

## North Central Texas Council of Governments

### MEETING SUMMARY

iSWM Implementation Subcommittee  
integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program

Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Chair:** Ranjan Muttiah, City of Fort Worth

**Vice Chair:** Travis Attanasio, City of Burleson

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

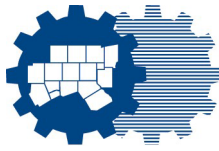
2. **Approval of January 29, 2025, Meeting Summary.** The meeting summary will be presented to the Subcommittee for approval: [Summary](#)  
Ranjan Muttiah (City of Fort Worth) motioned to approve the meeting summary, and Jerry Cotter (UTA) seconded the motion. With no opposition, the meeting summary was approved.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **Selection of SW3P Instructor.** NCTCOG's Training & Development Institute seeks guidance on selecting the next SW3P instructor. (Emily Cook, NCTCOG Training & Development Institute)  
The NCTCOG Training & Development Institute is seeking guidance on selecting a new SW3P instructor as Lee Stimpson (Consultant) prepares for gradual retirement. Lee, who has taught the course for years, emphasized the need for an instructor with both inspection and planning experience. Emily Cook outlined flexibility in the training schedule, suggesting two sessions per year and possibly using larger venues. Attendees agreed that summer sessions, especially in August, see low attendance, while November and February or June are better options. Stephanie Griffin (Halff) recommended aligning sessions with TCEQ's audit calendar, as participation tends to rise when audits are active. Posting a job description on the iSWM website and launching a campaign for instructor recommendations were proposed. Lee noted it's hard to find someone with deep iSWM experience, but past instructors like Jeff Rice (former NCTCOG staff) could serve as a model for the role.
4. **Alternative Grate Inlet Protection Presentation.** An overview of alternative grate inlet protection. (Jennifer Rovezzi, City of Denton)  
The City of Denton is currently in the process of updating its development code and land-disturbing section. Jennifer shared insights on how they arrived at prohibiting curb inlet protections, noting that the update process involves coordination across development services and includes public comment opportunities. Their last major update, which spanned 16 months in 2024, introduced significant changes—particularly in Section 4 on water quality. They aligned post-construction requirements with North Carolina's standards and formally prohibited the use of filter tube inlet protections, especially at curbs, due to recurring issues such as flooding and improper installation.

While there's no specific curb-related language in the ordinance, inlet protection in general is disallowed. Attempts to tie enforcement to permit fees were blocked by legal counsel. Currently, three versions of construction drawings are in circulation: iSWM, public works, and an addendum version. Jennifer clarified that these versions vary slightly—primarily in how notes are presented—but acknowledged the confusion it causes.

Jennifer and Lee emphasized that many of these inlet protections, especially organic filter tubes, degrade quickly or are misused—leading to hazards like road flooding. Jennifer expressed



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frustration with the lack of viable alternatives for grate inlet protection on hardscapes. While iSWM technically allows for proprietary technologies, few are used due to stringent requirements. She suggested exploring new designs with positive overflow mechanisms as more reliable options.

A broader issue is the absence of protocols for timely removal of inlet protections when they become safety hazards. Jennifer mentioned Denton doesn't currently have a notification system in place, but flooding risks may override Clean Water Act considerations under legal health and safety grounds. Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) mentioned the need to involve legal counsel, especially for ETJ and annexation areas, where enforcement authority varies.

Epic Shield and specific flooding concerns at Razor Ranch and North Lakes were also referenced as motivators behind large detention requirements. Jennifer noted that most public feedback during the last update came from a small group of concerned citizens, while developers remained mostly silent, likely due to ongoing open lines of communication.

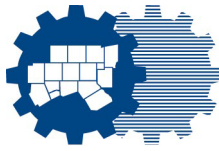
Finally, the group touched on issues with improper inlet protection installations, such as using sandbags, and confusion stemming from the new general permit's dewatering requirements—where some mistakenly assume they must dewater without adequate treatment measures.

5. **FY25 Work Program Update.** NCTCOG & Halff Associates, Inc. will provide updates on FY25 task deliverables and discuss survey results. (Halff Associates)  
Randy Peterman (Halff) provided an update on their task order progress, summarizing what has been completed and what is planned moving forward. All deliverables will be posted to the website. He focused on Task 4, which centers on developing an approach for a BMP (Best Management Practices) monitoring program. The goal is to create a list of guiding questions and a brief overview of what to consider before and during implementation. They hope to eventually use Rayzor Ranch as a case study.

The objectives of the monitoring program include assessing BMP effectiveness, determining whether criteria are being met, and understanding how effectiveness varies across different conditions. Key considerations include access to monitoring sites, which BMPs to study, and whether to monitor sites at the beginning, middle, or end of a treatment train. There's also discussion around modeling, water quality parameters, and the reliability of statistical analyses. Approximately half of the effort moving forward will continue this research.

Ranjan Muttiah asked whether major BMP certification agencies require both lab and field testing for BMPs like bioretention. Sam Sarker (Halff) responded that the current focus is on traditional, non-proprietary BMPs, and noted that the EPA manual is being updated. He suggested this project serves as a benchmarking effort to evaluate regional BMP performance, including those in ISWM, and that findings could be added to the region's data set.

Sue Alvarez highlighted the importance of defining qualifying storms and the need for stormwater and industrial permit alignment. She noted that there's little ISDB data for DFW and suggested consulting Dr. Jaber (AgriLife) for additional data or insights. Ranjan pointed out the challenge of calculating pollutant loading rates in isolated public right-of-way sites. Sam mentioned that in development areas, trash accumulation can interfere with BMP functionality. Sue emphasized the need to consider how BMPs affect bacteria levels. Randy then shared findings from Task 5,



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which included a survey on inlet protection. Results showed varied use of types and brands, with no clear preference and a range of challenges.

For Task 7, Randy discussed ensuring that riser structures and activities in Task 9—like tree planting in detention ponds—align with water quality goals. Ranjan asked about tree maintenance guidance, and Randy clarified that it applies to all areas, not just detention ponds. Though they haven't tested rural applications, Randy believes the guidance is broadly applicable. Mike Linder (City of Denton) brought up carbon sequestration, suggesting a balance be considered between carbon used to produce and transport trees versus the carbon they store. Ranjan mentioned that tools to evaluate this are available in the public domain.

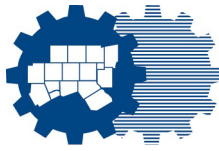
6. **FY26 Work Program Task Items.** The subcommittee will discuss potential FY26 task items to be voted on in July. (Ranjan Muttiah, City of Fort Worth)  
Due to time constraints, this topic will be carried over and discussed in the next meeting.
7. **iSWM Manual Update.** The subcommittee will discuss desired short-term and long-term updates to the iSWM Manual. (Kate Zielke, NCTCOG)  
Due to time constraints, this topic will be carried over and discussed in the next meeting.
8. **iSWM Website Update.** The subcommittee will discuss website analytics and the desired short-term and long-term updates to the iSWM website. (Kate Zielke, NCTCOG)  
Kate briefly reviewed the website analytics, highlighting some important details. As of April 2, 2025, the website has accumulated over 42,000 total page views since April 1, 2023. This includes all pages on the site, with the technical manual page accounting for nearly half of the total views. There was a notable spike on August 3, 2024, with 2,400 page views in one day, while on other days, page views typically range from 0 to 100.
9. **Sticky Dot Exercise.** The subcommittee will use a Sticky Dot exercise to discuss desired short-term and long-term updates to the iSWM Manual and website. (Katie Hunter, NCTCOG)  
Due to time constraints, this topic will be carried over and discussed in the next meeting.

### INFORMATION ITEMS

10. **Regional Public Works Program Update.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the FY25 Regional Public Works Program. (Kate Zielke, NCTCOG)  
Kate Zielke mentioned the upcoming Public Works Council Meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2025, at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams. More details can be found on the NCTCOG website at [www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/public-works-council](http://www.nctcog.org/envir/committees/public-works-council).

Additionally, attendees were encouraged to save the date for the 26th Annual Public Works Roundup, which will be held on September 4, 2025, at the Hurst Conference Center. More information is available at <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/publicworks/annual-public-works-roundup>. The Call for Presentations will be sent out in May, and the Call for Sponsors was distributed in early April.

11. **NCTCOG TMDL Program Update.** NCTCOG will provide an update for the FY25 TMDL Program. (Kate Zielke, NCTCOG)  
Kate Zielke briefly gave a TMDL program update. The TMDL Implementation Strategies are currently under revision. The Education and Outreach Task Force Meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2025, at 1:30 PM. Additional feedback on all implementation strategies is being sought through May 2025. The revised strategies are expected to be published for further review in Fall 2025. The Annual TMDL Coordination Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 19, 2025, at 9:30 AM.



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12. **Integrated Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure Study Update.** NCTCOG will describe the study and its relevance to iSWM. (Kate Zielke, NCTCOG)  
Due to time constraints, this topic will be carried over and discussed in the next meeting.

### OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNTABLE DISCUSSION

13. **Upcoming Events and Conferences**

The FEMA L0278 Community Rating System (CRS) course will be held from August 11-14, 2025, from 8 AM to 5 PM at the NCTCOG offices. This course provides an overview of activities eligible for credit under the 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual, explains how a community applies for credit, and offers guidance on modifying an application to improve its CRS classification. Registration for the course is available online at <https://nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/crs-usergroup/l0278-nfip-crs-course>.

The TSI County Watershed Workshop is scheduled for a date to be determined and will be held in a hybrid format at the NCTCOG offices.

The TSI Technical Advisory Group Meeting will take place on May 1, 2025, from 2 PM to 3:30 PM via Virtual Teams Meeting. You can add the event to your calendar using this link: <https://www.addevent.com/event/cd25370874>.

14. **Upcoming NCTCOG Meetings**

Joint TMDL Stormwater & Wastewater Subcommittee Meeting: June 19, 2025 at 9:30 AM  
Regional Stormwater Management Coordinating Committee: May 21, 2025 at 9:30 AM

15. **Future Agenda Items and Schedule for the Next iSWM Meeting** (July 15, 1:30-3:30pm)  
In person

16. **Roundtable Discussion**

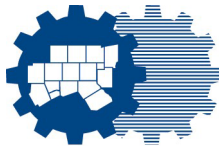
During the roundtable, the group suggested a few topics to explore in more detail at the next meeting. These included Pocket iSWM, mobile accessibility, and the possibility of adding the Pocket Guide to the list of sticky dot ideas. Additionally, a reminder was made to notify the TMDL team that June 19 is a holiday.

### ADJOURNMENT

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Kate Zielke at (817) 695-9227 or [kzielke@nctcog.org](mailto:kzielke@nctcog.org).

### Attendance

Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG
Cameron Anderson	City of Dallas
Travis Attanasio	City of Burleson
Erin Blackman	NCTCOG
Jerry Cotter	UTA
Radwan Dalu	City of Dallas



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Stephanie Griffin	Halff
Katie Hunter	NCTCOG
Mike Linder	City of Denton
Jose Lopez	City of Dallas
Ranjan Muttiah	City of Fort Worth
Adam Parsons	City of Denton
Randy Peterman	Halff
Jennifer Rovezzi	City of Denton
Chris Rowland	Texas Concrete Products
Sam Sarker	Halff
Lee Stimpson	Consultant
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG

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