

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting
August 19, 2021
2:00 PM to 12:00 PM
North Central Texas Council of Governments
Transportation Council Room
616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington, TX 76011

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group held a meeting, in person, on August 19, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Acting Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Voting Members Present:

Lissa Shepard
Sano Blocker
Jordan Macha
Rachel Ickert
Matt Robinson
Sarah Standifer
Glenn Clingenpeel
Melissa Bookhout

Nine voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

Ex Officio Members Present:

Adam Whisenant
Rob Barthen
Steve Bednarz
Jonah Chen
Richard Bagans
Jerry Cotter
Lisa McCracken
Edith Marvin
Lonnie Hunt

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion: Matt Robinson moved to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2021 meeting as presented; Second: Melissa Bookhout; Action: Minutes were unanimously approved.

Acknowledgement of written public comments received

Mr. Clingenpeel stated that two written comments had been received and that copies of the comments had been included in the meeting materials. This was an information item and no action was necessary or taken.

TWDB Update

Richard Bagans with TWDB gave an update on the 2021 Legislative Session. He mentioned that additional funding from the legislature had been allocated to the flood planning process and that a survey had been sent out to all the flood planning regions seeking information about how the funds should be distributed. Responses to the survey were due July 16, 2021. Mr. Bagans stated that the TWDB was compiling responses on how best to allocate the additional money to be spent during the current flood planning cycle. The allocations will be formula-based and may become available by the end of September, when TWDB staff will take their recommendations on allocation to the TWDB Board of Directors for final approval. Following adoption of the proposed allocation methodology, the TWDB will initiate contract amendments with the regional planning group sponsors in order to officially disperse the funds.

Mr. Bagans stated that the Governor's Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 would be expiring on September 1st, 2021. As a result, all Open Meeting Act requirements would be back in place. He stated that while there would be no more exceptions to the Act, there are allowances within the Open Meeting Act that allow for a hybrid meeting structure.

Rachael Ickert asked about the increasing cases of COVID, and whether or not the committee would allow for virtual participation. Mr. Clingenpeel stated that if the group wanted to entertain hybrid meetings, that it was open for discussion. Ms. Ickert stated that it might be easier to obtain a quorum due to their geographical disbursement.

Pre-Planning Meeting #2 (TWDB presentation and general public comment)

Mr. Clingenpeel introduced the pre-planning meeting by providing an explanation of its purpose, stating that it is a requirement of the workplan with TWDB, and that it is designed to be an opportunity for the public to engage at the beginning of the flood planning process before the plan is developed.

Richard Bagans then provided a more detailed explanation of the meeting

intent, including background information on the genesis of the flood planning process, and the importance of public participation.

Following Mr. Bagan's comments, Mr. Clingenpeel opened the meeting to public comments. No members of the public indicated they wished to make any remarks, and the public comment period was closed.

Update from Region 3 Technical Consultant

Stephanie Griffin with Halff Associates gave a brief overview of the updates. She mentioned that there had been an extension to the deadline for certain components of the technical memo, which had been moved to March 7, 2022 from January 7, 2022. The extension was granted in order to give the planning groups additional time to consider data being provided by the TWDB.

- a. Chapter 1 Planning Area Description – Ms. Kimberly Miller, with Halff Associates provided an overview of progress on, and highlights from, Chapter 1. She began the presentation with a discussion on population estimates, both current and projected. This information allows an estimation of areas with projected growth that may increase flood risk. Ms. Miller continued with an overview of known, flood-prone areas and what is understood about current flood risk. She stated that overall, 22% of the basin is at flood risk, with over 20% of the region's land area in either the 100 or 500-year flood plain, including 70 communities in 25 counties.
- b. Chapter 2 Flood Risk Analyses – Sam Amoako-Atta, Halff Associates began the presentation on Chapter 2 with a brief recap of the items covered in the last meeting including data collection. He stated that on June 24 they officially launched the first phase of the data portal. Emails, postcards and follow-up calls were made to help assure that information on data requests had been received by targeted entities. Mr. Amoako-Atta also showed maps of data collection survey participation, survey responses, and data received.
- c. Chapter 3 Goals Discussion/Determination – Kimberly Miller, Halff Associates gave a re-cap of chapter 3 information discussed during the June 24 meeting. Ms. Miller discussed potential approaches to narrowing-down the chapter 3 goals including the potential creation of a subcommittee. She mentioned that there were quite a few goals listed as top priorities from the June meeting. Based on discussion and feedback, those were reduced to six overarching

goals. The six goals were then discussed at length. The goals discussed were:

Goal 1 – Implementing Flood Warning and Public Safety

Goal 2 – Improving Flood Analyses

Goal 3 – Reducing Property Damage and Loss

Goal 4 – Floodplain Preservation

Goal 5 – Flood Infrastructure Improvement

Goal 6 – Expanding Flood Education and Outreach

There was a general discussion about creating measurable goals using metrics that are not yet well-understood. Specifically, Rachel Ickert stated that until you understand where there are potential deficiencies in flood-related infrastructure, and until you have sufficient data, you cannot create a specific metric. Mr. Clingenpeel agreed and expressed his concern regarding specific, quantified goals at this juncture, and suggested that the goals be more qualitative. Mr. Bagans addressed the issue from the TWDB's perspective. He stated that there are two main objectives in the creation of chapter 3 goals; 1) to guide the group in carrying out the flood mitigation needs analyses, and 2) to structure and present them in a format that is easily-understandable for the public.

Mr. Clingenpeel asked the group if there was support to create a subcommittee. He explained that the creation of a subcommittee would allow for more discussion and opportunity to refine the goals before they were adopted. There was a consensus regarding the need for a subcommittee. Mr. Clingenpeel then asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. Sarah Standifer, Matt Robinson, Jordan Macha and Rachel Ickert volunteered, and were appointed, with Sarah serving as the subcommittee chair.

- d. There was a suggestion regarding whether specific types of data (e.g. NOAA Atlas 14) should be mentioned by name in regards to recommended use. The group decided it would be best to use a term of art that reflects the best available data in order to allow flexibility and capitalize on the most appropriate data sets available at a given point in time.

e. Overview and approach to Chapter 4 Flood Mitigation Needs and Potentially Feasible Solutions

Mr. David Rivera with Freese & Nichols gave an overview on the process of identifying flood mitigation needs and potential solutions. Mr. Rivera discussed how Chapter 4 contributes to the outcome of the plan. The two processes they are going to develop are: 1) how to identify and prioritize areas of need, and 2) how to identify and select potential solutions. The result will be a table of potential, feasibility studies, evaluations, and projects. During the discussion it was mentioned that areas that had been subjected to tropical storms would receive a default higher rating, giving greater weight to coastal flooding. Mr. Clingenpeel suggested that significant local events should not be automatically deprioritized as compared to tropic storms.

f. Overview and approach to Chapter 7. Emergency Response Summary. The consultant team reviewed results of survey data regarding entities emergency responses. Results indicate that very few entities have their own emergency response plans, and that cities and counties were looked to for coordination during events. The results also touched on actions respondents would like to see more of, and preferred means of public communication. Coordination between city and county entities was noted as being critical in all stages of a flood event.

g. Discussion on Chapter 8 Administrative, Regulatory and Legislative Recommendations – Stephanie Griffin with Halff Associates opened the floor for discussion on potential recommendations for future legislation and regulatory changes. There was a suggestion regarding the need for research on collecting and implementing drainage fees, as some municipalities do not currently have authority to collect them.

h. Public outreach updates – Ms. Griffin noted that the planning group had created a Twitter account, and that a universal Region 3 Power Point presentation was available for group members should they be asked to speak on behalf of the group.

Consider establishing Technical Subcommittees – This item was covered in a previous section.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Presentation - Jerry Cotter and Lisa Mairs-McCracken with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave a presentation on USACE planning processes and authority.

Mr. Cotter provided an introduction. Ms. Mairs-McCracken explained the USACE Planning Process and what it entails. She then provided a detailed overview of several programs that are administered by the USACE. These included the Silver Jackets, Floodplain Management Services, Planning Assistance to States, and the Continuing Authorities Program. Ms. Mairs-McCracken spoke on their

authorization process, how they get funding, their partnerships, and how they use them.

Update from Liaisons Region 5 and 6

There were no updates from either of the adjoining coastal planning groups.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor

No update was presented.

Receive general public comments

No members registered for public comment or indicated that they wished to provide any.

Announcements

Glenn Clingenpeel made several announcements including the TWDB's decision to delay the due date of several portions of the Technical Memo. He also noted that Mike Rickman will be retiring and has given his resignation letter. According to the letter, Mr. Rickman's resignation will be effective upon his replacement. Mr. Clingenpeel said he would contact Secretary Scott Harris to get the nominating committee started on a formal recommendation for Mr. Rickman's replacement.

Stephanie Griffin announced that the Texas Floodplain Association would be holding its conference next week. She also mentioned that they were going to try to get more participation in the flood planning effort.

Meeting date for September 2021 meeting

The meeting was tentatively set for Thursday, September 23, 2021. Mr. Clingenpeel stated he would visit with the consulting team and explore options for getting the audio and video infrastructure needed for a possible hybrid meeting.

Agenda items for next meeting

Mr. Clingenpeel briefly reviewed items for the next meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business brought before the group.

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 AUGUST 19, 2021.

SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP

Date

GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP

Date