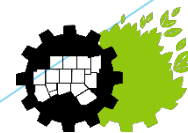


Water Resources Council (WRC)

April 13, 2022



North Central Texas Council of Governments
Environment
& Development

www.nctcog.org/WaterResources

Procedures for Online Meeting

- Today's presentation is posted on the WRC website at:
<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/water-resources-council>
- Roll call today in lieu of sign-in sheet.
- Please state your name and entity you are representing when you ask a question or provide a comment.
- Please keep your microphone on mute when not speaking.
- Approval of action items will still be done by a voice vote. Please only vote if you are a member of the WRC.

Water Resources Council

April 13, 2022

1. Welcome and Introductions

- WRC attendance by roll call
- Guests are welcome to introduce themselves in the chat
- Thank you all for attending!

Action Item

2. Meeting Summary

The [January 12, 2022 meeting summary](#) will be presented for approval.

Presentation

3. The Impact of U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions on Water Utilities.

Dan Crowley, Director

Governmental Relations, Regional and Federal Affairs

San Antonio Water System

On behalf of the American Water Works Association's
Water Utility Council



Texas AWWA

American Water Works Association

The Impact of U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions on Water Utilities

Dan Crowley

Director – Governmental Relations

San Antonio Water System

North Central Texas Council of
Governments

April 13, 2022

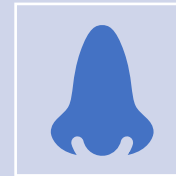
Overview

- EPA announced the finalization of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
- This marks the beginning of a nationwide campaign to phase out the use of lead service lines in our drinking water systems
- This will require that an inventory of all lead service lines for replacement be completed before October 16, 2024
- EPA also announced that it will continue to further improve the revised rule before the October 2024 deadline
- Funds provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), similar legislation, and other funding programs will be made available

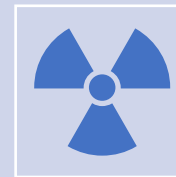
Lead



Lead is a potent neurotoxin that can cause irreversible harm

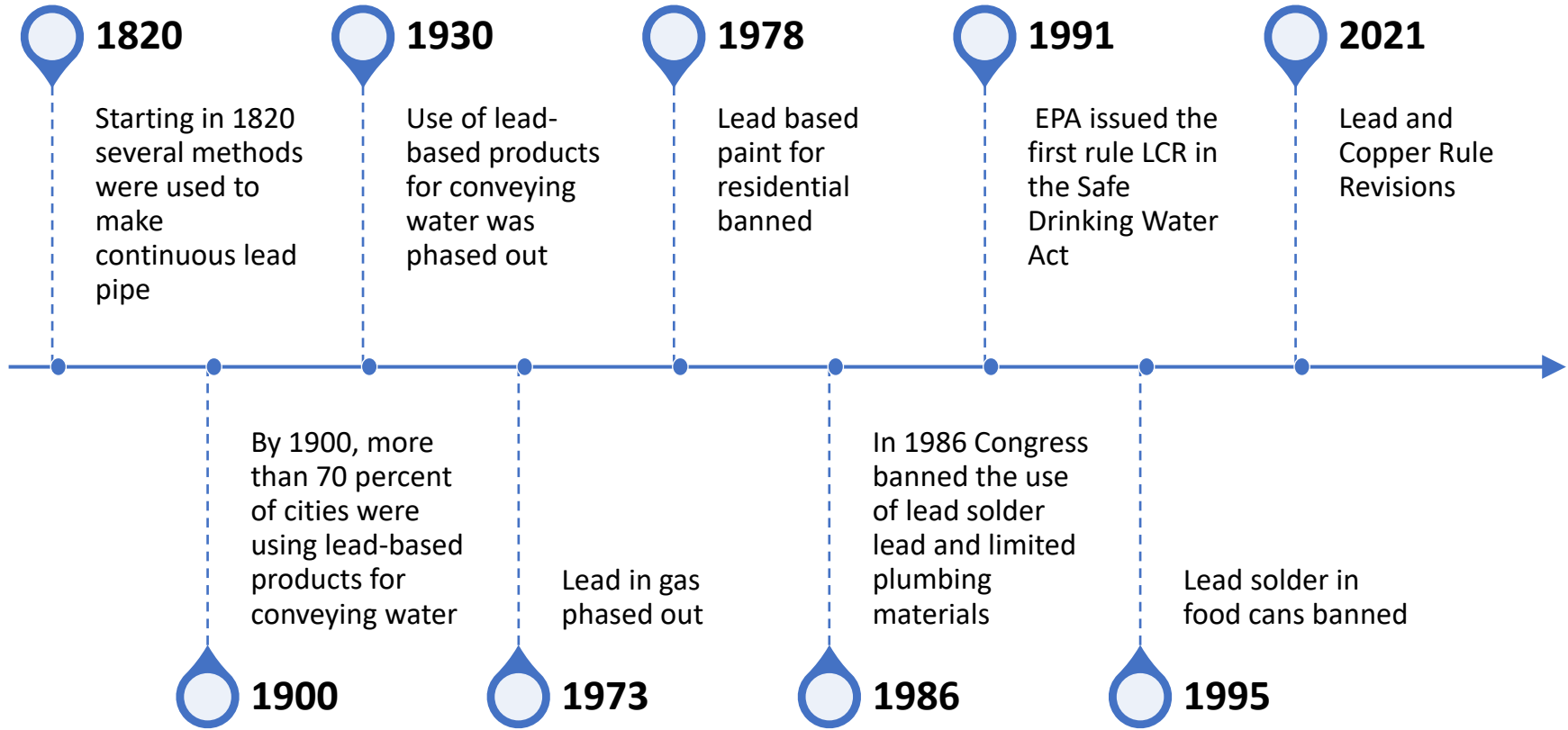


Lead is odorless and tasteless



There is no safe level of exposure!

History in the US





Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water-primarily results from leaching of lead from plumbing in homes and from lead service lines

Lead in water pipes can harm the human body through repeated exposure



Health Effect of Lead

Lead Poses Serious Health Risks to Children and Adults

Children

- Cause impaired mental development, behavioral disorders, lower IQ's, and Hyperactivity

Adults

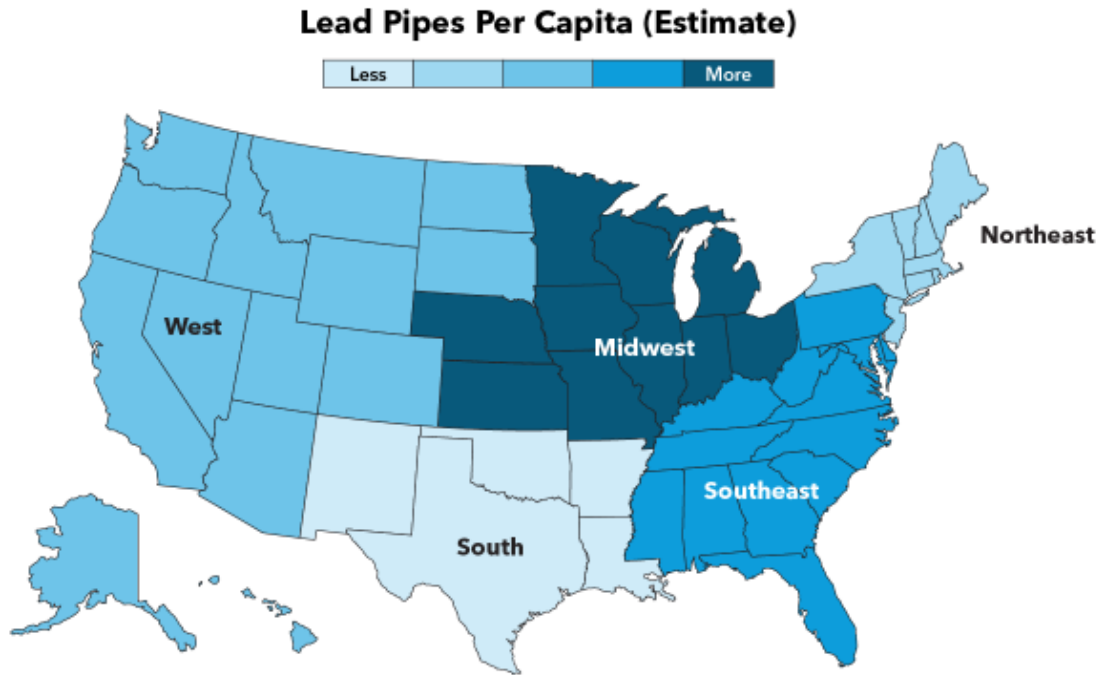
- Increased blood pressure risk, mental fog

History

Lead exposure in water is still a problem in the U.S.

The Leaded Country

Nearly 200 utilities responded to a 2016 survey about how many lead pipes are in use, and the results varied from region to region.



Source: National Survey of lead and Copper Lines Occurrence, Journal AWWA, April 2016

Highest known concentration is in the Midwest and north-east cities

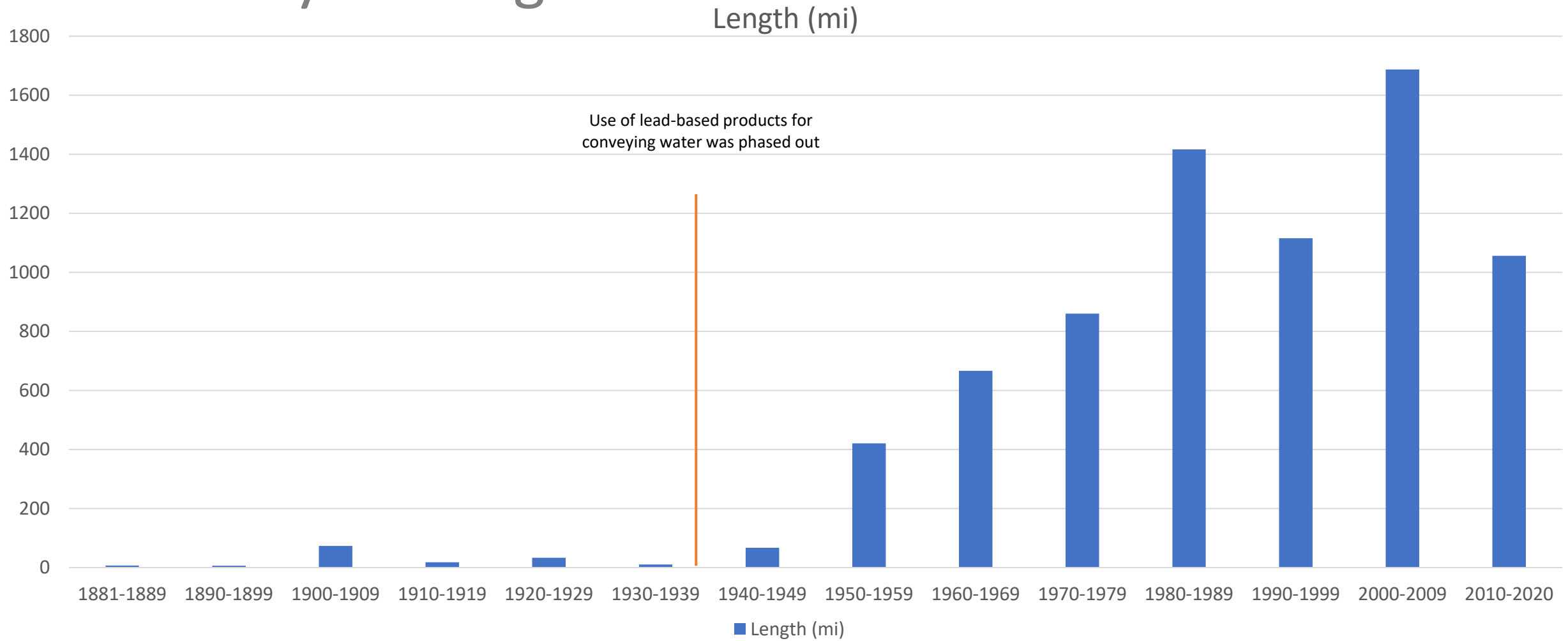
- As many as 22 million people have lead pipes carry drinking water to homes

Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes

Examples of cities impacted by lead in water:

- Flint, Michigan (2018)
- Pittsburgh (2014)
- Washington D.C. (2001)
- Baltimore, Detroit, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Newark, Benton Harbor and Highland Park and others

SAWS System Age



Use of lead-based products for conveying water was phased out



Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR)

Under Executive Order 13990

On December 16, 2021, EPA announced the next steps to strengthen the regulatory framework on lead in drinking water

EPA intends to take final action on the LCRR proposal prior to October 16, 2024

Still need to comply with the rules by October 16, 2024

The publication is expected in 2022.



Anticipated New Rulemaking Action

Focus Areas for the Proposed Rulemaking



Replacing all Lead Service Lines



Compliance Tap Sampling



Action and Trigger Levels



Prioritizing Historically Underserved Communities

* The rule has not yet been published in the Federal Register



New Regulation

EPA has prioritization of lead service line replacement

Focusing on:

- Schools
- Child-care facilities
- Homes where children are living
- Other locations where children are present
- Households of those who have historically been disproportionately exposed to lead from water and other sources

What is the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule?

By mandating water systems to monitor lead and copper levels at consumers' taps, the Lead and Copper Rule protects the public's drinking water against elements that can harm public health

If action levels for lead or copper are exceeded, installation or modifications to corrosion control treatment is required

What is the
EPA lead
action level
requiring
corrective
actions?

The limit in LCR is called an **Action Level**

The action levels are

- Lead (Pb) = 0.015mg/L
- Copper (Cu) = 1.3 mg/L

It is a limit on the 90th percentile of the samples, not a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) that applies to all samples – it is only broken when more than 10 percent of samples exceed the level

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides

\$15 billion in funding over the next five years for LSLR.

\$11.7 billion in the Drinking-Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for below-market interest rate loans and grants

\$500 million over the next five years in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act [**WIIN** Act]

\$200 million over the next five years for lead testing and remediation in school and child-care drinking water

How to Identify Lead Lines



System Inspection (Check the pipes)

Old Water System Records

Distribution Maps and Drawing

Engineering Records (As-Built drawings)

Inspection and Maintenance Records

Meter Installation Records

Past Plumbing Codes

County Assessors Office



Conclusion

- There is no safe level of exposure
- The EPA has essentially decided that the proposed rules aren't strong enough
- It is anticipated that the Lead and Copper Rule will create more aggressive testing and replacement process for lead service lines
- Final rules have not been published yet
- Need to start now

For more information visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule>



Texas AWWA
American Water Works Association

The Impact of U.S. EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions on Water Utilities

Dan Crowley

Director – Governmental Relations
San Antonio Water System

North Central Texas Council of
Governments

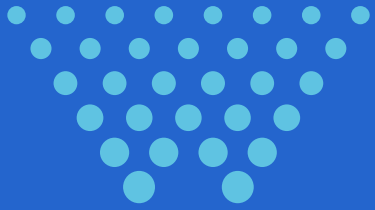
April 13, 2022

Presentation

4. Filling the Water Workforce Pipeline: WEAT Operator Apprenticeship Program

Julie Nahrgang, Executive Director
WEAT (Water Environment Association of Texas)

Dr. Dylan Christenson
Co-Chair, WEAT's Workforce Development Committee
Wastewater Process Engineer, Black & Veatch



Water Environment
Association of Texas

Filling the Workforce Pipeline:

WEAT Operator Apprenticeship Program

Dylan Christenson | Black and Veatch

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Julie Nahrgang | WEAT/TACWA

julie@weat.org

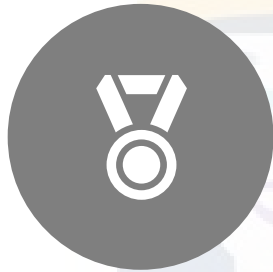
Katie Zheng | SWWC

kzheng@swwc.com



So, what's the problem?

Attracting, training, and retaining a skilled workforce is one of the most pressing issues facing the sector today.



Silver Tsunami



Positions Require Operator Licenses

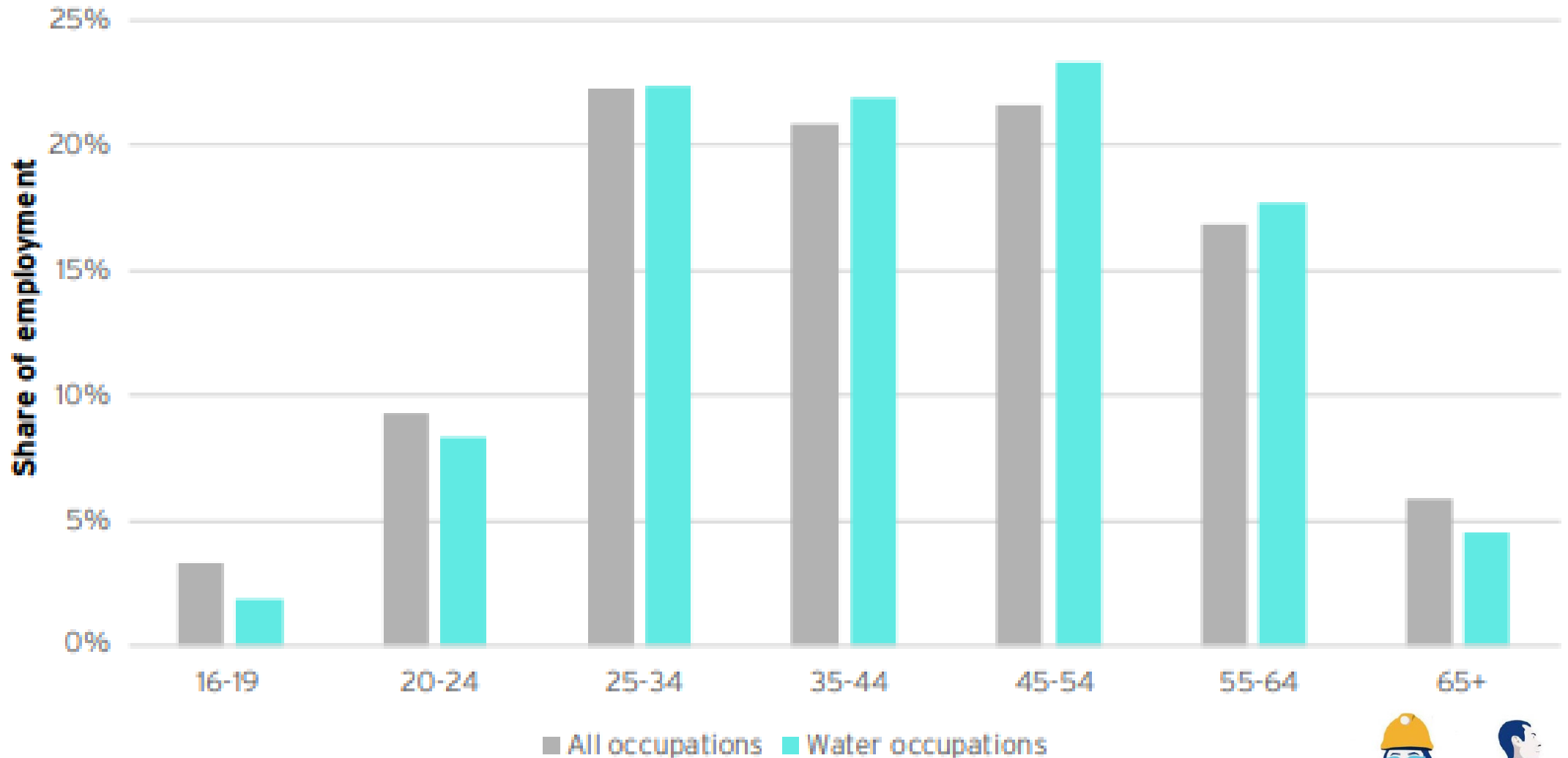


Supply and Demand Gaps



Difficulty in Attracting New and Diverse Talent Pools

Age range of workers in water occupations vs. all occupations



Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics and CPS data





The Origin Story and the Journey...

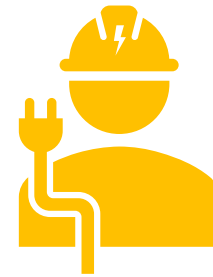
Water Environment Association of Texas



Created in 2018
LEAD by WEAT



Serves as a “think-tank” for
Operator Initiatives



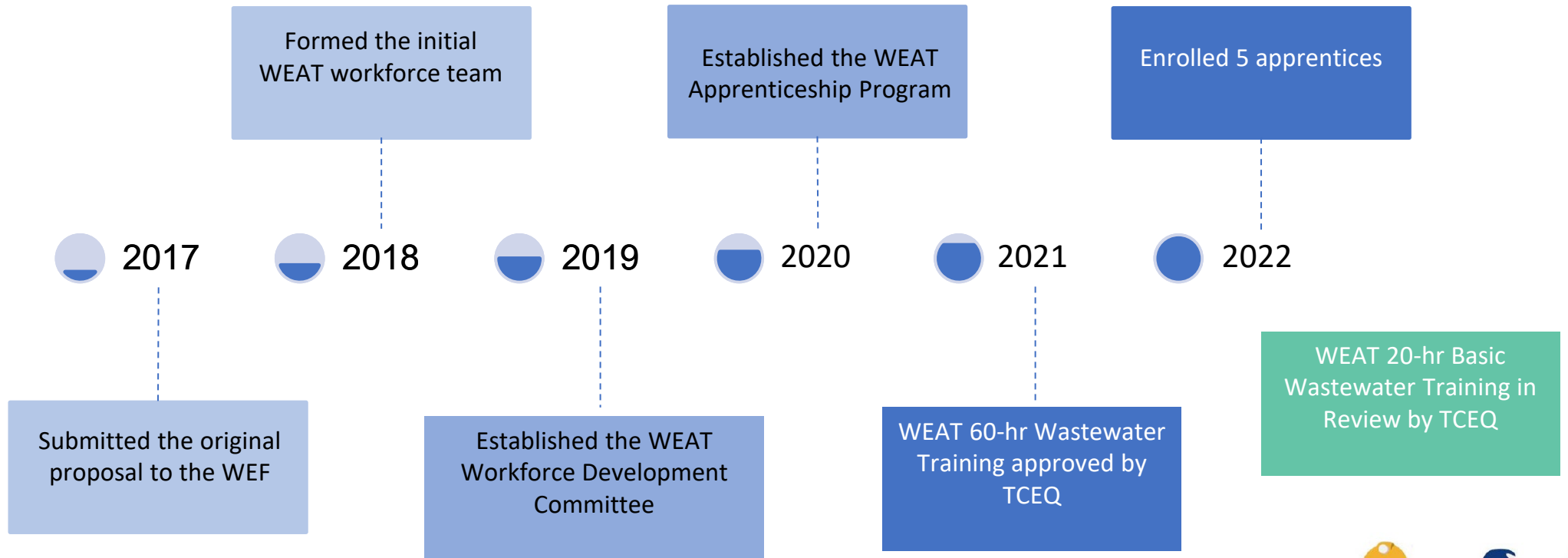
Promote WEAT’s Operators
Objectives





Making Waves...

Water Environment Association of Texas





The Apprenticeship



1. Water Operator
2. Wastewater Operator
3. Electronic Technician
4. Mechanic *Coming Soon!*





Partnerships

Water Environment Association of Texas

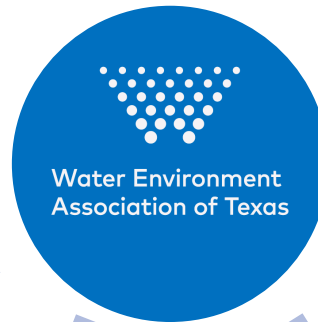




Apprenticeship Program Structure

WEAT Responsibilities

- Clearinghouse for Apprenticeship Documentation
- Maintain Department of Labor RAPIDS Apprenticeship Database
- Communication as needed with Workforce Boards and Department of Labor



Employer Partners

- “Business as Usual”
- OJT
- TCEQ Certified Classroom Training
- Wage Scale
- Performance Reviews





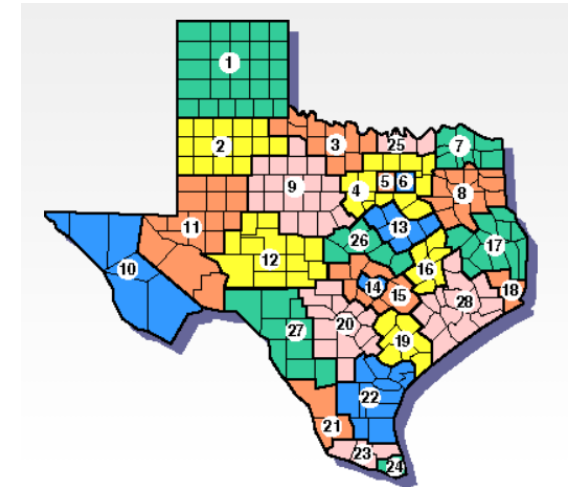
Federal Funds for Texas Needs

United States
Department of
Labor

Texas Workforce
Commission

Regional Workforce
Solutions Boards

Water Environment Association of Texas





Benefits... Or What's in it for Me?

Employer Partner

- Funding assistance to offset the cost of employment
- Candidate Referrals from Workforce Board
- Leverage established educator partnerships

Apprentice

- Support in finding a Career not just a Job
- Other funding potential based on qualifications and background





Next Steps...

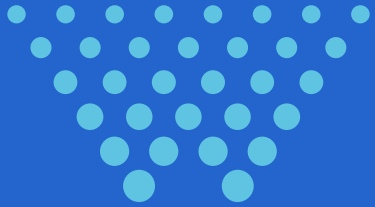
- **EMPLOYERS:** Send an Email and we'll set up a call!
- **INDIVIDUALS:**

Upcoming workforce development events:

- Apprenticeship Program Discussion with NTMWD | April 13, 2022
- Texas Municipal League TMUA Conference, College Station, TX | April 28, 2022
- WEAT Workforce Development Webinar, *Virtual* | April 29, 2022 (sign up on WEAT's Website)

How to join:

- Join the WEAT Workforce Development Committee (join through WEAT's Website)
- Volunteer at Texas Water 2023 Exhibit Hall Tour
- Submit a Workforce Abstract to Texas Water 2023
- Send email to admin@weat.org requesting more info!



Water Environment
Association of Texas

Filling the Workforce Pipeline:

WEAT Operator Apprenticeship Program

Dylan Christenson | Black and Veatch

christensond@bv.com

Julie Nahrgang | WEAT/TACWA

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Katie Zheng | SWWC

kzheng@swwc.com

North Central Texas Council of Governments – Water Resources
Council

April 13, 2022

Discussion

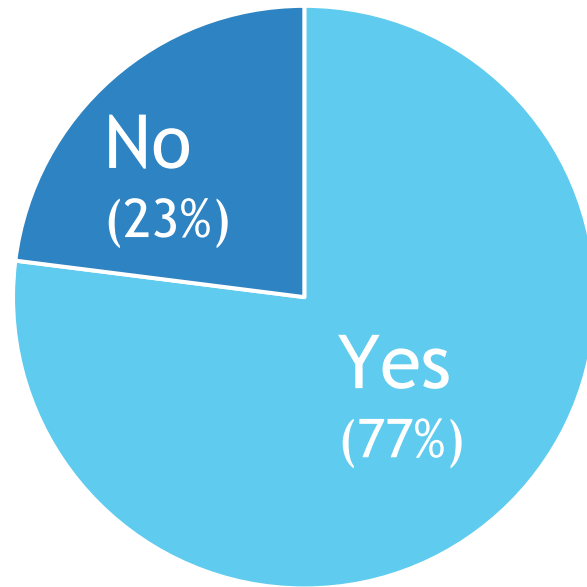
5. 2022 Water Resources Questionnaire Results

- February 3, 2022 to March 11, 2022
- Distributed to water resource professionals in NCTCOG region
- 118 total responses

Discussion

5. 2022 Water Resources Questionnaire Results

Does your entity engage in outreach on water resource topics?

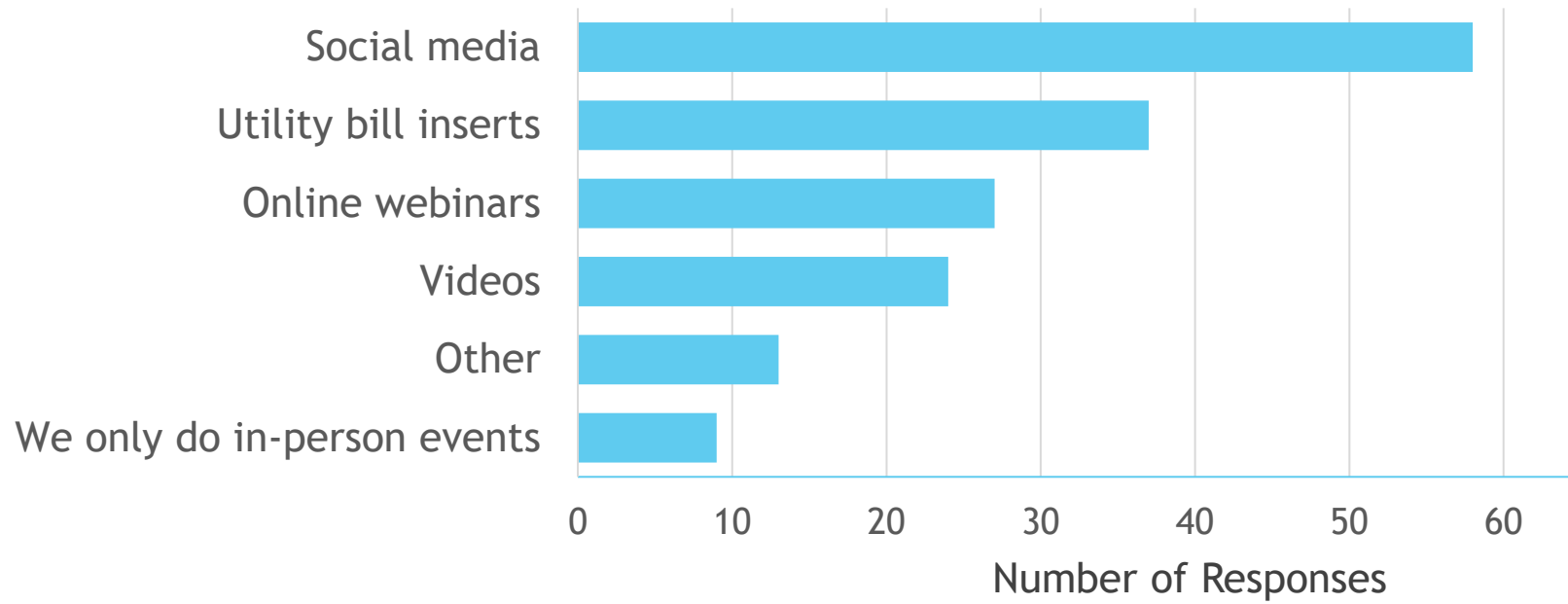


Total responses = 118

Discussion

5. 2022 Water Resources Questionnaire Results

What is the best way to reach your outreach audience outside of in-person events? (Check all that apply.)

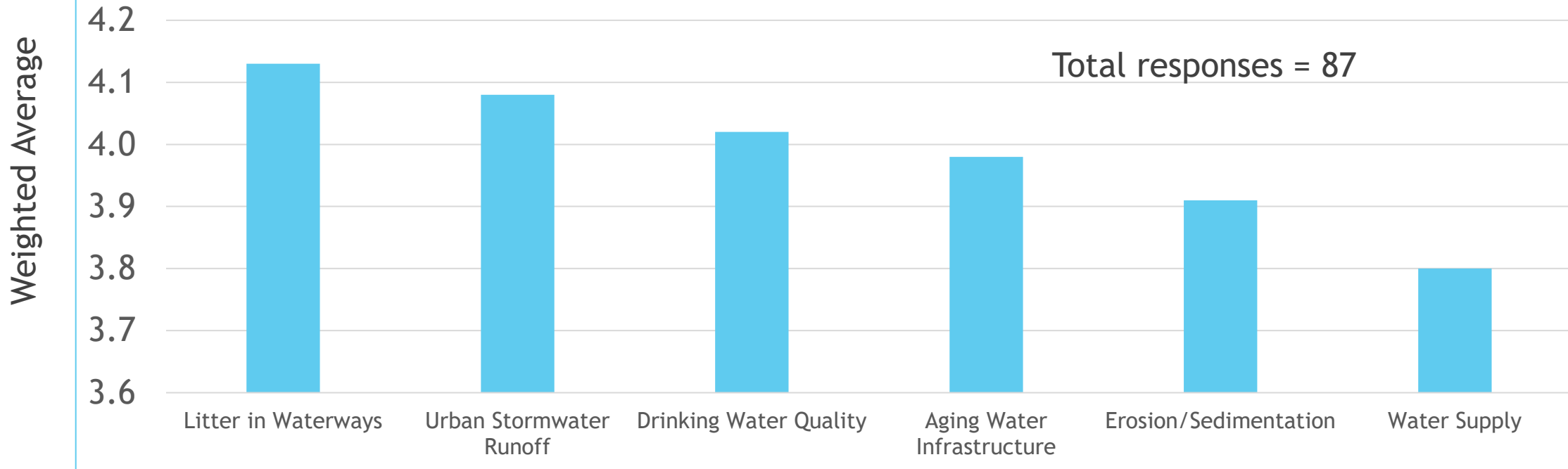


Total responses = 76

Discussion

5. 2022 Water Resources Questionnaire Results

Please rate your level of concern for the following water resource topics. 5 = High, and 1 = Low

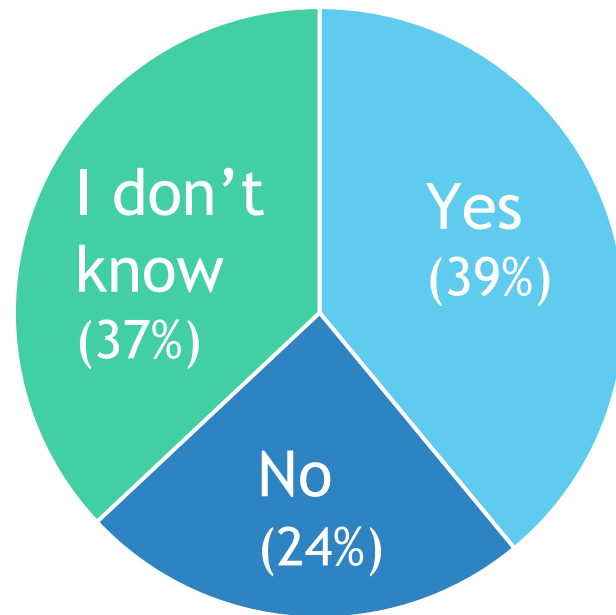


Top 6 out of 11 Topics Total

Discussion

5. 2022 Water Resources Questionnaire Results

Does your community or special district face challenges from urban wildlife or plants?



Common responses:

- Zebra/Quagga mussels
- Chinese privet
- Hogs
- Ducks/Geese
- Coyotes and bobcats
- Nutria
- Emerald ash borer

Total responses = 87

Discussion

5. 2022 Water Resources Questionnaire Results

What water quality resources, information, or tools do you think are lacking in the North Central Texas region?

Common Themes:

- None
- Public education - particularly the connection that what we do at our residences affects water quality
- Understanding/Appreciation of the benefits of our water resources
- Education on specific pollutants and water quality constituents

Total responses = 56

Discussion

6. 2022 Update to the North Central Texas WQMP

- **Early May 2022** - Draft of the 2022 Update to the WQMP completed and internal review begins
 - Compiling new data, updating information and maps
- **Late May 2022** - 30-day public comment period begins
- **July 13, 2022** - WRC considers the 2022 WQMP for approval.

Other Business and Roundtable Discussion

7. NCTCOG Updates (con't)

a. Upcoming NCTCOG Webinar

➤ *Avian Management*

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.

Link to come via email

b. North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge

➤ For events held from March 1 - May 31, 2022

➤ Register by April 15, 2022, at

www.communitycleanupchallenge.com!

Other Business and Roundtable Discussion

7. NCTCOG Updates (con't)

c. Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER)

➤ Next WATER meeting -

Thursday, April 28, 2022

10:00 a.m. - noon [Add to Calendar](#)

Other Business and Roundtable Discussion

7. NCTCOG Updates (con't)

d. Total Maximum Daily Load Meeting and Updates

- Video: [Septic System Maintenance for Homeowners](#)
- FAQ document: [Industrial Facilities and TMDLs: What You Need to Know](#)

Other Business and Roundtable Discussion

7. NCTCOG Updates (con't)

d. Total Maximum Daily Load Meetings and Updates

- TMDL Coordination Committee Meeting
 - ▶ June 15, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. (Virtual)
 - ▶ [Add to Calendar](#)
- Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee Meeting
 - ▶ August 16, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. (Location: TBD)
 - ▶ [Add to Calendar](#)
- Contact: Hannah Allen
 - ▶ hallen@nctcog.org

Other Business and Roundtable Discussion

8. Future Agenda Items

The WRC can request future agenda items.

9. Roundtable

The WRC is invited to share what is happening in their communities.

Other Business and Roundtable Discussion

10. Next Meetings

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 - [Add to Calendar](#) (in-person)

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 - [Add to Calendar](#) (virtual)

11. Adjournment

Staff Contacts

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