

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Hybrid Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Tarrant Regional Water District – Administration
800 E Northside Dr
Fort Worth, TX 76102

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group convened a public comment meeting, in person as well as virtual, on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 10:00 AM. Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel opened the meeting at 10:04 AM.

Voting Members Present:

Melissa Bookhout
Lissa Shepard (joined after roll call)
Sano Blocker (absent)
Jordan Macha
Rachel Ickert
Matt Robinson (absent)
Sarah Standifer (joined after roll call)
Andrew Isbell (joined after roll call)
Glenn Clingenpeel
Chad Ballard
Galen Roberts
Scott Harris

7 voting members were present at the time of roll call, constituting a quorum.

Ex Officio Members Present:

Adam Whisenant
Rob Barthen
Steve Bednarz
Jose Rosales for Andrea Sanders
Richard Bagans
Humberto (Bert) Galvan
Brittany Frazier
Greg Waller (absent)
Ellen Buchanan
Todd Burrer (absent)
Jerry Cotter
Lisa McCracken (joined after roll call)
Diane Howe (absent)
Edlith Marvln (absent)

Justin Bower (absent)
Lonnie Hunt (absent)

Approval of the Minutes of the July 21st, 2022 Meeting

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

Approval of the Minutes of the September 8th, 2022 Meeting

Motion: Galen Roberts moved to approve the minutes as presented;
Second: Lissa Shepard; Action: Minutes were unanimously approved.

Acknowledgement of written public comments received

No written public comments were received.

Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items

No registered public comments were received.

TWDB Update

Richards Bagans with TWDB provided an update. All 15 flood planning regions have hosted public comment meetings on their draft regional flood plans. TWDB provided comments to all regions on their draft regional flood plans in October. Technical consultant conference calls were held with all regions.

All technical stakeholders have been engaged for preliminary input on changes to the rulemaking process for the next flood planning cycle. A stakeholder survey was sent out to all RFPG members that requested feedback on improvements to the administrative cycle and next flood planning cycle.

The Final Regional Flood Plan is due to TWDB on January 10th, 2023. Prior to submittal, the RFPG must adopt the Final Plan. Most flood planning regions are currently discussing public and TWDB comments and will be voting to adopt their plans this December.

The current contract states that five bound, double-sided copies of the Final Plan must be delivered to TWDB. Consultants will be receiving new guidance on how to submit the Final Plan in hopes to reduce the burden of producing hard copies.

Update from Region 3 Technical Consultant – Stephanie Griffin with Half

Associates:

a. Update on the Draft Region 3 Trinity Regional Flood Plan

i. Recap of open houses

In-Person Open Houses took place on August 29th, 30th, and 31st in Dayton, Crockett and Arlington, respectively. Open houses permitted the public an opportunity to provide oral and written comments. In addition, a Hybrid Public meeting was held on September 8th, in Arlington, to hear additional public comments.

ii. Public comments received and proposed responses

The public comment period was open between August 1st and October 10th 2022. Multiple submittal formats were made available and provided to the public. Nine written and eight interactive web map comments were received. No verbal comments were received.

Public comments received were diverse. Emergency response requests related to neighborhood flooding were responded to immediately and forwarded directly to the appropriate city contact. The specific neighborhood flooding concerns were previously listed as an FMP in the Draft Regional Flood Plan. Additional comments were editorial, a request for a detention study, a request for low water crossing information, and a request for agricultural flooding information. Legislative, administrative and planning process suggestions were also submitted. The RFPG previously recommended convening a Technical Subcommittee to review suggestions in the next flood planning cycle. This has been recommended to the TWDB. TPWD and National Wildlife Federation (NWF) submitted support for nature-based solutions.

Public comments also included concern about 6 recommended FMPs with minimal negative impacts. Additional language will be included at the request of the TWDB that explains the justification for recommendation. Finally, TWDB will be notified of public comments that are more appropriate for them to respond to. This was noted as a response in the comments.

All comments and responses will be published in an appendix within the Final Regional Flood Plan. All comments were responded to in the present tense. If the comment can be addressed and incorporated into the plan, the response will be updated to past tense in the appendix of the Final Regional Flood Plan. If a comment would not be incorporated into the plan, the response included a "no changes made" statement.

TPWD, Adam Whisenant, requested that the *Letter of Recommendations to the TWDB Promoting the Protection of Natural Flood Mitigation Features and Use of Nature Based Flood Mitigation Solutions* on page 64 and 65 of the meeting package materials be struck from the record.

Scott Harris requested that responses to TPWD and NWF indicate that the RFPG prefers nature based solutions. The consultants will add this statement to their responses. Additionally, he requested that training be added as an FME. The consultants pointed out that training has been recommended under Chapter 8.

Andrew Isbell commented on the RFPGs response to public comment #9 provided by NWF. Specifically, comment number V. *Add a regulatory recommendation to direct TWDB to provide best management practices on how to incorporate assumptions into modeling future conditions.* It was recommended that RFPG remove the statement *"The RFPG will consider incorporating this recommendation in the Final Plan"* and substitute with *"The RFPG established future conditions in Chapter 2, but should be validated in the future. This is an important topic that will require considerable resources in investigation as the RFPG moves through future cycles of the planning process. This comment should be directed to the TWDB. No changes made."*

Andrew Isbell referenced public comment #9 statement on page 68: *"Equity and nature-based solutions will need to be woven into every facet of this program and incorporated into future policies and strategies in order to empower community collaboration and leverage the state's vast network of natural ecosystems in building resilient communities."* It was asked that TWDB improve the social vulnerability index criteria for future flood planning cycles. TWDB noted they are currently working on a flood related social vulnerability index and will be requesting feedback at a later time.

iii. TWDB comments received and proposed responses

TWDB provided comments to the RFPG on October 18th, 2022. TWDB comments focused on Chapters 1 through 5. There were 43 level 1 comments that needed to be addressed. There were 39 level 2 comments that were optional, but recommended to be addressed. Technical Consultants met with TWDB on November 3rd to review RFPG responses to the comments. TWDB will provide clarification on the placement of maps within the Final Plan. TWDB agreed with the Technical Consultant Benefit Cost Ratio value assumption of 0 for potentially feasible FMPs that were not recommended, because the FMP was not recommended due to negative impact.

Scott Harris requested that all comments be updated to reflect they have been addressed. Consultants confirmed the future tense will be changed to past tense prior to submittal. In addition, clarification was requested on why the General Manager of Trinity River Authority, rather than members of the RFPG, was addressed on the official notice from TWDB detailing comments on the Draft Regional Flood Plan. TWDB clarified that responses are directed to the contracted party, Trinity River Authority.

The Technical Consultants stated that all level 1 comments will be completed. The majority of level 2 comments will be completed with the exception of a few where no change was agreed upon by the RFPG. No significant issues were found with the proposed responses to comments. All comments will be closed and included in the appendices of the Final Plan.

- b. * Consider approval of the responses to public and TWDB comments received

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called for a motion to approve the responses to public and TWDB comments received as amended:

- Public Comment #8 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: Delete the attachment (page 64 and 65) that was unintentionally submitted to the planning group. Delete responses to the comment.
- Public Comment #9 National Wildlife Federation: On comment #5, the current response will be removed and changed to *"The RFPG established future flood conditions in chapter 2. The RFPG recognizes the importance of developing future flood conditions based on the best available data and methods. This will be an ongoing process in the future flood planning cycles. This comment should be directed to the TWDB. No changes made."*
- Public Comment #9 National Wildlife Federation: On response #8 and response #9, the current responses will be updated with *"The RFPG prefers nature based solutions where possible"*.

Motion: Scott Harris approved the responses to public and TWDB comments received as amended;

Second: Sarah Standifer; Action: Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Update on the Final Region 3 Trinity Flood Plan

RFPG responses to public comments and TWDB comments will be incorporated into an appendices to the plan. The plan will be revised to address responses to comments, updates to benefit-cost analyses for seven FMPs that were recommended, updates to sponsor funding survey results in Chapter 9,

and editorial, map, table, and other minor edits as a result from comments received from TWDB. The Final Plan will be printed in mid-December and sent to TWDB by January 10, 2023.

- d. * Consider approval of revising and submitting the Final Region 3 Trinity Flood Plan to TWDB by January 10, 2023

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called for a motion to adopt the plan with minor, non-substantive editorial changes and with addition of comments and responses to comments as presented and submit the Final Region 3 Trinity Flood Plan to TWDB by January 10, 2023.

Motion: Rachel Ickert moved to adopt the plan with minor, non-substantive editorial changes, and with the addition of comments and responses to comments as presented, and to submit the Final Region 3 Trinity Flood Plan to TWDB by January 10, 2023;

Second: Scott Harris;

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Break – 11:27 am - 11:35 am

- e. Update on Task 12 - David Rivera with Freese and Nichols

- i. Purpose of task:

The purpose of Task 12 is to increase the number of FMPs that will be included in the regional flood plans. This could be accomplished by assessing the current list of FMEs and subsequently elevating them to FMPs. Further, FMPs submitted without complete information could be reevaluated after the sponsor resubmits.

106 potential FMP candidates were received after the April 2022 deadline. Due to time and budgetary constraints, the Technical Subcommittee met on October 20, 2022, to develop an approach to allocating the Task 12 budget. In addition, they outlined a prioritization plan for analysis and potential inclusion of FMPs in the Amended Regional Flood Plan.

- ii. Technical Subcommittee recommendations

The Technical Subcommittee recommended that Task 12 focus on evaluating additional FMPs and did not recommend elevating new FMEs for inclusion as such into the amended plan. New FMPs can be submitted by January 27, 2023. FMPs will be categorized into tiers based on degree of completeness of data provided by the Sponsor. Tiers will be used to determine the order in which FMPs will be evaluated. This prioritization plan

will also provide a mechanism for jurisdictions that are not currently on the FMP list to be added. A flow chart outlining the prioritization plan was presented. Projects submitted will not be prioritized based on merit, but the amount of available information on a project that is required for it to be included in the plan. The prioritization plan is a work order plan to facilitate efficient assessment of projects in order to optimize the number of new projects included. There was considerable discussion on the Tier 3 approach. The tier flow chart and RFPG's approach for FMP tiering can be found [HERE](#). The work order plan and submittal opportunity will be provided to current sponsors and all stakeholders.

- f. * Consider approval of the Task 12 approach

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called for a motion to approve the Task 12 approach for submitted FMPs and an FMP submittal deadline of January 27, 2023.

Motion: Andrew Isbell moved to approve the Task 12 approach for evaluating FMPs and an FMP submittal deadline of January 27, 2023;

Second: Jordan Macha;

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

- g. Update on project budget - Stephanie Griffin with Halff Associates

Modifications to the current project budget were presented. It was proposed that the remaining balances from Tasks 1-9 be moved to Task 12 and the remaining balances for Tasks 10-11 be moved to Task 13. The proposed modifications are greater than 25% of the original Task budget and therefore require approval from the RFPG and TWDB, RFPG. TWDB needs all invoices for Tasks 1- 11. Once all invoices have been paid, leftover funds will be transferred to Tasks 12 and 13. A budget memo will then be generated and billing may resume for Task 12 and 13. TRA will work with TWDB on the budget amendment.

- h. * Consider approval of amendment to project budget

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called for a motion to approve the amendment to project budget.

Motion: Scott Harris moved to approve amending the project budget as presented;

Second: Sarah Standifer;

Action: Motion passed unanimously.

Rachel Ickert – Abstained

I. Project Schedule:

The Technical Consultants will submit the Final Regional Flood Plan to TWDB by January 10, 2023. An RFPG meeting will be scheduled in February 2023 to provide updates on Tasks 12 and 13. An RFPG meeting will be scheduled in April 2023 to provide updates on Task 12 and 13. An RFPG meeting will be held in June 2023 to approve the Amended Regional Flood Plan. The Technical Consultants will submit the Amended Regional Flood Plan to TWDB by July 14, 2023.

Updates from liaisons for adjoining coastal regions

- a. Region 5 Neches RFPG: No updates.
- b. Region 6 San Jacinto RFPG: Scott Harris reported that Region 6 is at an equivalent point in the regional flood plan adoption process as Region 3.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor

There were no updates.

Review administrative costs requiring certification

There were no administrative costs requiring certification.

Receive registered public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

Mr. Clingenpeel opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were received and the public comment section was closed.

Announcements

Scott Harris shared his appreciation for going through this process and applauded the consultants work. Glenn Clingenpeel seconded.

Confirm meeting date for next meeting

Thursday, February 16th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Sam Houston Statue & Visitor Center located at 7600 TX-75, Huntsville, TX 77340.

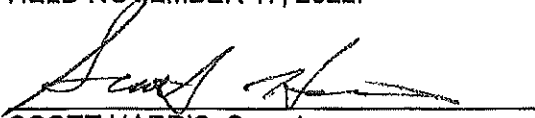
Consider agenda for next meeting

Adjourn

12:33 pm adjourned

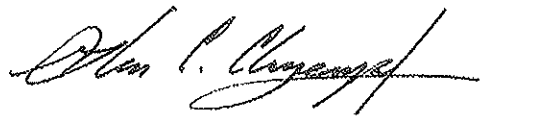
* Denotes Action Item

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 NOVEMBER 17, 2022.



SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP

3/7/2023 JH 6/13/23
Date



GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD
PLANNING GROUP

3/7/2023
Date

