

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Implementation Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

1:30 p.m. In person at NCTCOG offices.

Chair: Ranjan Muttiah, City of Fort Worth

Vice Chair: Travis Attanasio, City of Burleson

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) welcomed attendees and reviewed housekeeping items and the meeting's agenda. Attendees recorded their presence via an online form.

The following attendees were present:

- Erin Blackman, NCTCOG
- Lauren Plunk, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD)
- Christi Upton, NCTCOG
- Amanda Everly, NCTCOG
- Alex Buckel, North Texas Tollway Authority
- Stephanie Griffin, Half Associates
- Sam Sarkar, Half Associates
- Nolan Cummings, North Texas Tollway Authority
- Edgar Salazar, City of Arlington
- Willow Sanders, Baird, Hampton & Brown
- Julian Holmes, City of Mansfield
- Ranjan Muttiah, City of Fort Worth
- Grace Darling, Arlington Conservation Council

2. iSWM Implementation Subcommittee Update.

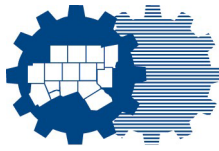
Erin Blackman mentioned that the RSWMCC, at their August 18th meeting, discussed and voted to approve absorbing the iSWM Implementation Subcommittee from the Public Works Council to include program funding and oversight. She explained that close coordination with the Public Works program would continue and recognized Madisson Dunn's presence to ensure that collaboration continued.

Erin indicated that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 iSWM Work Program tasks were also discussed and approved at the August 18th RSWMCC meeting. Erin briefly recapped these tasks, including identifying updates to the iSWM Manual, updating the community criteria inventory, conducting iSWM promotional presentations, developing a stormwater monitoring program for iSWM best management practices (BMPs), identifying and implementing iSWM website and programmatic updates, and conducting project management activities.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Discuss Changes to Historical Meeting Procedures.

Christi Upton (NCTCOG) noted that the iSWM Implementation Subcommittee has historically functioned similarly to a program council or committee by formally voting to approve meeting summaries. She explained that this practice is not required under the current Public Works Program bylaws and appears to have continued as a historical precedent. Because the Regional Stormwater Management Program bylaws also do not require formal approval of meeting



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summaries for subcommittees, Christi proposed discontinuing the practice and requested feedback from the subcommittee.

Ranjan Muttiah (Fort Worth) mentioned he supported this change if edits to meeting summaries could be incorporated as needed. Christi agreed that this would still be possible.

Since the iSWM Implementation Subcommittee agreed that the approval of meeting summaries is no longer needed, approval for the July 15th iSWM meeting summary was not sought. Instead, Christi noted that it could be viewed on the subcommittee website at <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/Committees/Public-Works-Council/iSWM-Implementation-Subcommittee> (note that this website address will change once website information is transferred under the RSWMCC website).

4. **Appoint an iSWM Implementation Subcommittee Liaison to the Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council.**

Christi Upton explained that the RSWMCC recently requested that each subcommittee designate a representative to attend RSWMCC meetings and provide updates on subcommittee activities. She invited volunteers from the iSWM Implementation Subcommittee to serve in this role; however, no volunteers were identified at the meeting. Christi noted that she will revisit the request at the next iSWM meeting.

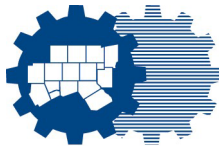
DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. **Overview of the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSWMP) Presentation.**

Julian Holmes (City of Mansfield), RSWMCC Chair, welcomed the iSWM Implementation Subcommittee to the RSWMP and presented an overview of the RSWMCC, municipal stormwater regulation, permit requirements, council accomplishments, and his experience using iSWM guidance.

The RSWMCC was established in 2000 to promote regional collaboration, help cities comply with regulations, and support public education and water-quality improvement. The council has 20 seats, including eight seats for cost-sharing Phase I municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and 12 at-large seats for cost-sharing Phase II MS4s. Its task forces address construction and post-construction practices, public education, regional monitoring, pollution prevention, and illicit-discharge detection and elimination.

Julian reviewed the development of federal and state stormwater regulations, beginning with the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Texas assumed responsibility for the program in 1998 through the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). MS4s became regulated after the CWA was amended in 1987. Phase I initially applied to larger cities, while Phase II later expanded requirements to additional municipalities. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre and certain industrial activities are also regulated through separate permits. The Phase II MS4 permit includes eight minimum control measures covering public education, public participation, illicit discharges, construction, post-construction development, municipal operations, industrial activities, and construction projects operated by the MS4. The Phase I MS4 permit is similar, but with individual permits.



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The RSWMCC has supported training on construction best management practices, dry-weather screening, industrial inspections, municipal housekeeping, and fish-kill response. It also supports Texas SmartScape, which provides native-landscaping classes, a plant database, a website, and plant-sale resources. The Do the Right Thing campaign provides public education through a photo contest, resource library, and social media. Other accomplishments include training materials, cost-share reform, revised bylaws, task-force reorganization, and the Community Cleanup Challenge.

Julian explained that the City of Mansfield uses iSWM guidance for stormwater pollution prevention plan inspections, erosion-control plan reviews, and post-construction structural-control reviews. Mansfield's ordinance requires construction operators to use methods from the current regional construction BMP manual. Julian noted that the iSWM manuals help provide details/instructions when not specified in the permit. He provided examples of how iSWM is not perfect (e.g., schematics may be misleading); however, the manuals serve as practical references.

Julian opened the floor to questions. A short discussion occurred on how to regulate activities in unincorporated areas of a county. Christi Upton explained that county areas within urbanized areas are required to have an MS4 permit. In addition, construction activities that disturb one acre or more are regulated under the Construction General Permit.

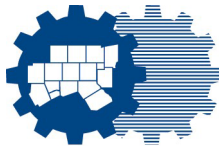
6. Manual Update Requests Summary and Discussion. NCTCOG staff will present a summary of outstanding iSWM Manual updates and will lead a discussion on how best to proceed with making updates.

Erin Blackman shared an example of an online form that could be used to gather specific feedback on the iSWM manuals. She noted that NCTCOG staff currently use a similar form to collect comments and recommendations related to the Public Works Construction Standards. A new online form for the iSWM Manuals is expected to be available soon.

Christi Upton noted that feedback from iSWM users has been gathered over the past year with the following key themes identified: new user training and resources, manual usability, BMP updates, construction and maintenance guidance, and communication and consistency. Christi indicated the need for specific, actionable feedback to guide updates to the iSWM Manuals, including identifying outdated BMPs, recommending additional BMP options, updating engineering drawings, and clarifying inaccurate or outdated information. Detailed input will help determine how the manuals should be revised. To help gather this detailed input, Christi initiated a discussion over the proposed "iSWM Manual Review Workshop", while Erin passed out an outline for review.

Participants were asked whether they agreed with the workshop purpose statement, which is to evaluate whether the manual meets current business and user needs, identify gaps, and develop a prioritized plan for improving its content, organization, and usability. Participants expressed agreement with the proposed purpose statement.

Participants were asked whether they agreed with the proposed participant list (design engineers, hydrology and hydraulics engineers, plan reviewers, and floodplain managers; landscape architects and planners; long-range planners; capital improvement program managers; and Public Works directors and staff; other subject matter experts and process owners). Discussion centered on expanding representation to include members of the public, general contractors, the land development community, vendors and manufacturers, and inspectors. Participants noted the importance of carefully identifying appropriate subject matter experts to ensure the right perspectives are represented. Additional suggestions included conducting a survey during workshop registration to better understand participants' backgrounds and expertise and to



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support breakout group assignments. The group also discussed the potential value of developing a frequently asked questions (FAQ) resource for engineers.

Participants discussed potential workshop locations, including the Grapevine Convention Center as a preferred venue. If multiple workshop sessions are held, Lauren Plunk (NTMWD) suggested their facilities as an alternative location. The group also discussed whether a hybrid attendance option should be offered to accommodate a broader range of participants.

Participants discussed distributing a brief pre-workshop survey as part of the registration process to gather information on how attendees use the manual, which sections they use most frequently, what information may be difficult to find or unclear, and what recent changes should be addressed. Participants recommended keeping the survey concise and user-friendly, with dropdown selection options used where possible in place of open-ended questions. Christi suggested a workshop agenda focused on realistic project scenarios that follow the development process from planning through implementation and project completion. Lauren and Christi referenced a recent water conservation workshop hosted by local water districts as a potential model. Ranjan suggested incorporating a detailed tabletop exercise, and participants noted there are numerous opportunities to use scenario-based activities to evaluate how the iSWM program is applied in practice.

Participants discussed the possibility of creating workshop products or deliverables that would require attendees to select and implement BMPs, evaluate their advantages and disadvantages, and consider how iSWM standards apply to different situations. The group emphasized the importance of testing the exercise through a dry run and structuring activities to allow sufficient rotation among discussion topics to identify common themes and trends. The use of fictional communities was suggested to encourage candid discussion, recognizing that iSWM is implemented differently across jurisdictions.

Participants suggested using registration survey results to identify key topics of interest and potentially focus workshop exercises on a prioritized list of BMPs. However, members noted that the workshop should not be expected to serve as a comprehensive review of the entire manual and that a process for prioritizing recommendations would be needed.

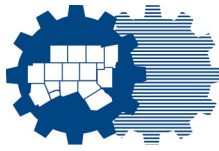
Christi suggested that the iSWM group reconvene in December to further develop the workshop format and agenda. Participants discussed holding the workshop in March or April, taking into consideration the conference and spring break schedules.

In response to a question regarding the collection of local criteria implementation information, Randy Peterman (Half) noted that maps documenting local implementation practices were developed approximately seven years ago but that no comprehensive inventory currently exists. Participants suggested documenting current practices and changes across jurisdictions, and Randy indicated that a FY 2027 task seeks to address this effort. The group agreed that workshop planning and agenda development should continue at the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

7. Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Committee Update.

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Christ Upton noted that Keeara Brown is NCTCOG's RSWMCC contact and that the RSWMCC approved the FY 26-27 budget of \$483,131 for all programming.

8. Integrating Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) Study Updates.

Erin Blackman indicated that the TSI study identifies projects to reduce future flood risk, evaluates potential funding sources for implementation, develops maps and models of future flood risk, and examines policy considerations related to development and floodplain management. NCTCOG staff recently submitted the Draft Final Plan to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the TSI West Study Area and will be submitting the Draft Final Plan to the Texas General Land Office for the TSI North Study Area.

Erin pointed participants to the TSI website (www.nctcog.org/tsi) as updated resources and study findings are being added. She specifically called out the green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) benefit-cost-tool in Excel that's available to help communities compare different types of GSI and approximate estimates of benefits and costs for GSI in the North Central Texas region.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

9. Upcoming Events and Conferences

Erin Blackman mentioned the following events and conferences that may be of interest:

- October 19-20, 2026 - Texas MSGP Training (MS4), <https://pci.jotform.com/form/262016743743153>
- November 4, 2026 - SW3P Plan Reviewer Training Course, <https://pci.jotform.com/form/261463998844172>
- November 5, 2026 - SW3P Field Inspector Training Course, <https://pci.jotform.com/form/261463998844172>
- November 16, 2026 - TWDB Financial Assistance Workshop, <https://www.addevent.com/event/xpcn809v0gn0>
- December 2, 2026 - Texas Living Waters Policy Summit: Defining Our Water Future Together, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/texas-living-waters-policy-summit-defining-our-water-future-together-tickets-1994022158955>

10. Upcoming NCTCOG Meetings

Erin Blackman mentioned the following related NCTCOG meetings that may be of interest, which are posted to the events calendar at <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/Events>:

- October 14, 2026 - Water Resources Council
- October 29, 2026 - Public Education Task Force Meeting
- November 3, 2026 - Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council Meeting
- November 9, 2026 - Pollution Prevention and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Task Force Meeting

11. Future Agenda Items and Schedule for the Next iSWM Meeting (January 13, 2027- Virtual)

Erin Blackman mentioned the next meeting would take place on a Wednesday rather than the typical Tuesday due to participant conflict. Erin requested input on topics of interest for the next meeting. Participants reiterated that this next meeting should focus on a dry run of the planned workshop.

12. Roundtable Discussion

No discussion occurred.

ADJOURNMENT