



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Public Works Council

Thursday, May 6, 2021

9:30 AM, Virtual Meeting through Microsoft Teams

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGM2YmJmYWMTY2RIZS00ZDc4LTk5MWYtZmQ3ODE3NmYzOWEx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e36755e2-eefa-4b02-b9cc-4498875cd36a%22%7d

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 903-508-4574](tel:+19035084574) United States, Tyler

Phone Conference ID: 868 473 219#

Chair: Keith Marvin, City of Lewisville
Vice Chair: Shawn Poe, City of Richardson

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The Public Works Council (PWC) Chair will welcome everyone to the meeting.

NCTCOG staff welcomed everybody and asked attendees to introduce themselves through the chat feature of Microsoft Teams.

ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The March 25th meeting summary is available for review. Approval will be sought at the meeting.

Jerry Cosgrove motioned to approve the March 25th meeting summary; Paul Sparkman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM

3. **Workforce Needs, Retention, and Recruitment.** NCTCOG Workforce Development Department will discuss workforce issues public works departments have been seen across the region. (Daniela Ramirez)

Daniela Ramirez from the Workforce Solutions Department at NCTCOG discussed leveraging labor market data to address labor needs. She highlighted hourly wages, number of jobs, and unemployment rate for different job types in public works. She also

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referenced the living wage for the area which is reported by counties. This does not take into account factors like benefits that can encourage someone to want one job over another.

Council members also asked how the stimulus checks and other unemployment benefits that have increased this last year have impacted the job market. Daniela has heard the question before but it's too early to tell. She hopes by the workshop on the public works labor force later this summer she can provide more insight on this question. Daniela did say that the unemployment rate in North Central Texas is 3 times higher than in 2019. Council members still have concerns that they have a large vacancy rate even if the unemployment rate is so low. The private sector is having the same issues. The PWC would like to have HR representatives at the workshop to help discuss what they're seeing as well. The Texas Chapter of APWA holds monthly meetings for Public Works Directors and they're having the same discussions. Douglas Wiersig mentioned Grand Prairie is working on dedicated in house training program for CDLs and becoming an onsite testing facility.

Brandi Harrison-Trotter, Business Development Supervisor with Workforce Solutions, discussed programs they have to help communities recruit and maintain workers. They help train employees to the skill level needed for the position and have helped setup certified apprenticeships.

4. **OneRain Presentation.** OneRain will introduce the flood warning system. (Charles Yost and Sue Swenor)

This presentation was cancelled and will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

5. **Future In-Person Meetings.** NCTCOG staff would like the Council to discuss when and how they would like to come back to in-person meetings. (Olivia Kale)

The PWC Chair would like to meet in-person and accommodate those who still cannot travel with hybrid meetings. The Vice Chair asked what the other COG policy bodies are doing and follow their lead. Edith Marvin with NCTCOG said the Executive Board is meeting in-person but only the board members and speakers can be there. NCTCOG still isn't open to the public and plans to bring employees back are under development.

6. **Public Works Draft FY22 Work Program.** NCTCOG staff will introduce the draft FY22 Work Program for the Regional Public Works Program. This item is available for the group to discuss and provide edits. The FY22 Work Program will be voted on at the August PWC meeting. (Olivia Kale)

Olivia Kale with NCTCOG went over the draft Public Works FY22 Work Program. Council members suggested reaching out to high school students as part of Item A. Conversations should target students graduating high school in region 10 and 11 that may not go to college and could start in the public works industry. They also suggested that under the Hydrologic and Flood section that NCTCOG staff monitor the Texas Flood Plan and give regular updates at the PWC meetings.

7. **Legislative Update.** NCTCOG staff will highlight bills currently in the Texas legislature that are related to public works. (Olivia Kale)



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Olivia Kale introduced public works related bills that have passed their originating house in the Texas Legislature. There were over 400 public works related bills during this legislative session due to the winter storm, pandemic, and technology/infrastructure advances. Olivia will continue to monitor bills that are being passed and update the PWC again.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. **FY 2020 Public Works Work Program Update.** NCTCOG staff will update the Council on recent Public Works efforts and Subcommittee activities. (Olivia Kale)

NCTCOG has received 92% of the budget needed for the Regional Public Works Program through cost-shares. The Council suggested that Olivia reach out to several cities that usually participate but haven't this year.

Olivia asked for volunteers to teach the Construction Contracts Administration Training and New Inspector's Workshop. Both of these events were held virtually last year and taught by Tim James' team at Half Associates. Olivia will share the presentation and workshop materials to anyone willing to volunteer to teach this year. John Ho and Keith Marvin volunteered to partner on the Construction Contracts Administration Workshop.

Sam Davis offered to find job sites for the New Inspector's Workshop and Katie Barron might have an instructor for it. George Marshall volunteered to help with the New Inspector's Workshop and potentially put together a program so that it's the same material every year. Shawn Poe said that APWA has a good program for inspector's that we could mirror. If there is enough time between the volunteers, we could host the New Inspector's Workshop virtually and in-person. This training goes much better when attendees can see examples on the job site, but a virtual format could accommodate more people.

- **Public Works Roundup.** NCTCOG staff will give the Council an update on Roundup planning efforts. (Olivia Kale)
The Public Works Roundup is tentatively scheduled for September 2, 2021, at the Grapevine Convention Center. NCTCOG staff is reviewing the contract now and will send a Save-the-Date when it has been signed. Council members should have received a survey for potential presentation topics. This is due Friday May 14th. Olivia asked the Council what type of food they would like to have at the event. They would like a personally packaged hot meal. Due to COVID and logistics it would be easiest if everything were ready for attendees to grab. However, they would still like a hot meal, not a typical boxed lunch sandwich.

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- Standard Drawings Subcommittee.** A Subcommittee representative will brief the Council on progress made towards updating the drawings in the Construction Standards Fifth Edition. (Keith Marvin)

The subcommittee is still working on Division 4000: Water Distribution and Division 5000: Wastewater Collection. If anyone is interested in providing expertise, they are welcome at the next meeting on May 24th at 10am through Microsoft Teams.
- Sustainable Public Rights of Way (SPROW) Subcommittee.** The Subcommittee Chair will update the Council on the activities of the SPROW Subcommittee. (Robert Woodbury)

The subcommittee is collaborating on the Utility chapter of the BMP Guidebook with franchise utility representatives and public works professionals. The next meeting is May 18th at 1:30pm through Microsoft Teams.
- integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Activities.** The Subcommittee Chair will present an update of iSWM program activities. (Ranjan Muttiah)

The subcommittee reviewed the final draft Task Order 4 documents. These are posted as handouts on the PWC website and will be posted on the iSWM website by June 1st. The subcommittee also reviewed Task Order 6 and approved it at the April 21st meeting. An update on Task Order 6 items will be given at the August 19th PWC meeting. The next iSWM meeting is July 14th at 1:30pm through Microsoft Teams. If you have any questions about the iSWM program, please contact Sydni Lignons at SLignons@nctcog.org or 817-608-2360.

9. Other Program Activities.

- Cooperative Technical Partnership Program and the Community Rating System Users Group.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on FEMA's Cooperative Technical Partner (CTP) Program activities and the Floodplain Administrators/Community Rating System Users Group. (Mia Brown)

The FY18 flood risk identification project on Marys Creek in Parker County is complete. The flood resilience meeting was held on April 6th. NCTCOG staff will continue to work with Parker County as the study data becomes available.

The FY19 flood risk identification projects on Harriet Creek (Denton County, 7 miles) and Waxahachie Creek (Ellis County, Midlothian, Waxahachie; 19 miles) kicked off in April 2020 and are ongoing. The survey and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses are underway. The Waxahachie Creek project is 51% complete and Harriet Creek project is 40% complete.

The Catherine Branch (Denton County) FY20 flood risk identification project kicked off this past March. The survey and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses are underway. The FY20 Communications and Outreach grant for outreach to the northern/western area of the region for integration of transportation and stormwater is also in progress.

NCTCOG submitted a final business plan to FEMA at the end of March for FY21 projects. The grant application period is underway.

Mia Brown with NCTCOG is working in partnership with TFMA to plan the Annual Combined CRS Users Group/Elected Officials Floodplain Seminar, tentatively scheduled to be held virtually in late July. Details and registration are anticipated to be out in late June. If you have any questions about FEMA's CTP Program or Floodplain



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Administrators/CRS Users Group, please contact Mia at MBBrown@nctcog.org or (817) 695-9227.

- **Public Works Emergency Response Team (PWERT).** A PWERT representative or NCTCOG staff will give an update on recent PWERT activities. (Manny Palacios)
[There was no PWERT update.](#)
- **Texas Public Works Association Update.** A TPWA representative will update the Council on upcoming TPWA local events and meetings. (Shawn Poe)
[State Chapter Award nominations are due Friday May 14th. May 16th-22nd is Public Works Week. The sporting clay tournament will be May 28th and the sign-up is on the North Central Texas Branch website. The next branch meeting is June 10th. The Texas APWA Conference will be in Galveston October 20th-22nd. The National APWA Conference will be St. Louis Aust 29th-September 1st.](#)

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

10. **Future Agenda Items.** PWC Members and NCTCOG staff may suggest future agenda items.

[There were no future agenda items.](#)

11. **Roundtable Topics/Other Business.** Council members and NCTCOG staff may share additional items as time allows.

[There were no roundtable updates.](#)

12. **The Next PWC Meeting** is scheduled for August 19, 2021 at 9:30am. Meeting platform is TBD.

13. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Olivia Kale by phone at (817) 695-9213, or by email at OKale@nctcog.org.

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Attendance

Virtual meeting through Microsoft Teams

Sam Davis, Associated General Contractors
Chris Funches, City of Arlington
Pritam Deshmukh, City of Denton
Juan Cadena, City of Fort Worth
Michael Owen, City of Fort Worth
Michael Polocek, City of Garland
Douglas Taylor, City of Grand Prairie
Keith Marvin (Chair), City of Lewisville
Paul Sparkman, City of McKinney
Gerald Cosgrove, City of Plano
Shawn Poe (Vice Chair) City of Richardson
Mark Hines, Collin County
Chris Cha, Council of Engineering Companies
John Ho, Council of Engineering Companies
George Marshall, City of Corinth (Denton/Lake Cities Subregion)
Clayton Riggs, Town of Flower Mound (DFW North Subregion)
Amy Williams, City of Rockwall (Northeast Dallas Subregion)
Andrew Figueroa, City of Celina (Northeast Subregion)
Mike Garza, City of Coppell (Northwest Dallas Subregion)
Larry Hoover, Town of Kennedale (South Tarrant Subregion)
Greg Ramey, City of Duncanville (Southwest Dallas Subregion)
Jeremy Hutt, City of Cleburne (Southwest Subregion)
Lyndon Cox, Texas Council of Engineering