

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

iSWM Implementation Subcommittee

Wednesday, July 15, 2026
1:30 p.m. Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Chair: Ranjan Muttiah, City of Fort Worth
Vice Chair: Travis Attanasio, City of Burleson

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendance:

Al Zito- Big Bear Creek Corridor Stormwater/Flooding Coalition
Amesha Morris- Acorn EnviroComply
Christi Upton - NCTCOG
Emilie Fryksater - NCTCOG
Erin Blackman - NCTCOG
Madisson Dunn - NCTCOG
Grace Darling – The Nature Conservancy
Hannah Nyquist – City of Southlake
Katie Hunter - NCTCOG
Keara Brown - NCTCOG
Logan Brownfield – Halff Associates
Randy Bright - Colleyville
Ranjan Muttiah – City of Fort Worth
Randy Peterman – Half Associates
Stephanie Griffin – Halff Associates
Susan Alvarez - NCTCOG
Sherry Berman - Big Bear Creek Corridor Coalition
Travis Attanasio- Burleson

ACTION ITEMS

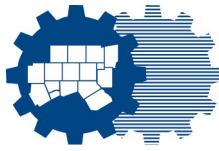
2. **Approval of April 13, 2026, Meeting Summary.** The meeting summary will be presented to the subcommittee for approval: [Summary](#)

Ranjan Muttiah asked for a motion to approve. Amesha Morris made a motion to approve the meeting summary. Ranjan seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **FY26 Work Program Update** Randy Peterman (Halff Associates) will provide updates on the FY26 iSWM work program and suggested FY27 work program tasks.

Randy provided an update on Tasks 4 and 6, both of which have been completed since the last meeting. He discussed the Technical Case Studies effort, which focused on researching proprietary inlet protection devices to provide municipalities with information to consider when making decisions, rather than recommending specific products. The resulting information will be uploaded to the website. A major takeaway from the research was the difficulty in finding studies that met all the criteria needed by decision-makers. Many papers did not identify the specific brands or products being evaluated, a significant portion of the research was more than 10 years



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old and examined products that are no longer available, and findings were often vague, inconsistent, or contradictory. Randy noted the need for an independent testing agency that could evaluate and report standardized performance measures such as ponding depth and duration. While not recommending any products, he highlighted a few notable findings: Auburn University studies found that the Silt Saver round-base frame was consistently dislodged and damaged, while the square-base frame remained intact but allowed water to bypass the device. Additionally, a 2010 Central Florida study found that an UltraTech International inlet protection product did not have a tendency to fall into the inlet, included an emergency overflow feature, and was brightly colored, making it less likely to create traffic hazards. Overall, the research underscored the need for more publicly available information on inlet protection performance.

Randy also provided an update on Task Order #4, the "Modernization of the iSWM Program." The project team developed 10 scopes of work and associated fee estimates based on stakeholder feedback gathered through surveys, sticky-dot exercises, and other outreach activities. Proposed modernization efforts include manual updates and workshops, as well as a review of the Community Characteristics Index (CCI), which has not been comprehensively evaluated in approximately eight years. The effort also examined which practices are most commonly adopted and identified opportunities to improve how information is organized and presented on the iSWM website.

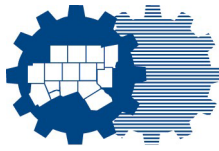
During the discussion, Amesha asked about the list of BMP specifications included in the review. Randy explained that the initial focus was on inlet protection devices for grate inlets, but the research was expanded to include curb inlet devices due to the limited amount of available information. Amesha noted that the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) conducts regional BMP field days and testing demonstrations that may provide useful information not yet captured in formal research. She also mentioned that Texas A&M conducts BMP research and has discussed hosting regional events. Katie concluded the discussion by noting that the FY26 Work Program tasks have been completed and referred the group to Slides 15 and 16 for additional details.

4. FY27 Work Plan Task Survey Results The Subcommittee will discuss the results of the prioritization survey for the FY27 iSWM work plan tasks

Katie Hunter reported that NCTCOG conducted a survey and received nine responses from stakeholders. The survey results were used to identify and prioritize areas of interest for future work, with the highest-priority items summarized on Slide 17. These results will help guide upcoming efforts by highlighting the topics and needs that stakeholders consider most important for the region.

5. FY27 Work Plan Task Items The subcommittee will review and discuss the draft FY27 work program tasks and vote to approve.

Christi explained that comments and feedback on iSWM have been collected over several years, and staff are working to develop a more holistic understanding of what updates are needed. The goal is to hold a workshop that brings together all previously collected feedback, along with comments from TSI and other sources, to identify and prioritize specific improvements to the program. Following the workshop, a working group would be established to address the highest-priority items. Regarding CCI updates, Christi noted that many local governments have adopted iSWM criteria but have not sought formal designations. Because communities are often influenced by neighboring jurisdictions, staff are exploring replacing the current designation system with a StoryMap that would clearly show which communities have adopted specific criteria



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and where more stringent requirements exist. Tasks 3 through 7 of the work program will be continued into FY27.

During the discussion, Ranjan asked what was envisioned for the workshop. Christi explained that the intent is to compile all feedback received over the years and present it to a diverse group of iSWM users, including planners, landscape architects, engineers, and floodplain administrators. The objective is not to solve every issue during the workshop, but rather to identify the most critical needs, develop a prioritized list of improvements, and establish a working group to help advance those efforts. When Ranjan asked whether multiple workshops were planned, Christi said additional discussions would be needed to determine the best format. Sue, who participated in the development of the original iSWM manual, noted that industry practices have evolved significantly since the manual was created and that what practitioners are doing today is not always reflected in the current guidance. She suggested an initial workshop to identify update needs, followed by smaller working group meetings and potentially another workshop later in the process. Sue also emphasized the need for training, particularly since many of the original iSWM participants are no longer involved and newer staff may not be familiar with the program.

Amesha asked how participation in the workshop would be incentivized and suggested offering continuing education units (CEUs) or professional development hours (PDHs). She also raised questions about whether updates would address both the technical manual and training materials. Christi responded that these topics could be part of the workshop discussion and that additional input is needed to determine the types of guidance and documentation stakeholders find most valuable. Amesha stressed that advertising opportunities to earn CEUs and PDHs could help increase participation.

The discussion also touched on budget challenges and the future of the CCI program. Sue noted that many municipal budgets are currently constrained and shared that a City of Dallas and TNC study found that green stormwater infrastructure can cost approximately 25% of the cost of comparable gray infrastructure. Ranjan asked whether the peer certification and designation approach should be discontinued and what would replace it. Christi explained that the proposed StoryMap would provide a more transparent and user-friendly way to display community adoption of iSWM criteria, including maps, descriptions, and information about varying levels of stringency. Instead of communities reporting to NCTCOG for recognition, users could directly view adoption information and compare neighboring jurisdictions. When Ranjan asked how the information would be maintained over time, Christi said the committee would need to help determine a long-term maintenance strategy, but the immediate goal is to begin developing the tool. Katie added that a planned website domain transfer should make it easier to update website content in a timely manner. Al Zito suggested that before abandoning the bronze, silver, and gold designation structure, staff should ask communities why they are not applying for recognition, as the issue may simply be a lack of understanding by local staff. Ranjan also recommended increased outreach through events such as Public Works Roundup and suggested distributing promotional materials to encourage greater participation by communities. Travis briefly asked about transitioning the program under stormwater-related efforts.

Following the discussion, Ranjan requested a vote to approve the FY27 Work Program task list. Travis made the motion, and Grace Darling seconded it.

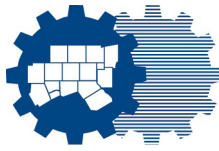
The FY27 Work Plan was approved by the iSWM subcommittee.

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. iSWM Implementation Subcommittee Update

Christi Upton explained that NCTCOG has recognized that iSWM implementation has been associated with the Public Works Council (PWC) for many years, but because the iSWM Manual has significant MS4 permit implications, it may make sense for the Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council (RSWMCC) to have a stronger role in its oversight. The topic was discussed at a recent PWC meeting, and no concerns were raised. Christi noted that the matter will be discussed further at the August 18 RSWMCC meeting and encouraged interested

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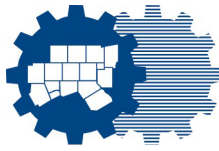
parties to either attend the meeting or provide comments to NCTCOG. She emphasized that there are no plans to change the iSWM Implementation Subcommittee itself, which would remain an active and engaged group focused on the iSWM Manual and implementation efforts. Ranjan noted that many iSWM Subcommittee members, particularly development review staff in Fort Worth, are housed within Public Works departments, which has historically tied iSWM to the public works community. Christi responded that Fort Worth already participates in RSWMCC through a voting member and would have an opportunity to share its position during the upcoming discussion. She added that RSWMCC task forces generally designate one representative from each committee to participate. Ranjan also expressed concern about low participation levels in iSWM and questioned whether the proposed shift could improve engagement and strengthen the value proposition. Christi highlighted that one of the most valuable aspects of iSWM is its guidance on post-construction controls, including green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and nature-based solutions (NBS). Because MS4 permits specifically reference these types of controls and require communities to establish ordinances and standards, she suggested greater coordination between the iSWM Subcommittee and the post-construction task force, using the iSWM Manual as a common set of criteria. Ranjan further expressed concern about membership representation and requested that NCTCOG actively seek feedback from current iSWM participants before any decisions are made. Christi stated that multiple communications have already been distributed and that an additional message would be sent to ensure members are aware that this topic will be discussed at the RSWMCC meeting and to encourage further comments. Ranjan also emphasized the importance of maintaining equitable member contributions similar to the current PWC structure and ensuring that appropriate funding mechanisms and consultant support remain available. Sue noted that both PWC and RSWMCC are publicly funded organizations and suggested that if iSWM were moved from the Public Works program area to the Regional Stormwater Management Program, funding allocations could shift, potentially resulting in additional funding for Public Works and corresponding reductions for stormwater initiatives. When Ranjan asked whether a dedicated budget amount would continue to be allocated to iSWM, Sue indicated that the funding would likely remain approximately the same. Grace then asked if anyone present objected to the concept, while Katie encouraged members to contact NCTCOG staff directly with questions or concerns so they could be brought forward during the upcoming discussions. As a final suggestion, Sue recommended distributing a simple Google poll with a yes/no response option to gather broader stakeholder input.

7. **Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council Update** NCTCOG will provide an update on the FY26 Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Council Work Program.

Christi provided reminders about upcoming meetings and shared an update on the Construction/Post-Construction (C/PC) Task Force. She explained that the task force is focused on identifying training opportunities, sharing lessons learned related to construction and post-construction stormwater management practices, and improving coordination and information sharing among communities and stakeholders. Christi noted that the group is also presenting its overall work plan, which will help guide future efforts and priorities for the task force.

8. **Regional Public Works Program Update** NCTCOG will provide an update on the FY26 Regional Public Works Program.

Madisson Dunn Provided updates on the Public Works Committee noting upcoming events including the Public Works Round up and that there will be a stormwater track in the after.



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OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

9. Upcoming Events and Conferences

Katie went through upcoming events and opportunities sharing the TWDB Nature-based solution manual public comment period is open and encouraged the group to participate with the comment period closing July 20th.

11. Upcoming NCTCOG Meetings

12. Future Agenda Items and Schedule for the Next iSWM Meeting (October_, 2026- In Person at NCTCOG Offices)

13. Roundtable Discussion

Travis opened the discussion by echoing others' comments regarding the recent rainfall events and reminded communities to ensure that inspectors remain active in the field. He noted that inspection activities can sometimes become less rigorous during the summer months, making it especially important to stay vigilant and identify any issues resulting from the recent storms.

Grace then asked for updates related to stormwater treatment and reuse. In response, Amesha Morris raised the possibility of incorporating additional sustainability frameworks into existing guidance documents, specifically mentioning the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision program. Sue explained that Envision is similar to LEED but is designed for horizontal and civil infrastructure projects. She shared a resource link in the meeting chat and noted that the program promotes sustainable site design and infrastructure planning. <https://sustainableinfrastructure.org/>

Amesha asked whether these concepts were already included within iSWM. Sue responded that Envision is a separate program and that while there are many overlapping terms and approaches, Envision encompasses many practices already familiar to stormwater professionals, including green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and low-impact development (LID). She also mentioned that she could locate a previous presentation on the topic and noted that the City of Dallas had at one time included requirements for projects to be certifiable under the Envision program. Katie added that Randy may have a valuable contact who could provide a future presentation on Envision and its applications.

Katie concluded the discussion by reminding attendees about the survey previously mentioned regarding the potential transition of iSWM oversight from the Public Works Council (PWC) to the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSWMP), noting that the survey would be distributed to gather stakeholder input on the proposed change.

ADJOURNMENT

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Christi Upton at (817) 704-2529 or cupton@nctcog.org or Katie Hunter at (817) 695-9102 or khunter@nctcog.org.