

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting
March 16, 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 March 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Acting Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Voting Members Present:

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

All voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

Ex Officio Members Present:

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

Mr. Clingenpeel welcomed new members, including:

Greg Waller – NWS
Diane Howe - FEMA
Jerry Cotter - FW USACE
Lisa McCracken - Galveston USACE
Ellen Buchanan - Region 5 liaison Neches
Todd Burrer - Region 6 liaison San Jacinto

Mr. Clingenpeel asked if any of the new members wished to address the group. Jerry Cotter addressed the group to discuss the USACE's roll in flood risk management. Mr. Cotter described USACE operations relating to multipurpose dams across TX, of which there are 29. Dams are operated to establish safe conditions in the seven river systems across Texas. Mr. Cotter explained how previous flood events in the 1930s and 40s, prompting flood projects. He also discussed current projects, authorization, regulatory, and match requirements.

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion: Matt Robinson moved to approve the minutes; Second: Sano Blocker; Action: Minutes unanimously approved.

TWDB Update and Presentation

Richard Bagans provided a presentation on the workplan for the first round of planning. He presented on the scope of work and guidance documents that will govern work.

Matt Robinson posed a question to Richard Bagans regarding task 3 of the basin-wide scope of work. Mr. Bagans responded that Task 3 is generally geared toward the needs of the basin as a whole, noting that there are slight differences between the coastal areas and the upper basin.

Report from Nominating Committee

Scott Harris reported that the Nominating Committee met on March 12, 2021 and deliberated between three candidates that applied for the vacant agricultural interest group position. After considerable discussion, the Committee recommended Melissa Bookhout to fill the position.

Upon conclusion of the report from the Nominating Committee, Mr. Clingenpeel requested a motion to act upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee.

Motion: Scott Harris motioned that Melissa Bookhout be elected to fill the vacant agricultural interest group seat; Second: Jordan Macha; Action: Unanimously approved.

Consider resignation for Small Business Interest Category representative

Mr. Clingenpeel stated that Dr. Ocanas, who was serving as a voting member as the Small Business Owner representative, had tendered his letter of resignation. He stated that although the resignation was effective as of the date of the letter, it would be best to have official action from the Group to recognize the resignation and resulting vacancy.

Motion: Matt Robinson motioned that the Planning Group accept Dr. Ocanas' resignation. Second: Scott Harris, Action: Unanimously approved.

Appoint Nominating Committee to recommend replacement

After a discussion of the Group Members, Mr. Clingenpeel reappointed Scott Harris, Jordan Macha, Rachel Ickert, Matt Robinson, and Andrew Isbell to the Nominating Committee and charged them with bringing back to the group a recommendation for a nominee to fill the vacant Small Business interest category seat.

Appoint liaisons for adjoining coastal basins:

After a call for volunteers, Andrew Isbell was appointed to serve as the group's liaison for Region 5 (the Neches Flood Planning Group), and Scott Harris to serve as the liaison for Region 6 (the San Jacinto Flood Planning Group).

Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Howard Slobodin gave an updated status on the application for Regional Flood Planning Grant. Mr. Slobodin stated that it was in order and that he expects to have that contract for execution either later in the week or early next week.

Mr. Slobodin gave an update on the consultant procurement process. He stated that requests for proposals have been solicited and responses received. They received a sole response. That response was from Halff and Associates.

Consider selection of Technical Consultant

Mr. Clingenpeel reiterated that there was only one proposal received and it was distributed to the group. He then asked the group if they wanted to accept the proposal that was provided.

Rachel Ickert disclosed that her husband is part of the Halff and Associates team, and would recuse herself from any participation in the selection.

Sarah Standifer stated that Halff demonstrated knowledge of the entire basin, which would be helpful.

Andrew Isbell posed a question about approach areas in the proposal. Howard Slobodin advised that those can be discussed post-execution.

Motion: Scott Harris motioned to accept the proposal by Halff and Associates and authorize the Trinity River Authority to negotiate and enter into a Technical Services Agreement with Halff and Associates; Second: Sarah Standifer; Action: unanimously approved.

Discuss the addition of non-mandatory non-voting member positions

Mr. Clingenpeel asked the group if they would like representation from Councils of Government (COG) within the basin, and in what capacity (i.e. voting, or non-voting membership). A proposal was discussed to add three COG members, which would allow for one from the upper, one from the middle and one from the lower basin. The proposal further suggested that they would serve as non-voting members in either a mandatory or non-mandatory capacity. Matt Robinson stated he would support non-voting participation, Scott Harris and Sano Blocker also agreed to the non-voting participation.

The group agreed that NCTCOG and HGAC should be non-voting members, along with one mid-basin COG. Andrew Isbell suggested contacting the mid-basin COG's to determine their interest in participating. Mr. Bagans said approval of the addition of new positions would require 14-day public notice prior to next meeting. He further stated that position could be assigned to an entity or the group could create three COG positions, which would provide additional flexibility in the future.

The group moved on to discuss an academic position on the Board. Rachel Ickert asked whether academia would be represented in the consulting team. Mr. Clingenpeel stated yes, that Dr. Nick Fang with the University of Texas at Arlington and Rice University is in the Halff proposal as part of the sub-consulting team. Sarah Standifer suggested delaying creation to see if the need arises. There was consensus among group members, and the proposal was tabled.

Rachel Ickert stated that there was a request from the public for land trusts and low-income housing. Lissa Shepard said she could see a need for low income housing. Jonah Chen with the Land Office said that with respect to the low-income position proposal, many stakeholders engage with GLO on a regular basis. Mr. Chen said there are statewide and local organization within Region 3, so selection could be difficult. Regarding Land Trusts, he said they are not a part of GLO's decision-making matrix. The group confirmed that the GLO believed low income housing considerations were represented through them, and based upon that

confirmation, elected not to move forward with the creation of a Low-Income Housing interest category membership.

Election of Officers

Glenn Clingenpeel, Acting Chairman, provided a brief explanation of the seats available. He stated there will be a five-member slate of officers that serve two-year terms and require a 2/3rds affirmative vote of the members present. With ten voting members present, there would need to be seven affirmative votes. Mr. Clingenpeel then asked if anyone had a slate of officers they would like to propose. With no slate proposals, Mr. Clingenpeel opened the floor for nominations.

Chair: Andrew Isbell nominated Glenn Clingenpeel
Lissa Shepard nominated Sarah Standifer.

Votes for Glenn Clingenpeel:

Lissa Shepard, Nay; Sano Blocker, nay; Jordan Macha: yea; Rachel Ickert, nay; Matt Robinson, nay; Sarah Standifer, nay; Andrew Isbell, yea; Glenn Clingenpeel, yea; Mike Rickman, yea; Scott Harris, nay.

Votes for Standifer:

Lissa Shepard, Yea; Sano Blocker, yea; Jordan Macha, nay; Rachel Ickert, yea; Matt Robinson, yea; Sarah Standifer, yea; Andrew Isbell, nay; Glenn Clingenpeel, nay; Mike Rickman, nay

Andrew Isbell proposed Glenn Clingenpeel as Chair and Sarah Standifer as Vice Chair. Single vote. Partial slate. He stated that appointing a chair from the North of the watershed is out of balance with existing representation. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the importance of geographic diversity of representation.

Glenn Clingenpeel - Chair, Sarah Standifer – Vice Chair

Lissa Shepard, Nay; Sano Blocker, Nay; Jordan Macha, Yea; Rachel Ickert, Nay; Matt Robinson, Nay; Sarah Standifer, Nay; Andrew Isbell, Yea; Glenn Clingenpeel, Yea; Mike Rickman, did not vote; Scott Harris, Yea

Sarah Standifer – Chair, Glenn Clingenpeel – Vice Chair

Lissa Shepard, Yea; Sano Blocker, Yea; Jordan Macha, Nay; Rachel Ickert, Yea; Matt Robinson, Yea; Sarah Standifer, Yea; Andrew Isbell, Nay; Glenn Clingenpeel, Nay; Mike Rickman, did not vote; Scott Harris, Nay

Motion: Sarah Standifer proposed a slate of officers that represents a blend of public, flood, and water representation that she stated she believed would address the concerns being discussed; Second: Andrew Isbell

Chair: Glenn Clingenpeel
Vice Chair: Sarah Standifer
Secretary: Scott Harris
Member at Large #1: Andrew Isbell
Member at Large #2: Lissa Shepard

Lissa Shepard, Yea; Sano Blocker, Yea; Jordan Macha, Yea; Rachel Ickert, Yea; Matt Robinson, Yea; Sarah Standifer, Yea; Andrew Isbell, Yea; Glenn Clingenpeel, Yea; Mike Rickman, did not vote; Scott Harris, Yea

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Receive general public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

No members of the public made comments.

Meeting date for April 2021 meeting

9:00 AM, Thursday, April 22.

Agenda items for next meeting

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

Report from the Nominating Committee regarding a recommendation to fill the Small Business interest category vacancy.

Update from TWDB;

Action item to create three non-voting membership seats for COG positions;

Conduct pre-planning public meeting; and

Presentations by USACE and GLO. Living Waters presentation in May.

Other Business

Jordan Macha mentioned that she will be leaving Bayou City Keeper, but that she would be remaining in the area, and would continue to represent environmental interests on the Group.


Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 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 MARCH 16, 2021.



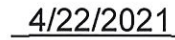
SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP



Date



GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP



Date