

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Public Education Task Force

Subcommittee of the Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome and Introductions.

UPDATE ITEMS

2. **2023 March is Texas SmartScape Month.** NCTCOG will present campaign resources for the 2023 *March is Texas SmartScape Month* campaign.

Graphics for the 2023 March is Texas SmartScape Month campaign were presented to the group. SmartScape plants featured in the graphics include: Flame Acanthus, Greggs Mistflower, Turks Cap, Purple Coneflower, Greggs Salvia, Purple Passionflower Vine.

Additional resources also available are a newsletter blurb, which is suited for things such as water bill inserts, and a newsletter article suited for longer form articles or newsletters.

If your community will be hosting native and adaptive plant sales or other SmartScape related events this year, please email the Stormwater team, info@txsmartscape.com, and they will add them to the SmartScape Plant Sale and Event calendars respectively.

3. **PETF Activity Reports.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the status of the PETF Activity Reports.

All current Activity Reports for the following reporting periods have been completed and shared with members:

- August 13, 2021 to August 12, 2022
- October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- December 13, 2021 to December 12, 2022
- January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

The next Activity Report for the reporting period of January 24, 2021 to January 23, 2022 will be completed in the coming weeks. If you should have received a copy of one of the Activity Reports or have a reporting period that is different than those listed and would like it added to the list of Activity Reports, please contact Crysta Guzman, cguzman@nctcog.org.

4. **2023 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.** NCTCOG will present on the 2023 North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge.

Save the date for the 2023 Cleanup Challenge! This extended timeframe of 3 months should cover most spring cleanup events happening around the region and overlaps with the Great American Cleanup for those communities with a Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate. Be sure to loop them into your efforts so you can amplify your efforts. We will also be advertising the Cleanup Challenge through the EPA Trash Free Waters program again to take advantage of the audiences that are keyed into that project.

For questions or suggestions about the NTCCC, please contact Stormwater staff, stormwater@nctcog.org. Visit the website, www.communitycleanupchallenge.com, or program page to learn more.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

5. **2024 March is Texas SmartScape Month.** NCTCOG will lead a discussion on campaign slogan ideas for the *2024 March is Texas SmartScape Month* campaign.

NCTCOG staff opened up a discussion for March is Texas SmartScape Month slogans for 2024. Early selection of a slogan allows the Communications team to capture images to support the slogan throughout the growing season. No slogan suggestions were received during the meeting. Feedback was given to include pollinators, particularly Monarchs. Staff will send out a survey to collect suggestions and follow up with another survey for voting in April.

6. **PETF FY22/23 Work Program Discussion.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the Fiscal Year 22/23 Work Program Special Project and gather feedback on progress.

NCTCOG staff presented the group with an updated storyboard and script for the video *Why Stormwater is Important* and opened up a discussion to receive feedback. Updates to the *Why Stormwater is Important* script included adding an analogy comparing watersheds to bathtubs.

Comments on the *Video Vocabulary List* included the feedback that some words may be too high level for K-2, but could still be useful for teacher background, allowing them to decide what words to use with students. Suggestion to use word “play” instead of “recreation” and “soaking in the ground” instead of “infiltration”.

Next staff led the group in a discussion on the video *What to Look for Around Town* to receive input on a draft of the storyboard and work on adding additional details. Comments received included:

- Agreeing with the use of the character Rain Drop narrating the video to add continuity across the videos and setting the video at an apartments complex.
- Incorporate all suggested scenarios kids will encounter into the script (landscaping crew, oil leaking from vehicle being repaired, spill by homeowner, pet waste).
- Changing the mechanic scene to someone just working on their car at home as a more likely scenario to be encountered.
- Changing a spill by a homeowner to soap running down street from vehicle being washed in a driveway.
- Adding visuals showing dumpster lids open at apartments and trash cans with lids open on the walk.
- Show litter (packaging, wrappers, single-use items) on ground as floatable issue and a primary focus throughout.
- Work in used cooking oil being dumped down a stormdrain.
- Have pauses in the video as the characters are walking where students watching can stop and try to point out the stormwater issues they see, an “I spy” moment, to incorporate everything.
- Have Rain Drop pop in and make kid friendly suggestions to teach new behaviors.
- To address how kids and adults should respond, keep the focus of encounters on what kids can do personally and how they can educate their families but NOT confront the people who are “messing up”.
- For landscape crew encounter, can talk about mulching or composting leaves but more appropriate for older ages.
- For litter encounter, talk about properly throwing away trash and participating in litter cleanup events. Even if you didn’t make the mess you can still be part of the solution.
- Rain Drop can remind kids to bring poop bags with them when taking their dog for a walk.
- Be mindful that many kids are taught to NOT to engage the authorities, for various reasons. The message is to do the right thing at a personal level.



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- Have Rain Drop mention that most cities have events and information to prevent litter and mention who to call if they see something. Keep the suggestions on reporting generic such as call the city you live in to report any issues.
- Consider incorporating the idea to check with a local library – brings focus to learning/education as a solution vs. reporting.
- For explaining the concept of a storm drain, consider simplifying description as a structure that carries rainwater away from a street, parking lot, etc. Perhaps even using pipes instead of structure as it relates to what kids have likely seen.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

7. **Other Stormwater and NCTCOG Program Updates.** NCTCOG will share recent and upcoming activities of the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Stormwater Monitoring, Total Maximum Daily Load, Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable, and Trash Free Waters programs. NCTCOG will also provide an overview of upcoming conferences, events, news, and resources of relevance to the group.

Trash Free Waters: Save-the-Date for an upcoming webinar on February 28, 2023. [Registration](#) is now available. Project staff will be purchasing materials for cities interested in piloting the materials in the Recreational Litter Cleanup as well as the Restaurant Toolkit. Interested communities should contact Crysta Guzman, cguzman@nctcog.org, or Elena Berg, eberg@nctcog.org, by February 22, 2023.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Roundtable: The next meeting will be held in-person at the NCTCOG offices on March 30, 2023.

Stormwater Monitoring: NCTCOG staff are coordinating with TCEQ on the continuation of the program into a new permit term. There will be a meeting with TCEQ on January 30th to discuss the next permit term. Staff are also developing an RFP for new permit term.

TMDL Program:

Upcoming meetings include:

- **TMDL Monitoring Coordination Forum Technical Subcommittee:** March 7, 2023 at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams
- **Joint TMDL Stormwater & Wastewater Technical Subcommittee:** March 21, 2023 at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams
 - NCTCOG will present a draft of the “*Do the Right Thing*” educational explainer video and script for review. PETF members are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.
- **Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee:** February 15, 2023, at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams

WATER: Save-the-Date for the next Holiday Grease Roundup scheduled for November 13, 2023 through January 13, 2024. The next WATER meeting is on February 2, 2023, at 10:00 AM at NCTCOG Offices.

Conferences and Events:

- 2023 [Urban Riparian Symposium](#), San Marcos, February 8-10
- [Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium](#), Houston, April 5, 2023
- [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices During Construction](#) for Plan Reviewers (February 21) and Field Inspectors (February 22), NCTCOG Offices
- [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices During Construction](#) for Plan Reviewers (April 18) and Field Inspectors (April 19), NCTCOG Offices
- [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices During Construction](#) for Plan Reviewers (June 13) and Field Inspectors (June 14), NCTCOG Offices

News and Resources:

- [Governor's Community Achievement Awards](#) opened on January 3, 2023
- [2023 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program RFP](#) – Responses Due: January 31, 2023
- National Wildlife Federation's [Green Infrastructure Funding Microsite](#)
- White House Report - [Opportunities To Accelerate Nature-based Solutions: A Roadmap For Climate Progress, Thriving Nature, Equity, & Prosperity](#)
 - Report Companion - [Nature-Based Solutions Resource Guide](#)
- City of Abilene Educational Video - [No Dumping, No Doubt](#)
- Native Plant Society of Texas [Coloring Books](#)

8. **Roundtable.** Members will share what is happening in their communities.

Carrollton: Andrea McClure had no updates share but introduced herself to the committee as a new Carrollton staff member.

Grapevine: Hosting a Household Hazardous Waste event on March 25th.

Mansfield: Hosting a huge field trip with 180 Environmental Science High School students coming to learn about stormwater protection. Trinity River Authority and Tarrant Regional Water District, along with city staff, will be teaching. Will also be hosting a plogging event on January 28th.

Burleson: Hosting a Household Hazardous Waste event. Would like to know if anyone has been able to get tree saplings for Arbor Day, through grants or otherwise.

Southlake: Hosting a STEM Night event to make native and adaptive seed bundles with children. Will be talking about the stormwater quality and water conservation perks of native plants. Next month will be presenting on their Sustainability Initiative to the City Council, including Christmas Tree/Leaf/Grease recycling.

Coppell: City used to have a tour of homes for Texas SmartScape which had a lot of interest and participation from the community. Hoping to hold another event as a self-guided tour at the parks and to get some videos. Trying to use the event to connect the dots to water quality. NCTCOG staff mentioned Dallas and Plano usually do an annual SmartScape/Waterwise tour and may be a resource to reach out to for advice.

North Richland Hills: Have a stormwater audit next week with TCEQ.

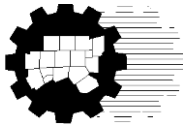
TRWD: Will be at Kids Gone Wild exhibit at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo this Sunday. Have had an oddly large number of winter events going on this year; seeing a steady stream of demand for trailers and already lining up Spring events. Reminded group that to use stream trailers there is a facilitator training and rental agreement that are necessary beforehand. There is probably not enough time to hold a facilitator training ahead of Spring events at this point but something to keep in mind for the rest of the year. The entire watershed protection team will be at Urban Riparian Symposium in San Marcos in February.

9. **Next Meeting Dates.** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams.

10. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Crysta Guzman at (817) 695-9107 or cguzman@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 call (817) 695-9231 or email Liliana Sheppard, LSheppard@nctcog.org, at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.



Stormwater Public Education Task Force
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
9:30 a.m., Microsoft Teams



MEMBER SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	SIGNATURE	ORGANIZATION
Alexis Ackel		DFW Airport
Lauren Betz	X	City of Cedar Hill
Paula Breysacher		City of Garland
Mitchell Carpenter	X	Tarrant County
Cody Cash		City of Irving
Jody Cason		City of Garland
Shawn Cheairs		Town of Addison
Gail Copening		City of Richardson
Mayra Cordova-Garcia	X	Trinity River Authority
Emma Crotty		City of Southlake
Radwan Dalu	X	City of Dallas
Grace Darling	X	Green Arlington Foundation
Robert Diaz		City of Farmers Branch
Lisa Duello		City of Burleson
Helen Dulac		NTMWD
Madisson Dunn	X	City of Southlake
Renee Esses	X	City of Coppell
Jasmine Ferrell	X	City of Mesquite
Heather Firn		Trinity River Authority
Crystal Flannery-Bachicha	X	City of Frisco
Adam Gottlieb	X	NTTA
Kristie Halverson		City of Dallas
Kevin Hill		City of Dallas
James House	X	Town of Prosper

Kevin Hurley		City of Dallas
Wesley Layfield		City of Bedford
Jason Longbine	X	City of Lewisville
Annie Mattia		City of McKinney
Teri McBride	X	City of Richardson
Andie McClure	X	City of Carrollton
Cheyenne Moore		City of Fort Worth
Maria Moreno		Tarrant County
Gregg Moss	X	City of Grapevine
Katie Myers	X	TRWD
William Nahas		City of Allen
Tuan Ngo	X	City of North Richland Hills
Brianna Nisi	X	City of McKinney
Subha Pandey		Town of Flower Mound
Joshua Pauling		City of Hurst
Ted Pick	X	City of Frisco
Jayce Proctor		City of Irving
Chandani Rana		UT Dallas
Jennifer Rovezzi		City of Dallas
Carolyn Russell		City of Plano
Rebecca Sales	X	City of Mansfield
Kofi Sam		NTTA (Atkins)
Stephanie Samczuk	X	City of Allen
Judy Schmidt		City of Dallas
Jesse Tate	X	City of Burleson
Janice Tower		City of Richardson
Vijaya Tummala	X	EnviroServices & Training Center LLC

Duy Vu		City of Cedar Hill
Melissa Walker		City of Arlington
Andrew Wallace		City of Dallas
Asciatu Whiteside		DFW Airport
Kylie Wieden	X	City of Grand Prairie
Julie Winchell		City of Cleburne
Michelle Wood-Ramirez		TRWD