



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Public Education Task Force

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

9:30 a.m., Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome and Introductions.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

2. **2021 Doo the Right Thing Campaign.** Dates for the 2021 Doo The Right Thing campaign will be announced.

The Doo The Right Thing social media photo contest period is scheduled to open on May 1, 2021 and run through June 30, 2021. The social media [toolkit](#) and corresponding [visuals](#) for the contest period are available on the PETF program page. Contest participants are encouraged to visit www.dfwstormwater.com/PetWaste to learn about the importance of picking up pet waste, to submit their pledge and contest photos. Voting on submissions will happen around the July or August timeframe, with the featured monthly winners announced at the October PETF meeting.

3. **North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge Project Update.** NCTCOG staff will update the group on the status of the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge website and resources.

The website for the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge is nearing completion with the addition of educational and toolbox content being added. Items in the Partner Resources Toolbox will include: a template for a Mayors Proclamation and a Press Release; Personal Protective Equipment Litter Guidance Volunteer guidelines; Safety tips; and a Certificate of Participation that participants can download at the close of the challenge. Members are encouraged to sign-on to the challenge by visiting the [Sign Up](#) page of the website.

4. **FY21 Work Project Update.** An update on the status of training webinars for the current fiscal year Work Program be given.

The [presentations](#) and [recording](#) of the recent webinar “Healthy Creeks and Waterways – Vegetation and the Flow of Healthy Waterways” is now available online. Work is ongoing for the next webinar on low-impact design and small scale BMPs. Email announcements will go out once dates have been set.

5. **Legislative Updates.** NCTCOG staff will give a brief update on State bills of interest in the current legislative sessions.

A short matrix of legislative bills from the Texas 87th Legislative Session, which may be of interest to members, was provided. Three of the bills ([H.B. 520](#), [S.B. 1128](#), and [S.B. 1772](#)) are viewed as pollinator friendly bills with the later having received the most traction. [House Bill 348](#), and companion [S.B. 2990](#), relate to a requirement to make certain environmental and water use permit applications available online. [House Bill 3814](#), and the companion [S.B. 2097](#), relate to the regulation by the TCEQ of the discharge of preproduction plastic from point and nonpoint sources to ensure zero discharge or release of plastic into water or onto land in the state and to ensure the prompt cleanup of any discharged or released plastic.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

6. **FY22 Program Discussion.** NCTCOG staff will start a discussion on work project ideas for the Fiscal Year 2022 Work Program. Staff will also kick off initial discussions on slogan and/or visual ideas for the 2022 March is Texas SmartScape Month campaign.

NCTCOG staff asked the group for input on a special project theme or idea for the FY22 Work Program. Ideas that were suggested by the group include social media toolkits, educational videos (such as Freddy the Fish which is one of the most popular videos currently in use), a focus on the water cycle (natural and water/wastewater) and how they intersect, and additional BMPs or trainings. Staff will follow up in the coming weeks with a survey for members to submit and vote on suggestions. After the initial survey has closed, a follow-up survey will be sent, if needed. The follow-up survey would include additional suggestions from the initial survey for a final vote on the special project for FY22. The special project topic will need to be finalized and presented to the RSWMCC for their approval.

Members were asked for their input on a slogan for the 2022 March is Texas SmartScape slogan. Staff will be initiating work on this program earlier to allow for time to capture photos of plants and landscapes while still in season or bloom for use in corresponding visuals.

7. **Discussion on Stormwater Cooperative Purchase.** NCTCOG staff will poll the group to determine interest in and need for the Stormwater Cooperative Purchase program this summer.

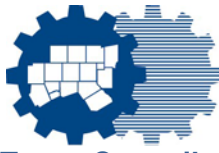
Recent years have seen a significant decline in participation in the Stormwater Cooperative Purchase program. Due to this decline, members were polled to gauge their interest in participating in a cooperative purchase this summer should the Stormwater budget allow for work on this program. A majority of members indicated that they did not need to participate in the program, a few were not certain if they needed it, and no members indicated that they do need the program. NCTCOG staff will take the feedback into consideration and remind members where they can find the [Stormwater Cooperative Purchase Vendor and Purchasing Guide](#) when planning to purchase items on their own.

8. **Trash Free Waters Update and Brief Discussion to Gauge the Appetite of Local Governments in Engaging Recreational Groups in Litter Cleanup Activities.** NCTCOG will provide an overview of the *Engage and Educate* initiative associated with the EPA Trash Free Waters grant. NCTCOG will facilitate a brief discussion on litter cleanup activities to gain an understanding of what our stakeholders are able and willing to do to promote and coordinate these events and also what support is needed from NCTCOG to advance these efforts. Additionally, volunteers will be requested to form an advisory group to guide the Trash Free Waters team's efforts on this initiative.

NCTCOG provided members with an update on tasks being undertaken for the EPA Trash Free Waters grant program, specifically those that fall under the deliverable "Engage and Educate". The project team will be initiating work under this task in the coming months and requested input from members on engaging in new or unique litter cleanup activities with recreation groups. Specifically, the project team is seeking to conduct pilot events which connect communities with recreational groups on cleanup activities such as plogging or integrating litter cleanups with cycling and paddling activities.

The outcome of the pilot will be the development of resources and/or toolkits to help communities who wish to connect with recreational groups and new audiences on unique cleanup activities. To help facilitate this work, the formation of a short-term Advisory Group is under consideration. NCTCOG is seeking communities to be a part of the Advisory Group and asked what members, as potential stakeholders, are able and willing to do to promote and coordinate on these types of events. Feedback from the members of the group indicated that due to small staff sizes, coordinating events is hard, especially when they fall on the weekend. Members do not feel that they have the capacity to take on new events, but they are very interested in working with recreational groups who would like to engage in litter cleanup activities.

Those interested in being part of the Advisory Group are encouraged to contact Crysta Guzman at cguzman@nctcog.org for more information.



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As a reminder, the Trash Free Waters program recently initiated a newsletter to keep project partners, stakeholders, and interested parties informed of work related to the project. Those who are interested in receiving the newsletter can sign up [here](#).

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

9. **Other NCTCOG Program Updates.** NCTCOG staff will share recent and upcoming activities of the IDDE, Stormwater Monitoring, TMDL, and Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable, programs.

The [Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Task Force](#) has their next meeting on July 8, 2021 at 9:30 am. The location is yet to be determined so please visit their committee page for updates. At their next meeting members will discuss upcoming training opportunities for FY21 and listen to a case study presentation.

The Regional Wet Weather Characterization Program is currently in the fourth year of their program term. They are in the beginning phase of implementation of Best Management Practices Analysis and Evaluation Plan (BANEP). Currently, NCTCOG staff are collecting BMP data and all participants have met with the consultant.

The next [TMDL Stormwater Technical Subcommittee Meeting](#) will be on May 4, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams. NCTCOG will be presenting the final *"What is a Total Maximum Daily Load?"* educational explainer video.

The next [TMDL Wastewater Technical Subcommittee Meeting](#) will be on May 13, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams. NCTCOG will be presenting the final On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Social Media Toolkit.

The next [TMDL Coordination Committee Meeting](#) will be on July 1, 2021 at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams.

The next [Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee](#) will be on August 17, 2021 at 9:30 AM, and the location has yet to be determined.

The [TMDL Draft Annual Program Summary](#) available online for review and NCTCOG is currently developing a logo for the TMDL Program.

The TMDL Calculations Workshop was held on April 20, 2021 and the presentation slides and a recording of the workshop have been posted online at www.nctcog.org/TMDL.

A recap of the results of the 2020 Holiday Grease Roundup were given for the Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER). Nearly 6,700 gallons of grease were collected by 33 participants. The 2021 Holiday Grease Roundup will take place November 22, 2021 through January 10, 2022. If interested in participating, please contact Hannah Allen at hallen@nctcog.org. WATER recently posted the educational explainer video *"Why Your Sink Disposal is Not a Garbage Can"* to the NCTCOG E&D YouTube Page and is currently finalizing the *"Always Trash Your Personal Care Items"* educational explainer video. The next [WATER meeting](#) is on July 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM via Microsoft Teams.

The FY22-23 Solid Waste Grant Call for Projects opened on April 7, 2021 and closes May 26, 2021 at 5PM. A Solid Waste Grant webinar was held on April 8, 2021 at 2PM and the recording can be found on the [NCTCOG Solid Waste Grant Website](#) along with the [Grant Application Guidelines](#) and a [Call for Projects Timeline](#). If interested or would like to learn more, please contact Cassidy Campbell at ccampbell@nctcog.org for more information.

10. **Conferences & Events.** NCTCOG staff will share regional and statewide conferences and events.

- National Municipal Stormwater Alliance - [Stormwater and Electronic Data: The E-Reporting Rule for the MS4 Sector and the Value of Data Standards Webinar](#): Thursday, April 22nd, 2021
- NCTCOG Webinar - [Municipal BMP “Show and Tell”](#): Tuesday, May 11th, 2021
- California Trash Monitoring Series Webinar - [Taking Out the Trash: Trash Capture and Compliance](#), May 20th, 2021
- NCTCOG Trash Free Waters Webinar – [Wrangling Trash from Waterways – Texas Style](#), Wednesday, May 26th, 2021
- [54th Annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference](#), June 28th – July 1st, 2021 (Virtual)
- [EPA Region 6 Stormwater Conference](#), August 8th – 12th (New Orleans and Virtual)

11. **News & Resources.** NCTCOG staff will share news and resources of relevance to the group.

- TCEQ Program – [“Don’t Mess With Texas Water”: A Way to Report Illegal Dumping](#)
- Texas Nurdle Patrol – Free [Nurdle Patrol Startup Kits](#) & [Teacher Nurdle Kits](#)
- Bow Seat – [Ocean Awareness Contest – Water Rising](#)
 - Submissions due June 14, 2021
 - Prompt 2 category of relevance to region
- EPA Guide – [Saving the Rain: Green Stormwater Solutions for Congregations](#)
 - Recording of April 13, 2021 webinar on this guide to be made available [here](#)
- EPA Resources for [Celebrate Environmental Education Week](#) (April 19-23)

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

Addison: Held an E-recycle and shred event weekend of April 17th. Can provide numbers at the next meeting. Holding an Earth Day letter scavenger hunt which is live now. Can find out more about the scavenger hunt [here](#).

Allen: Is requesting that members share what they are doing as part of MCM 1 in their permits.

Arlington: Focusing on flood awareness in May; Bee City and citizen scientist events in June.

Carrollton: Returning to the offices on June 1st.

Dallas: EarthX is holding an Earth Day event at the Dallas Arboretum. City of Dallas is partnering with the Dallas Library on Earth Day events. Participating in the Wyland Mayor’s Water Challenge and encourage others to get their city involved in the [challenge](#).

DFW Airport: Holding a virtual Earth Day event that can be found [here](#).

Farmers Branch: Participated in the Holiday Grease Round up and will continue to offer it at the drop off collection center. Pilot Grow Zone signage is going into parks. The city had updated its ordinance to clarify mowing along creeks is not required. Pilot grow zones show options for vegetation near creeks.

Flower Mound: Held a Spring Trash-Off and Recycling Drop Off event April 9th through the 11th.



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Garland: Working on posting videos for the Leaks and Spills video contest. Had some submissions from students. Can check those and the contest out online.

Irving: City is opening June 1st for staff to return.

Mansfield: Doing a series of videos to celebrate Earth Day all month. Have also worked with TRWD to produce a stormwater video that highlights one of the elementary schools too. Will be hosting a month-long neighborhood litter cleanup in place of the normal big cleanup event. Will be posting a Doo the Right Thing video very soon that features one of the Keep Mansfield Beautiful member's child.

North Richland Hills: Will be holding a community Spring Cleanup event on Saturday, May 29 for residents to drop off unwanted, bulky items. Paper shredding will also be available.

NTMWD: Looking into funding a local turf study for Water My Yard. Adding a watershed component to the local awareness campaign soon. Holding an expansion groundbreaking ceremony at the John Bunker Sands on April 30th. Bois d' Arc Lake is now impounding water. Will be some time before it is full and safe to use but the more rain, we receive the faster it will fill. Staff will be returning to the office on June 14th.

Richardson: Will be hosting a contactless Trash Bash cleanup event on Saturday, April 24th.

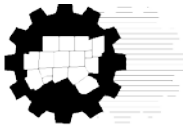
TRWD: Holding Earth Day virtual field trips/scavenger hunts via the Goose Chase app. Currently looking for a college student for a paid intern position. Can find the posting for the Watershed Program Student Assistant position [here](#). Are accepting applications for use of the TRWD Educational Trailers. Can find that application online [here](#).

13. **Next Meeting Dates.** The next virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. Venue details are pending.

14. **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 contact Barbara Bradford at (817) 695-9231 or bbradford@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, April 21, 2021
9:30 a.m., Microsoft Teams



MEMBER SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	SIGNATURE	ORGANIZATION
Alexis Ackel	X	DFW Airport
Becki Begley	X	City of Fort Worth
Lauren Betz	X	City of Cedar Hill
Paula Breysacher	X	City of Garland
Cody Cash	X	City of Irving
Shawn Cheairs	X	Town of Addison
Gail Copening	X	City of Richardson
Teressa Cooper	X	City of Fort Worth
Radwan Dalu	X	City of Dallas
Helen Dulac	X	NTMWD
Renee Esses	X	City of Farmer's Branch
Moss Fennell	X	VRX - NTTA
Jasmine Ferrell	X	City of Mesquite
Heather Firn	X	Trinity River Authority
Kevin Hurley	X	City of Dallas
Devan Jones	X	City of Carrollton
Brandi Kelp	X	City of Fort Worth
Jason Longbine	X	City of Lewisville
Gregg Moss	X	City of Grapevine
Katie Myers	X	TRWD
William Nahas	X	City of Allen
Tuan Ngo	X	City of North Richland Hills
Subha Pandey	X	Town of Flower Mound
Rebecca Sales	X	City of Mansfield

