

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee (UTRB-CC)

9:30 AM, Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Virtual Meeting

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Upper Trinity River Basin Coordinating Committee Overview.** NCTCOG will provide a brief background on the purpose of the UTRB-CC.

Joy Douglas (NCTCOG) mentioned that the purpose of the UTRB-CC is to gather stakeholders to share information, successes, challenges, and updates on projects that impact water quality and bacteria. The UTRB-CC is scheduled to meet twice a year and features a member or topic presentation and project update/roundtable session. NCTCOG's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program supports the UTRB-CC.

3. **Special Presentation:** Flood Control Prioritization Mapping and Green Stormwater Infrastructure Modeling, Dr. Fouad Jaber, Texas A&M AgriLife

Dr. Fouad Jaber's presentation included an overview of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), development of a stacking model to identify flood prone areas, and SWAT modeling to identify ideal locations for GSI implementation. These analyses are focused on the western watersheds of NCTCOG's Integrating Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure project study area (www.nctcog.org/tsi).

The stacking model is a GIS analysis of characteristics such as elevation, slope, precipitation, stream density, etc. to create a flood susceptibility map to identify areas that are more prone to flooding now and into the future (2045). The potential for flooding will significantly increase across the watersheds in the future. A vulnerability map was also developed, which looked at information such as road and bridge traffic density, etc. These maps were then combined to create a flood control prioritization map.

The presentation also detailed SWAT modeling to simulate the impact of GSI, which is shown to significantly reduce flooding when strategically placed. A case study from Dallas demonstrated how small watersheds were assessed for flooding under 2-, 10-, and 100-year storm events, and classified by flood risk. Although future infrastructure locations for the TSI area (e.g., 2070 conditions) are not yet known, rules were developed to guide GSI placement—such as using 10% of parks and trails for bioretention.

4. **Special Presentation:** Watershed Protection Assistance for TRWD's Water Supply Reservoirs, Aaron Hoff, Tarrant Regional Water District

Aaron Hoff's presentation included an overview of TRWD's services, why raw water providers care about wildlife habitat and agricultural lands, and the importance of preserving open space.

A raw water provider like TRWD cares about wildlife habitat and agricultural lands because these areas play a crucial role in maintaining healthy watersheds and ensuring long-term water quality and supply. TRWD serves nearly 80 cities and about 2.5 million end users, and its operations span largely rural watersheds where preserving ground cover and root systems helps reduce runoff, erosion, and sedimentation in reservoirs—ultimately protecting water storage capacity. The district invests in wastewater reuse projects and works closely with local partners like Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to provide technical assistance, cost-sharing, and education.

TRWD supports initiatives that align with local values, such as the bobwhite quail recovery effort, which encourages conservation through heritage-based incentives. In urban areas, TRWD addresses challenges from increased impervious cover and flooding by implementing GSI and demonstrating best management practices (BMPs) through projects like RainScapes and constructed wetlands. Their approach integrates open space as infrastructure to mimic natural processes and promote sustainable communities.

TRWD also participates in the TSI study that Dr. Jaber introduced previously. TRWD engages stakeholders to identify context-sensitive solutions and explore incentives for restoration and conservation, aiming to shift perceptions of stormwater from a nuisance to a valuable resource.

5. Project Updates. Member discussion of ongoing and planned activities.

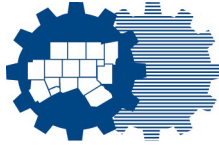
- **North Central Texas Council of Governments**
NCTCOG is working on updating the Implementation Plan in its entirety and has completed the first round of stakeholder engagement meetings. There will be a meeting scheduled in October 2025 to give an update on the Implementation Plan strategies and next steps.

Other upcoming NCTCOG Meetings:

- TSI Project Update Meeting: September 15, 2025 at 10:00 AM, Weatherford College: Workforce and Emerging Technologies Building
- TSI Project Update Meeting: September 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM, Burleson City Hall
- TSI Project Update Meeting: September 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM, Decatur Conference Center
- TSI Project Update Meeting: October 1, 2025 at 10:00 AM, Denton County Southwest Courthouse
- Water Resources Council: October 15, 2025 at 10:30 AM, NCTCOG Offices
- Stormwater Public Education Task Force: November 2025
- Joint Pollution Prevention/Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Task Forces: November 2025

All events hosted by NCTCOG can be found at www.nctcog.org/envir/Events.

- **City of Arlington**
No updates were provided.
- **City of Dallas**
No updates were provided.
- **City of Fort Worth**
Nixalis Benitez mentioned no updates at this time.



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- City of Grand Prairie
No updates were provided.
- City of Irving
No updates were provided.
- City of Plano
No updates were provided.
- North Texas Municipal Water District
Lauren Plunk mentioned NTMWD is working on a strategic plan for watersheds in North Texas, including a stakeholder survey to inform this strategic direction. Lauren reminded the group that the Exemplary Source Water Protection Award through AWWA is opening earlier and will be live at the end of September.
- Tarrant Regional Water District
Aaron Hoff mentioned TRWD is finalizing activities for the Eagle Mountain Watershed Protection Plan (WPP), with the goal to submit to the State for review in the Fall. The Richland Chambers WPP has been rewritten and is ready to submit to the State for review soon as well. Both WPPs will then likely be ready for EPA's review before Spring.
- Texas A&M AgriLife
Dr. Jaber indicated AgriLife is awaiting approval from the Texas Water Development Board and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the Rowlett Creek WPP that was submitted on June 25, 2025. They also received funding for White Rock Lake/Creek characterization for 3 years via a 319 grant. This grant will hopefully lead to the development of a WPP for this area.
- Trinity River Authority
Heather Firm mentioned TRA received funding for their septic project, with the goal to replace septic systems. The report is projected to be completed by August 2026. TRA is also working on an urban BMP project to install up to four rain gardens to support the Lake Arlington WPP. TRA expects to begin work soon and invited the UTRB-CC for a site visit next March. Finally, TRA is working to implement a rain garden in each city around Joe Pool Lake.
- Upper Trinity Regional Water District
No updates were provided.

6. Roundtable. Discussion of watershed-level challenges.

Heather Firm asked the group for resources for GSI for hazard mitigation plans. Dr. Jaber provided a link to Denton County's Hazard Mitigation Plan for reference (<https://agrilife.org/lid/files/2021/11/Incorporating-Green-Infrastructure-into-the-Denton-County-Texas-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan.pdf>).

7. Schedule for the next meeting. The next UTRB-CC meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2026. The location for this meeting is to be determined.

8. Adjournment

This meeting summary was drafted with assistance from artificial intelligence and was reviewed by NCTCOG staff.

Sign-In Sheet

NAME	REPRESENTS
Nixalis Benitez	City of Fort Worth
Kyle Wright	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jessie Dermier	Tarrant Regional Water District
Nicole Reed	Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Erin Blackman	NCTCOG
Joy Douglas	NCTCOG
Heather Firn	Trinity River Authority
Angela Kilpatrick	Trinity River Authority
Samantha Gonzales	Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Aaron Hoff	Tarrant Regional Water District
Fouad Jaber	Texas A&M AgriLife
Larissa Knapp-Scott	LJA Engineering
Alyssa Knox	NCTCOG
Katie Myers	Tarrant Regional Water District
Laura Plunk	North Texas Municipal Water District
Rachel Ritcher	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Carlye Rehmann	City of Plano
Yinan Zhang	Texas A&M AgriLife
Yufan Zhang	Texas A&M AgriLife
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG