



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

10 a.m., Regional Forum Room

NCTCOG Offices, CPII

616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

2. **FY2017 Work Program Discussion.**

NCTCOG provided an overview of the draft FY2017 Work Program and discussed the results of the survey conducted to prioritize the tasks included in the Work Program. NCTCOG staff informed the group about the decision not to perform lab testing to measure campaign impacts due to the cost. Michael Helms, City of Dallas, informed the group that City of Dallas would be pursuing the lab testing independently. The group discussed the priority rankings and the reductions in the estimated budget and what tasks were likely to be included in the FY2017 Work Program. NCTCOG staff informed the group that the updated Work Program will be posted online by August 1, 2016 to allow for questions, concerns and feedback in advance of the September 1, 2016 due date for commitment forms. The group discussed starting outreach activities with a goal to obtain new members.

3. **Grease Interceptor Inspection Training Development.**

NCTCOG staff provided the group with the results of the evaluations of the training and provided the group with an estimated cost breakdown associated with the training. The group discussed the responses and suggestions regarding what could be improved about the training. The general consensus was that the classroom portion of the training was very repetitive and could have been reduced to a half day. Michael Helms informed the group that City of Dallas would be hosting the grease interceptor training in 2017 and that he would provide this feedback to the instructor. NCTCOG staff offered to coordinate with Dallas on dates and availability of the class to the rest of the region.

The group discussed the next steps for coordinating the next regional training. The preferred date is sometime in May while avoiding key training and events (such as UTA short school). The group decided to request volunteers for organizing the training event at the next WATER meeting and suggested that DWU would handle the procurement process and NCTCOG would coordinate.

Alejandro Mejia, City of Garland, offered to produce videos of inspections that could be used for the field trip portion of the training to provide variation and/or a back-up in case of inclement weather.

4. **Defend Your Drains Campaign Update.**

Yvonne Dupre, City of Dallas, informed the group City of Dallas utilizes copyrighted photos for the Defend Your Drains campaign and notified the group that if anyone else decides to use those photos that City of Dallas does not own, they will have to purchase the rights themselves. Ms. Dupre also noted that if the NCTCOG-provided photos are used instead, then the user simply needs to send a permissions email to City of Dallas since these photos are not copyrighted through a separate entity.

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The group discussed their use of campaign materials and related outreach. Michele Birmingham, City of Fort Worth, said they are promoting Defend Your Drains on social media. Paul Rosalez, City of Bedford, hands out flyers at conventions. Trinity River Authority (TRA) uses flyers, social media, and has slides posted on screens in their offices to promote Defend Your Drains. Helen Dulac, City of Dallas, liked TRA's set up on Earth Day Texas with jars (containing water and either toilet paper or wipes that people can come up and shake) to illustrate which materials break down and which do not.

The group discussed whether or not any items need to be added to the Cooperative Purchase Form. NCTCOG staff will send the current Cooperative Purchase Form to the group for review. Some suggestions included microfiber towels, color changing cups (based on temperature of liquid), drain screens with messages printed on them, or frogs (based on Irving's new FROG promotion – FOG with the "R" added for rags).

The group agreed that there wasn't much need for the creation of a video for promotion purposes since there are already so many videos out there. Ms. Dulac made a video of toilet paper vs. hand beater and wipe vs. handbeater and City of Dallas is going to continue making videos to promote the Defend Your Drains Olympics.

The group discussed the need for a vehicle cling/magnet template and decided it wasn't necessary. Several of the cities already have vehicle wraps/magnets and said the companies that offer the services typically include the design in the cost.

5. Holiday Grease Roundup.

The group decided a smaller group for planning the Holiday Grease Roundup was probably unnecessary for this year. They discussed the marketing and decided to stick with the current materials. Dates were decided: the Roundup will run from November 28, 2016 through January 9, 2017. NCTCOG will follow up with the group to see who is participating in the event and let Dallas County Schools know what is needed by August 12, 2016.

Ramon Stripling, Dallas County Schools, gave an overview of the operations at the Dallas County Schools biofuel program and provided the group with information on the containers and pick-up services they could provide for FOG collection.

6. Roundtable. The group shares what is happening in their communities.

Alejandro Mejia discussed a project done in coordination with the Garland school district in which students built FOG collection stations.

Tuan Ngo, City of North Richland Hills, shared with the group that the NRH wastewater plant has elevated TSS and BOD and the group suggested this may be a result of water conservation (dilution lost) or a new company moving into town.

7. Next Meeting Date. Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016, at 10 a.m. in the Regional Forum Room.

8. Adjournment.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Cassidy Campbell at (817) 608-2368 or CCampbell@nctcog.org. Thank you!

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Asher Hallman at (817) 695-9231 or ahallman@nctcog.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.