



## North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

### Water Resources Council

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Virtual, via Microsoft Teams

**Chair:** Stacy Walters, City of Fort Worth

**Vice-Chair:** Rachel Ickert, Tarrant Regional Water District

### 1. Welcome and Introductions.

## PRESENTATION

- 2. Water and Wastewater Cyber Resilience.** Jennifer Walker, Director of Infrastructure Cyber Defense, WaterISAC, and Cynthia Baughman, Water Utilities Technology Director, City of Garland, will share best practices utilities can implement to increase cybersecurity. The presentation will include common system vulnerabilities and ways to safeguard against attacks.

Jennifer Walker, WaterISAC, and Cynthia Baughman, City of Garland, shared an overview of cybersecurity for water utility systems, including support networks and potential threats. Both presenters discussed three key areas of cybersecurity - Cyber Hygiene, Vendor and Third-Party Risk Management, and Incident Response Planning. The presentation provided resources and best practices to achieve greater security in these three areas. The presentation begins on slide 5 of the [meeting presentation slides](#).

## ACTION ITEMS

- 3. Meeting Summary.** The [October 9, 2024 meeting summary](#) will be presented for approval.

Billy George, North Texas Municipal Water District, motioned to approve the minutes. Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## DISCUSSION

- 4. 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session Update.** NCTCOG staff will discuss the status of water-related bills of interest. The WRC is invited to share any pertinent water resource issues, topics, news, or bills of interest to date.

NCTCOG shared a high-level overview of water-related bills it is tracking. A full matrix of related bills is available [here](#). Of note are several bills that target property owner associations' ability to regulate turf, vegetation, and water conservation measures, particularly in times of drought. Matthew Jalbert, Trinity River Authority, mentioned HB 1674, "Relating to the production, sale, and use of certain agricultural products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); creating a criminal offense", as a bill of interest for the group.

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- 5. Regional Strategies to Engage Homeowner Associations (HOAS).** NCTCOG staff and the WRC will brainstorm appropriate ways to partner with HOAs to increase regional messaging regarding conservative irrigation practices.

NCTCOG staff discussed using municipal HOA databases to initiate HOA engagement. NCTCOG asked for further input from the WRC on how to contact HOAs and what resources to provide.

Valerie Miller, Olsson, shared that engagement is often done via word of mouth, as directories are usually outdated, which poses a challenge. She suggested starting at the attorney general level since HOAs are required to file with them.

Haley Salazar, City of Denton, shared that previous HOA engagement was done via the Development Services department and through the review of plants to determine points of contact. She recommended providing outreach to both the HOA board and HOA residents, as residents are often concerned about fines associated with turf discoloration due to less watering. Haley shared that the city provides property owners in newly built neighborhoods with an irrigation schedule to follow after new turf has been established via flyers that they distribute door-to-door.

Jeff Price, City of Mansfield, said the city has a quarterly neighborhood leadership roundtable for HOA board members, where department heads present on different city functions. This allows the HOAs to get more involved with the city and the city is able to get feedback from board members.

Susan Alvarez, NCTCOG, suggested that some city planning departments have an HOA list or a super HOA list, which may provide an efficient way to share messaging.

Katelyn Hearon, City of Lewisville, shared that HOAs often have social media platforms for residents, which may be an avenue to use to share the same messaging with the board and its residents. NCTCOG plans to explore making customizable social media posts to promote this engagement.

- 6. Energy and Water Conservation Signage for Municipally Owned Buildings.** NCTCOG staff will present a current project to draft and print energy and water conservation signage to promote behavioral change among municipal building occupants. The WRC will be asked to provide feedback on the messages NCTCOG staff should prioritize in developing this deliverable.

NCTCOG presented examples of signage to be posted in municipally owned buildings to promote water and energy conservation and asked the WRC for feedback on the messages to highlight. Sample messages included reusing water, using refillable water bottles to reduce single-use bottles, and turning off faucets when not in use. Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, stated they have similar signs being used for public awareness campaigns and agreed to share the examples with NCTCOG. Rachel Ickert, Tarrant Regional Water District, stated the district has signage in their demonstration garden, which could be a good example for this project.

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

- 7. NCTCOG Updates.** NCTCOG will update the WRC on recent and upcoming items of interest.
- a. **Dallas-Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan: Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Update**

NCTCOG is accepting feedback on the [DFW-AQIP Priority Climate Action Plan](#) and

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suggestions for the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan via an [online survey](#).

NCTCOG is also looking for projections of the expected wastewater to be treated in the future, specifically in the years 2030 and 2050. Any projection data or insight can be emailed to Alyssa Knox at [aknox@nctcog.org](mailto:aknox@nctcog.org).

- b. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation-Plan (I-Plan) Revisions**  
NCTCOG is seeking feedback on the implementation strategies within the current TMDL [I-Plan](#), including suggestions for changes or additions to the strategies, or removal entirely. Comments and feedback can be sent to Hannah Ordonez at [hordonez@nctcog.org](mailto:hordonez@nctcog.org).
- c. Region C Regional Water Planning Group Meeting.** Monday, February 24, 2025; 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.; NCTCOG Offices, Transportation Council Room.
- d. 2025 Watershed Stakeholders Meeting.** Tuesday, March 4, 2025; 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.; NCTCOG Offices, William Pitstick Conference Room. [Register here](#).
- e. NCTCOG Webinar: *From the Ground Up: The Whys and Hows of Groundwater Protection*.** Wednesday, February 12, 2025; 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. [Register here](#)
- f. NCTCOG Webinar: *Overcoming Water Affordability Challenges with Customer Assistance Programs*.** Date and time to be determined.
- g. CLIDE Awards.** Applications will open on February 3, 2025. More information is available on the [Development Excellence website](#).

**8. Future Agenda Items.** The committee can request future agenda items.

NCTCOG reviewed past items requested and noted a considerable focus on PFAS. NCTCOG staff suggested that a future meeting could be a PFAS roundtable to share resources and discuss how entities plan to handle this concern. Rachel Ickert, Tarrant Regional Water District, echoed this sentiment and stated that members would benefit from discussing what their peers are seeing and working on.

Matt Jalbert, Trinity River Authority, discussed an interest in the new EPA health risk report regarding biosolids and noted it does not settle on any limits for utilities. He mentioned that the river authority is watching House Bill 1674 and has sent in comments regarding the bill.

**9. Roundtable.** WRC members are invited to share what is happening in their communities.

- Haley Salazar, City of Denton, stated they are focusing on rebates and incentives for conservation, such as offering free irrigation evaluations. The city has a new website they will soft launch in February. Additionally, they are working with the Development Services department to identify the top 5% of water users to help them track their usage and develop reduction plans.
- Billy George, North Texas Municipal Water District, stated they were successful in getting the state boundary adjusted from Oklahoma and as a result, the Lake Texoma pump station is fully in the state of Texas, which reduces the risk levels during water transportation. Additionally, they are focused on the upcoming Texas legislative session.

- Katelyn Hearon, City of Lewisville, introduced herself, as she is joining the WRC following Kelly Rouse's departure from the city. She stated she is working on a public service announcement to start a water study to help with plant expansion and PFAS removal.
- Rachel Ickert, Tarrant Regional Water District, stated she is following the Texas legislative session. She shared that there is a Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning meeting on March 12, 2025, in Huntsville with a hybrid option.
- Matt Jalbert, Trinity River Authority, stated they are working on a Chambers Creek regional wastewater study, specifically looking at the growth and development in the area. He also discussed a new study in Ellis County to assess potential providers.

**10. Next Meeting.** The next WRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2025, and will be in person at NCTCOG. [Add to Calendar](#)

**Meetings for the rest of 2025:**

- July 9, 2025, via Microsoft Teams. [Add to Calendar](#)
- October 15, 2025, In-person at NCTCOG. [Add to Calendar](#)

**11. Adjournment.**

**Additional NCTCOG Meetings of Interest**

- a. Public Works Council, February 20, 2025-** [Add to Calendar](#)
- b. Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council, February 26, 2025-** [Add to Calendar](#)

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Alyssa Knox by phone at (817) 695-9221 or by email at [aknox@nctcog.org](mailto:aknox@nctcog.org).

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Ashley Barnett by phone at (817) 608-2363 or by email at [abarnett@nctcog.org](mailto:abarnett@nctcog.org) 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.