



North Central Texas Council of Governments

# SUMMARY

## **Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable**

Thursday, July 23, 2015

10 a.m., Regional Forum Room

NCTCOG Offices, CPII

616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011

### 1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

## **DISCUSSION**

2. **General Updates.** NCTCOG staff informs the Wastewater And Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER) about the availability of brochure files and final work program documents. NCTCOG staff notifies WATER of recent “flushability” news.

Staff reminded the group about the availability of brochure files and work program documents. Staff also summarized recent “flushability” news related to Nice-Pak and advertising claims, then informed the group about a recent Fox segment on flushability issues featuring Trinity River Authority. (Staff will email the group the segment link.)

3. **Dallas Wastewater Awareness Campaign/Potential Regional Campaign.** City of Dallas staff presents the Dallas campaign direction. WATER discusses if this works for the regional campaign, next steps, etc. The group also discusses the new web domain name.

Dallas staff shared their new campaign direction and gathered feedback. The group thought this campaign could work well regionally. Members offered suggestions for minor wording and logo adjustments, and asked if cities could use slightly brighter colors or color variations and if the logo slogan will be translated into Spanish. Dallas staff will relay the group’s input and questions to their team, but noted that final say belongs to Dallas. Dallas is considering a January launch and is currently working on outreach infrastructure.

The group then discussed WATER’s new web domain name and its relationship to the new Dallas campaign. NCTCOG staff will continue the discussion via email after getting confirmation from Dallas staff about its campaign URL. Dallas staff suggested buying both .org and .com for the domain name.

WATER decided to use the logo created for the grease interceptors brochure as the group logo (at least temporarily).

4. **Holiday Grease Roundup Participant Interest.** NCTCOG staff informs WATER about the current participant interest and next steps.

The cities currently interested in participating are Arlington, Coppell, Dallas, Duncanville, Fort Worth, and Garland. Dallas County Schools Alternative Fuels Program will participate again. A few others are considering participation. NCTCOG staff has emailed the Whole Foods contact, but has not heard back yet.

Staff will set up an August meeting for participants to discuss the collection's date range, marketing material updates, and next steps. The participants will also discuss the potential marketing budget. (WATER agreed that the entire group does not need to approve this budget.) Potential participants are also welcome. Staff requested that questions be emailed prior to the meeting so that staff can have answers ready.

5. **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program Training Survey.** NCTCOG staff presents the training survey results and next steps.

The training survey results showed that the Management, Operation, and Maintenance of Grease Interceptors and Traps module was the group's top priority. (The Regional Training Center staff has been notified that the group would like to have this class in the next six months.)

The survey responders preferred that the module be held once a year during the winter, and said that they would generally be willing to pay a small fee. WATER members also suggested avoiding Mondays and Fridays. The group started to discuss the logistics of the classroom and field sections. The City of Garland and City of Dallas suggested an instructor they are both familiar with, and the group had no objections. The group would like this instructor to be joined by a local government representative. NCTCOG staff will set up a meeting to develop the curriculum. Richard Statser with the City of Dallas offered to put together a preliminary curriculum and bring supporting documents for attendees to consider.

The second-priority module is Building an Effective FOG Control Program. This module will be developed after the first module.

6. **Potential Future Projects/Actions.** The group discusses the potential for future projects/actions related to paperless recordkeeping for manifests and food handler/manager certification programs.

WATER members would like to investigate the possibility of moving from the five-part paper manifest currently required by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to a paperless manifest system. The group discussed how this might work, and the importance of avoiding multiple databases or software systems. Arlington, Dallas, Denton, and Southlake members volunteered for this issue's subcommittee, and will meet separately to discuss this further. NCTCOG staff will start researching who would be a good point of contact at TCEQ.

The group also expressed an interest in approaching the Texas Department of State Health Services for a policy change, adding grease management as an element of food handler and food manager certification programs. Arlington, Dallas, Denton, Duncanville,

and Garland members volunteered for this issue's subcommittee, and will meet separately to discuss this further. (A Bedford representative may also be part of the subcommittee.)

Both subcommittees will come back to the larger group to discuss next steps.

## **OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

7. **Roundtable.** The group shares what is happening in their communities.

*Garland* – Training a new employee.

*Trinity River Authority* – Working on its wipes investigation as weather permits.

*Richardson* – Creating a flushable wipes campaign.

*Plano* – Incorporating FOG education as part of its Plano International Festival. Interested in input from representatives who provide outreach to a diverse audience.

*Arlington* – Participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Take-Back Day, creating a brochure with nonflushable information, and working on backflow issues.

*Bedford* – Also participating in the Drug Take-Back Day and working on backflow issues. Has seen improvements related to grease trap outreach.

*Coppell* – Investigating flow-up issues related to rain events.

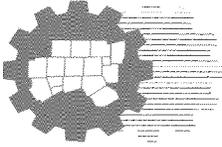
*Denton* – Biodiesel plant at the landfill is back online. Also working on wipes and FOG outreach.

*Carrollton* – Developing its flushables campaign.

*McKinney* – The FOG outreach program has been transferred to the environmental educator, who has created new material with the slogan "stop the clog."

*Dallas* – Has several new employees. Working on a database with a scanned version of manifests.

8. **Next Meeting Date.** Wednesday, October 21, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Regional Forum Room.
9. **Adjournment.**



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**10 a.m., Thursday, July 23, 2015**  
**Regional Forum Room**

## Member Sign-in Sheet

| NAME                 | SIGNATURE                 | ORGANIZATION                          |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cynthia Arias        |                           | City of Carrollton                    |
| Stuart Bakken        |                           | City of Garland                       |
| Oleksandra Bikman    |                           | City of Keller                        |
| Michele Birmingham   | <i>Michele Birmingham</i> | City of Fort Worth                    |
| Martha Cavazos-Fipps | <i>MC Fipps</i>           | City of McKinney                      |
| Gary Cocke           | <i>Gary Cocke</i>         | City of Plano                         |
| Shane Collier        |                           | City of Irving                        |
| Stephen Conner       |                           | City of Garland                       |
| Yvonne Dupré         | <i>Yvonne Dupre</i>       | City of Dallas                        |
| Brad Dyess           |                           | Trinity River Authority               |
| Kathy Fonville       |                           | City of Mesquite                      |
| Joe Gildersleeve     | <i>Joe Gildersleeve</i>   | City of Arlington                     |
| Heather Goins        |                           | City of Denton                        |
| Kimberly Hackley     |                           | City of Dallas                        |
| Annita McCormick     |                           | City of McKinney                      |
| Alejandro Mejia      | <i>Alejandro Mejia</i>    | City of Garland                       |
| Karen Menard         |                           | Upper Trinity Regional Water District |
| Jennifer Moore       | <i>Jennifer Moore</i>     | Trinity River Authority               |
| Tuan Ngo             | <i>Tuan Ngo</i>           | City of North Richland Hills          |
| Brooke Noack         | <i>Brooke Noack</i>       | North Texas Municipal Water District  |
| Howard Redfearn      |                           | City of Mansfield                     |
| Kenneth Roseberry    |                           | City of Irving                        |
| Jessica Smith        | <i>Jessica Smith</i>      | City of Duncanville                   |
| Richard Statser      | <i>Richard Statser</i>    | City of Dallas                        |
| Christi Upton        | <i>Christi Upton</i>      | City of Southlake                     |
| Courtney Vanous      |                           | City of Carrollton                    |
| Duy Vu               |                           | City of Grand Prairie                 |
| Jack Wachtendorf     | <i>Jack Wachtendorf</i>   | City of Arlington                     |
| James Whitt          |                           | City of Euless                        |
| Billy Williams       |                           | City of Coppell                       |
| Kristy Woodard       |                           | City of Frisco                        |

