



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Water Resources Council

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

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. Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas: Workforce Partners. Jacob Jimenez, Senior Workforce Development & Industry Coordinator, NCTCOG, will present on workforce development activities underway to support the water industry. Meeting attendees will be invited to discuss tactics to protect and grow the water sector workforce, and will share any challenges encountered in preparing the sector for future generations.

Jacob Jimenez, NCTCOG, discussed ways the WRC members can collaborate with NCTCOG's Workforce Solutions Department to grow and retain a sustainable water sector workforce. His presentation, beginning on slide 6 of the [meeting presentation slide deck](#), highlighted that the water utilities industry is projected to experience slower growth over the next five years than in previous years. Jacob and meeting participants discussed practical workforce solutions, such as greater connections with educational pipelines and developing career pathways to promote retention. Michael Nieswiadomy, University of North Texas, asked how AI will impact workforce projections, and the discussion centered around how AI can be used to enhance the workforce model further, rather than replace talent. Billy George, North Texas Municipal Water District, asked about resources to facilitate conversations with K-12 educators and community colleges, and Jacob discussed those resources more in depth. Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, discussed his experience working with Lewisville ISD to employ high school students in the summer as a pipeline to fill entry-level positions upon graduation.

ACTION ITEMS

3. Meeting Summary. The [April 22, 2026](#) meeting summary will be presented for approval.

Bill Gase, City of Arlington, made a motion to approve the minutes. Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. FY2027 Water Resources Council Membership. The FY2027 roster, recommended by the FY2027 Ad Hoc Nominations Subcommittee, will be presented to the WRC for approval. The WRC will also vote on the WRC Chair and Vice-Chair. Pending WRC approval, the FY2027 WRC roster will be presented to NCTCOG's Executive Board for approval at its meeting on September 24, 2026. FY2027 membership terms begin on October 1, 2026.

616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two
P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, Texas 76005-5888
(817) 640-3300 FAX: 817-640-7806
www.nctcog.org

NCTCOG presented the list of reappointments and new appointments recommended by the Ad Hoc Nominations Subcommittee for the FY2027 roster. Billy George, North Texas Municipal Water District, made a motion to approve the roster. Kevin Mercer, Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 6 & 7, provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

The WRC was asked to provide nominations from the floor for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for FY2027. Taylor Alvarez, City of Watauga, nominated himself for the Vice-Chair position. Kevin Mercer, Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 6 & 7, nominated Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, for the Chair position. Bill Gase, City of Arlington, moved to install Taylor as Vice-Chair and Larry as Chair, respectively. Kevin Mercer, Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 6 & 7, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Draft 2026 Update to the North Central Texas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). Comments received on the [Draft 2026 WQMP](#) during the public comment period will be summarized and the WRC will vote to locally adopt the Draft 2026 WQMP, pending any revisions needed based on public comments. If approved by the WRC, the Draft 2026 WQMP will be recommended for endorsement by NCTCOG's Executive Board at its meeting on August 27, 2026.

NCTCOG presented the final elements incorporated into the Draft 2026 WQMP and reviewed all comments received on the plan during the WQMP public comment period (May 20- June 22, 2026). Stephanie Griffin, Halff, asked how the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II web accessibility rules will impact the current and future WQMP StoryMaps. NCTCOG stated they are working with its department's communication specialist to ensure compliance with federal requirements. Stephanie also encouraged NCTCOG to revise the symbology on the Wastewater Outfall map to display current and pending permits more easily. Stephanie additionally asked the council if the "This is Texas Water" campaign, newly launched by the Texas Water Development Board, should be included in the Water Conservation section of the plan. Susan Alvarez, NCTCOG, stated that the plan should include this new campaign, and Kevin Mercer, Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 6 & 7, agreed.

Kevin Mercer, Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 6 & 7, made a motion to locally adopt the Draft 2026 WQMP. Stephanie Griffin, Halff, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

6. Water Resources Council Bylaws Revisions. Environment and Development committees will undergo a review of bylaws in FY2027 to determine where updates may be needed. The WRC will determine the strategy to use to complete the review.

NCTCOG stated that in FY2027, the WRC bylaws will be reviewed to determine if updates are needed and confirmed that NCTCOG's legal team has already been asked to conduct an internal review. The WRC was presented with several options for review, and the floor was opened for more suggestions. The proposed suggestions were: 1) enact a Bylaws Revision subcommittee, which would suggest updates to the WRC at a future meeting; 2) review the bylaws corporately during a future WRC meeting; or 3) let NCTCOG's legal team solely determine the updates needed. Bill Gase, City of Arlington, recommended creating a subcommittee. Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, agreed, with the expectation that NCTCOG's legal review would be the first step in the process. To allow new members to be a part of the discussion, the WRC will formally vote to enact the subcommittee at the October meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

7. NCTCOG Updates. NCTCOG will update the WRC on recent and upcoming items of interest.

a. NCTCOG Training and Development Institute (TDI).

- TDI is in search of paid instructors interested in providing training courses for the Class D Water and Wastewater Operators Licenses. Contact Emily Cook at ecook@nctcog.org for more information.

b. Total Maximum Daily Load Meetings and Updates.

- Now available! [2025 TMDL Annual Program Summary](#).

c. 27th Annual Public Works Roundup. Thursday, August 20, 2026; Hurst Convention Center. [Registration is now open](#).

d. NCTCOG Webinar: *A Garden State: Stewarding Water Resources through Community Agriculture*. Tuesday, August 25, 2026; 10:00 a.m. [Register here](#)

e. 2026 TCEQ Free Public Drinking Water Conference. August 4-5, 2026; Online and in-person. Renaissance Austin Hotel, Austin, TX. [Register here](#).

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

NCTCOG stated that there would be a presentation from Michael Kivlan, Mustang Special Utility District, at the October meeting on the district's direct potable reuse pilot. NCTCOG also stated that the WRC would fine-tune the messaging of water conservation billboards at the October meeting and invited members to bring Conservation Specialists from their agencies to weigh in. Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, invited the WRC on a tour of Lake Ralph Hall, which recently closed its dam. He stated that the tour would be a separate activity apart from scheduled WRC meetings. He also requested consistent items on available funding, especially funding tied to the state water plan. NCTCOG also offered to host a Workforce Development Roundtable at the January meeting to further facilitate conversations on water industry growth and retention.

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

- Taylor Alvarez, City of Watauga, stated they are working on maintaining water conservation through code enforcement and will be installing AMI meters in the coming months.
- Billy George, North Texas Municipal Water District, shared that the district is celebrating its 75th anniversary of service. Additionally, the district recently held a dedication for the Sister Grove Water Resource Recovery Facility, which will be undergoing a phase two expansion soon.
- Stephanie Griffin, Halff, encouraged others to engage with Texas Water Development Board's new state water conservation campaign, [This is Texas Water](#).
- Michael Nieswiadomy, University of North Texas, expressed concerns about greening waterbodies as opposed to decades past.
- Larry Patterson, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, reported they have closed the dam on Lake Ralph Hall. He also promoted the "[Trinity Trio](#)", an animated cartoon series

developed by the district to support water conservation. Larry praised the City of Celina for going “above and beyond” in water conservation efforts to accommodate its population growth.

- Stacy Walters, City of Fort Worth, thanked NCTCOG for years of partnership to commemorate her last meeting before retiring this fall.
- Kevin Mercer, Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 6 & 7, shared the district is celebrating its 25th anniversary of service and is participating in a meter change-out program, in hopes of seeing more accurately where the twice-a-week watering model is most effective.

10. Next Meeting. The next WRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026, and will be held in person at the NCTCOG offices. [Add to Calendar](#)

11. Adjournment.

Additional NCTCOG Meetings of Interest

- a. **Wastewater and Treatment Education Roundtable (WATER)-** [Add to Calendar](#)
- b. **Public Works Council-** [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.

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 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.