

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting
May 27, 2021
9:00AM to 12:00PM
Publicly Accessible Videoconference

Meeting was conducted via WebEx and telephonically

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group held a meeting via WebEx on May 27, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Acting Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Voting Members Present:

Lissa Shepard
Sano Blocker
Jordan Macha
Rachel Ickert
Matt Robinson (absent)
Sarah Standifer
Andrew Isbell
Glenn Clingenpeel
Mike Rickman (absent)
Scott Harris
Melissa Bookhout

Nine voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

Ex Officio Members Present:

Adam Whisenant
Brian Hurtuk (absent)
Rob Barthen
Steve Bednarz
Jonah Chen
Richard Bagans
Kevin McCalla
Greg Waller
Todd Burrer
Jerry Cotter
Lisa McCracken
Diane Howe (absent)
Ellen Buchanan

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion: Rachel Ickert moved to approve the minutes; Second: Jordan Macha; Action: Minutes unanimously approved.

TWDB Update

Richard Bagans gave a brief update on the progress of the contract between TWDB and Trinity River Authority. Mr. Bagans talked about the technical guidance that had been completed and posted to their website. He stated that the documents, which are Exhibit C and Exhibit D of the contract, are very detailed and are largely focused on the work of the technical consultants. He explained the importance of the Scope of Work which will need to be completed over the first cycle. He also stated that the subcontracts with Halff were under review with the TWDB contracts team.

Andrew Isbell asked if there was a way to make changes to the exhibits or if they were set in stone. Mr. Bagans stated that they were trying not to make any changes unless necessary but that there were a few options available. Mr. Isbell also wanted to know who generated the documents. Mr. Bagans stated that the TWDB with the assistance of an advisory group had generated the workplan. He further stated that the documents had been publicly posted for comments and that comments received through that process had been incorporated into the final version.

Report from Nominating Committee

Scott Harris gave an update from the Nominating Committee. They had four positions open as of the last meeting, one of which was for a representative from the small business interest category, and the other three were for councils of government positions. All four were posted to the Texas Water Development Board's website, and according to the bylaws 30-day requirement, the committee must accept applications through the 7th of June. Mr. Harris stated that to date there had only been one application for the COG positions and asked that if anyone knew of any interested parties to please help get information to them about the vacant positions. He went on to explain that after June 7 there is a mandatory 10-day waiting period before the committee can recommend a candidate. He advised that he would be setting up a meeting with the Nominating Committee after the mandatory 10-day period to evaluate the candidates, and that the committee would bring recommendation to the next board meeting.

Andrew Isbell asked for clarification on the requirements for the small business position. Scott Harris responded that they had to be able to represent the interests category for which they seek election, and that they would have to have ties to small business in the Trinity basin.

Update from Region 3 Technical Consultant

Stephanie Griffin, Project Manager for Halff Associates, gave a presentation on the project schedule, flood planning overview & approach, as well as an update on the Region 3 group website development. She reminded the group of the three primary deadlines in the development of the regional flood plan:

- Technical Memo Chapters (1-4) due January 7, 2022;
- Draft Plan due August 1, 2022; and
- Final Report due January 2023.

Ms. Griffin went over the steps of the project, their timeline, scope of work, roles, and responsibilities of the consultant and the RFPG, and what is achievable and practical during the first round of planning.

Ms. Griffin continued her presentation by discussing stakeholder engagement. She gave a comparison between state water planning and flood planning, the role of public engagement, and data collection from local stakeholders.

Next to present was Samuel Amoako-Atta, GIS Team Leader with Halff. He gave a brief presentation on data collection and what it will involve, from where the information will be collected (such as administrators, city engineers & county engineers), and how it will be used. He also showed how the website for data collection works and what information will be entered. They are planning on having the website ready in June and plan on presenting it to the RFPG before they launch it publicly.

Colby Walton, President of Cooksey Communications, continued the presentation with an overview of the Trinity RFPG Website. He explained the site architecture and the focus on public participation. The primary goal for the website is to have something simple, straightforward, intuitive and ease to navigate. Mr. Walton also showed an example of what the website would look like and what information would be displayed. He recommended a domain name of trinityrfpg.org but stated that they do have other options if the group preferred. Mr. Walton also showed two logos they had prepared for consideration and asked the group if they had a preference. No preference was expressed by group members, and so the logo recommended by the consultant was selected.

Stephanie Griffin proposed an amendment to the existing schedule of bimonthly meetings, suggesting a meeting in June, but then waiting until September to convene again. Should the need arise for a mid-summer meeting, she suggested one could be arranged to be held virtually. However, this will depend upon a continuation of the governor's

emergency declaration. Under the proposal, there would also be a meeting in November 2021, in accordance to the bimonthly schedule.

In reference to the June meeting, Scott Harris asked for clarification/purpose on the Pre-Planning meeting. Mr. Clingenpeel explained the intent of the meetings was to provide the public with an opportunity to talk about what the structure of plan will entail before getting into the planning process itself. Mr. Harris then asked if it would be possible for Halff to come up with a one-page sheet that would identify the requirements to get a project into the plan and the steps to do so. Ms. Griffin agreed.

After a brief discussion it was decided to proceed with an in-person June meeting and then decide whether there would be a need for an August meeting based on workloads and desired third-party presentations.

Update from Liaisons Region 5 and 6

Ellen Buchanan, the Region 3 liaison for Region 5, reported that group was in a similar position to the Region 3 Group. She mentioned that they had held a meeting on May 13 during which the Corps of Engineers gave a presentation of dam operations, which she found very useful.

Mr. Clingenpeel then called upon Scott Harris for an update from the Region 6 Flood Planning Group. Mr. Harris stated that the Region 6 group had also last met on May 13, that they had introduced their technical consultant, and had received a presentation from the Harris County Flood Control District. He reported that they also held a subsequent pre-planning meeting on May 18.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Howard Slobodin stated that TRA was submitting sub-consultant contracts to the TWDB for review and believed the process would not take long. He stated he had no other updates at the time.

Report on Flood-related legislation from the 87th Legislative Session

Sarah Kinkle, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs for TWCA provided a presentation to the group on bills and activities during the 87th legislative session that were relevant to flooding and flood planning. Ms. Kinkle stated that the bill she believed would most directly impact the flood planning groups were several bills that would have allowed for remote meetings and video conferencing. She stated, however, that none of the proposed bills had passed. As a result, upon expiration of the Governor's COVID-related emergency declaration, in-person attendance would be required.

Presentation from National Weather Service

Greg Waller with the West Gulf River Forecast Center gave a presentation on forecasting flooding in the Trinity River. He stated that their area goes from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande but they do not cover the Red, Canadian or the Sulphur rivers. However, Mr. Waller stated that they do coordinate with forecast centers in those river basins during statewide briefings. Mr. Waller explained the process for obtaining the river forecasts and the components they utilize for this process. These include radar, rain gauges, satellites and meteorological forecasts to gather the necessary information to create river forecasts. He went on to say that they also use measured precipitation, soil moisture conditions, 3-day forecast rainfall, and lake releases. He explained that all of this data goes into their models, along with partner data, to create river forecasts and flood warnings. He closed by mentioning that Dr. Amanda Schroeder in the NWS For Worth office, and Katie Landry-Guyton in the NWS Houston/Galveston Weather Forecast Office were the two primary contacts in the Trinity basin.

Presentation from Texas Living Water: "Nature Based Solutions for Flood Mitigation: Overview for Region 3"

The group received a presentation from Texas Living Waters on nature-based solutions for flood risk reduction. Dr. Arsum Pathak, National Wildlife Federation, started the presentation touching on the importance of nature-based solutions, hybrid solutions, funding opportunities, case studies, local recommendations and equity considerations. She also discussed how nature-based solutions center around conservation, restoration, or emulation of an existing natural ecosystem using natural features, materials and processes that reduce the risks and impacts of flooding.

Danielle Goshen of the Galveston Bay Foundation continued the presentation, discussing how nature-based infrastructure can work symbiotically with traditional infrastructure in hybrid solutions. She provided several case studies.

Receive general public comments

Mr. Clingenpeel opened the meeting to public comments. No members of the public indicated they wished to make comments, and the public comment period was closed.

Meeting date for June 2021 meeting

The time and date of the next meeting was set for 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 24, 2021. The meeting was decided to be held in person.

Agenda items for next meeting

The following items were discussed as potential topics to be included in the next meeting:

Consider filling COG and Small Business seats

Report from Technical Consultant

Presentation from USACE

Other Business

N/A

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING ARE CERTIFIED TO BE TRUE AND CORRECT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD PLANNING GROUP HELD MAY 27, 2021.



SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP

6/30/21

Date



GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP

Date