

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Presentation**

#### **New Directions for Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM): Using an Outcome-Based Strategy to Encourage Participation in North Texas**

### **Presenters**

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The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) leads the integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program in North Texas. It is a cooperative initiative that assists cities and counties to achieve their goals of water quality protection, streambank protection, and flood mitigation, while also helping communities meet their construction and post-construction obligations under state stormwater permits.

Development and redevelopment by their nature increase the amount of imperviousness in our surrounding environment. This increased imperviousness translates into loss of natural areas, more sources for pollution in runoff, and heightened flooding risks. To help mitigate these impacts, more than 60 local governments are cooperating to proactively create sound stormwater management guidance for the region through the iSWM Program.

The iSWM Criteria Manual for Site Development and Construction contains criteria that cities and counties may use as a component of their stormwater management related development regulations. The Manual contains criteria to address and manage the water quality, streambank protection, storm water conveyance, and flood control issues associated with development and redevelopment. The criteria may be customized by local governments to meet specific local needs; however, communities must meet a minimum level of implementation and execute a License Agreement with NCTCOG to adopt and implement the iSWM Criteria Manual. To date, thirteen communities have adopted the iSWM Criteria Manual, but dozens have not.

NCTCOG is now establishing an outcome-focused iSWM Program, where entities can become iSWM members by meeting certain outcome-based criteria either through the adoption of the iSWM Criteria Manual or through the implementation of their own criteria and ordinances. The current process for an entity to become an iSWM community is to obtain a License Agreement from NCTCOG, which involves meeting several conditions, including the adoption of the iSWM Criteria Manual.

NCTCOG and Freese and Nichols, Inc., interviewed North Texas communities not participating in the program to determine the obstacles holding them back from adoption. These interviews have led to the revitalized outcome-based initiative.

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the history of iSWM, the hurdles communities face in adopting iSWM, and its current outcome-based initiative. The presentation will outline the development of the new implementation method including the development of a list of outcomes, tiered measurement of implementation, and methods for determining a jurisdiction's iSWM implementation level. The new direction being taken to encourage and enable expanded use of iSWM approaches include an assessment of application for all types of project, such as new development, redevelopment, and transportation.