recognized Association of professionals, with a focus on members and member value, while being a resource for relevant and timely expertise.

The current pandemic and related economic hardships have required us to be nimble in execution of our activities, which we are doing well. These difficulties are placing increased emphasis on external resources for remote environmental compliance and training support. A&WMA must continue to leverage this opportunity to increase visibility and improve its reputation as a valued source of environmental information and innovation. We must ensure that our Association is the one to join, and our Annual Conference is the “go-to” conference for environmental professionals.

Undertakings succeed or fail because of the people involved; only by attracting and engaging the highest caliber of professionals will A&WMA accomplish great things. This means recruiting and mentoring the next generation of leaders to ensure the future of the organization will be even more robust than the present. Almost everyone who is part of A&WMA is here because of the personal invitations they received, and the mentorship and networking that follow. We must find a way to continue that in a time of reduced personal interactions.

We have incredibly committed, talented, and respected individuals in the leadership of the Association, but there are always many empty spots waiting to be filled. We need to expand participation from our existing membership to fill these positions, and strive to attract new members, future leaders, and recognized experts from all fields and all geographies. We must provide value to our members through their local sections and chapters, and we must improve

the speed and timeliness of communication to ensure the expertise residing within A&WMA is reliably accessible world-wide.

A&WMA has a solid foundation of knowledge and authority when it comes to air issues and is regaining recognition as an authority on waste management. We need to build on our strengths and improve our outreach and communications within our membership and the global community. We need to try new approaches to accomplish our mission while valuing and continuing the high caliber offerings we already have, such as our conferences and publications.

I believe the A&WMA can and should be the premier source for credible, useful, and up to date information in all areas of the environmental industry, and I will work to increase the Association's capabilities in that area by identifying up-and-coming issues, experts, and communicators. A&WMA provides information and expert insight on emerging trends and new markets. We share knowledge, skills, experiences and expertise to support personal and professional growth individually and within our membership. Because of the rare benefit our diversity provides, I envision the Association to be the recognized international touchstone for environmental professionals.