

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting
June 24, 2021
10:00AM to 12:00PM
William Hodges Education Building
Sam Houston Statue Visitor Center
7600 SH 75S
Huntsville, TX 77340

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group held a meeting, in person, on June 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Acting Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Voting Members Present:

Lissa Shepard
Sano Blocker (absent)
Jordan Macha (absent)
Rachel Ickert – alternate Craig Ottman
Matt Robinson
Sarah Standifer
Andrew Isbell
Glenn Clingenpeel
Mike Rickman
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
Brooke Bacuetes
Jonah Chen
Richard Bagans
Kevin McCalla –alternate Shawn Jurkins
Greg Waller (absent)
Todd Burrer (absent)
Jerry Cotter (absent)
Lisa McCracken (absent)
Diane Howe (absent)
Ellen Buchanan (absent)

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

One correction was suggested by Craig Ottman for the May 24 minutes to change the Technical Memo due date from 2020 to 2022. Motion: Andrew Isbell moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Second: Matt Robinson; Action: Minutes were unanimously approved.

Acknowledgement of written public comments received

None had been received since the prior meeting.

TWDB Update

Richard Bagans with TWDB gave an update on the Legislative session regarding Open Meeting bills. He stated that none of the bills that had been filed had passed, so the group would continue under the existing Open Meetings Act requirements once the Governor's emergency declaration expires. TWDB and TRA are working with Halff on the sub-contracts, and TWDB has approved the subcontract with Halff. TWDB no longer has to approve the sub subcontracts. Moving forward, TWDB will only require copies of those contracts. The technical guidelines have been posted for about 2 months, technical consultants have reviewed them and all work follows those guidelines. TWDB will have future meetings with the consultants to ensure that the guidelines are clear. In early June, TWDB had a meeting with technical consultants across the regions to gather information to create a good forum to be able to share different ideas. They are also working on getting everyone's websites up and running.

Glenn commented that there were different variations of similar bill that were filed but did not pass that would have allowed a continuation of complete or hybrid virtual meetings without the emergency declaration from the Governor. Without that legislation, he stated, the group would be required to meet in person in the future.

Regarding the ability of the group to convene in a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting, Mr. Bagans stated that the official guidance for Region 3 will come from TRA's legal counsel. He did however state that for entities or groups that cover more than three counties, hybrid options were available, but would require the presiding officer to be physically present in a physically-accessible location. Howard Slobodin, TRA's General Counsel, added that it was his understanding that the Governor's Disaster Proclamation remains in effect and until that proclamation expires the group can continue to meet in an entirely virtual fashion. In regards to hybrid meetings under the Open Meetings Act, Mr. Slobodin added that every official member of a group in a hybrid meeting must be clearly visible on a screen. This, he suggested, would be extremely challenging and awkward.

Sarah Standifer suggested that the TWDB coordinate with the Texas Municipal League in order to familiarize that organization and its members with the flood planning process. Ms. Standifer suggested this would help in getting important flood-planning data from cities and counties.

Mr. Bagans replied that the approach TWDB has taken to facilitate data collection is putting together a data hub for readily-available statewide data sets. These, along with the floodplain quilt, are accessible to the technical consultants to use as a starting point. Mr. Bagans stated that they are working with the TWDB's Flood and Community systems group on the science side to get contact information for floodplain managers across the state and to provide that to the technical consultants.

It was suggested that TWDB may want to reach out to get the resources TML may have to offer.

Andrew Isbell stated that the COG's would also be a good resource for vital information.

Report from Nominating Committee

Scott Harris gave an update on filling the vacant small business owner and three Councils of Government seats. He stated that the nominating committee met on Wednesday, June 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Harris said that they had a great group of qualified candidates and that he was prepared to make a motion to fill the vacant positions on behalf of the nominating committee.

Filling of Small Business Seat

Mr. Harris gave a brief background on the nominee for the small business interest category. The nominee was Mr. Chad Ballard, who is the Flood and Stormwater Team Lead at Plummer Associates. Motion: Scott Harris moved to appoint Mr. Ballard to the small business position. Second: Andrew Isbell; Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Filling of Councils of Government seats

Scott Harris stated that they had received applications from three qualified candidates for the three open Councils of Government seats. The

committee discussed all of the candidates and were pleased with the applications they had received. The candidates were as follows:

- Edith Marvin, Director of Environmental Development with North Central Texas Council of Governments;
- Lonnie Hunt, Executive Director of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments; and
- Justin Bower, Principal Planner for Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Motion: Scott Harris made a motion to appoint the candidates into the Non-Voting positions for the COG seats; Second: Andrew Isbell; Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Update from Region 3 Technical Consultant

Stephanie Griffin led a discussion by the technical consultant team. Kimberly Miller provided an overview of Task 1 activities. This chapter involves developing an overview of the entire Trinity planning region including population demographics and economic activity. She stated that the Region 3 area includes all or parts of 38 counties and covers almost 18,000 square miles. She also stated that twenty percent of the land area in the basin is flood prone, and that there have been 40 disaster declarations in the region since 1953, with twenty-five percent of those occurring since 2008. Ms. Miller explained that there is expected to be a sixty-seven percent increase in the region's population over the next 30 years.

Sam Amoako-Atta provided an overview of chapters 2 and 3, which he stated covers flood risk assessment and floodplain management practices & flood protection goals. The following details were provided during his overview:

- Task 2A involves collecting data on existing flooding, such as types, events, information sources, impacts on buildings, populations, critical facilities, utilities and agriculture.
- Task 2B involves an assessment of future flood risks and will include collecting data from different sources such as FEMA, local communities, and the TWDB. This will help assess future flood risk.
- There were several questions and concerns regarding the ability to get adequate and complete data sets given the short timeframe for data collection. There was consensus

that this was a challenge, and Mr. Bagans added that the TWDB is aware of the issue. The group agreed that data would be accepted after the July 24 deadline, but that for practical purposes, and in the interest of getting a completed plan by the deadline, there could be no guarantees that information received after the deadline would be used in the 2023 regional plan.

- Mr. Amoako-Atta provided a preview of the Region 3 RFPG data collection website and its functionality. He noted that an email blast would be going out to everyone with login information to allow access to the data submittal pages.
- The consultant team provided an overview of chapter 3, stating that the chapter would consist of standards and goals. The chapter will provide a timeframe for floodplain management standards and goal setting process. Kimberly Miller led the group through an interactive polling exercise to identify the topics of interest that will be used in developing goals for the plan.

Colby Walton provided an update on public outreach activities. Mr. Walton discussed the launch of the Region 3 website and shared the URL and email address with the group: www.trinityfpg.org and info@trinityfpg.org. Mr. Walton also discussed the group's media presence including Twitter, periodic e-newsletter, and editorial meetings with key media regionwide.

There was a discussion on chapter 8, which involves administration, regulatory and legislative recommendations. This chapter gives the group an opportunity to provide recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes that could facilitate floodplain management and flood mitigation planning and implementation.

Update from Liaisons Region 5 and 6

Region 5 Neches RFPG – No updates at this time.

Region 6 San Jacinto RFPG – Scott Harris gave a brief update stating that Region 6 held an executive meeting on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 and had another scheduled for Friday, June 25, 2021. He stated that a technical committee meeting had been scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2021 with the group's next regular meeting set for July 8, 2021.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Howard Slobodin stated that there were no updates.

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 August 2021 meeting

The time and date of the next meeting was set for Thursday, August 19, 2021. The group decided to hold the meeting in person, and to hold the second public pre-planning meeting at that time.

Agenda items for next meeting

- Preliminary Information from the surveys
- Go through some goal setting
- Updates on Chapters 1,2,3
- Intro to Chapter 7 or 9
- Discuss creating subcommittees
- TWDB Pre-Planning meeting
- USACE presentation

Other Business

N/A

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

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 JUNE 24, 2021.

SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP

Date

GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair

Date

REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP