

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2023
10:00 a.m.

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group convened a public meeting, in person as well as virtual, on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 10:00 AM. Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel opened the meeting at 10:02 AM.

Voting Members Present:

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

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

Ex Officio Members Present:

Richard Bagans
Manuel Martinez
Steve Bednarz
Justin Bower (absent)
Ellen Buchanan
Todd Burrer (absent)
Jerry Cotter
Matthew Lepinski (alternate for Jerry Cotter)
Brittany Frazier
Humberto (Bert) Galvan
Cameron Cornett for Diane Howe
Lonnie Hunt
Edith Marvin
Lisa McCracken
Jose Rosales for Andrea Sanders
Greg Waller (absent)
Adam Whisenant (absent)

*Approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2023 Meeting

Motion: Lissa Shepard moved to approve the minutes as presented;
Second: Galen Roberts; 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

Richard Bagans with TWDB provided an update. TWDB sent out an email blast soliciting feedback on the proposed methods for ranking FMEs, FMPs, and FMSs in the 2024 State Flood Plan. The public comment period was open until April 1st but was extended to April 14th. Groups or individuals can submit feedback. TWDB emphasized that the online feedback form should be used. A webinar was held on the TWDB State Flood Plan ranking on March 22nd for all RFPG members and Technical Consultants. A brief presentation was given followed by a question-and-answer session. TWDB is legislatively mandated to rank flood projects. Currently, TWDB is utilizing the data provided by all regions. TWDB would like suggestions on what criteria they should or should not include in the ranking. In addition, they would like suggestions on what weight the criteria should be given.

TWDB finished the review of all regional adopted flood plans. Every region received a TWDB information request. The letters were sent to every region noting data discrepancies. TWDB requested data corrections within 2 weeks. TWDB also provided comments utilizing the same format as the Draft Regional Flood Plan. Level 1 comments should be responded to within 2 weeks. Level 2 comments should be addressed and responded to within the Amended Flood Plan.

Richard Bagans will be resigning from TWDB in June 2023.

RFPG Discussion on TWDB Proposed Methods for Ranking
Recommended Flood Mitigation Projects - Glenn Clingenpeel with
Trinity River Authority

Glenn emphasized that every organization is free to submit comments on behalf of their organization. TWDB stated that they consider the number of similar comments. If similar feedback submissions are made on behalf of a group or an organization rather than an individual, TWDB will rank those submissions as a higher priority. The RFPG members were asked if there were any common high-level points that should be submitted from Region 3. TWDB was asked if the

R3RFPG could submit a comment requesting that TWDB not rank projects during the next legislative cycle. TWDB stated that they cannot act upon comments requesting that ranking be removed from the 2024 State Flood Plan. Legislative action would be needed to remove the ranking criteria. It was noted that public comment will be available on the TWDB Administrative Codes during the next Flood Planning cycle.

The two high-level points proposed request an increase in ranking transparency and request elimination of the ranking process. Glenn further elaborated that ranking does not determine funding. It is one component of a matrix used to allocate funding.

The R3RFPG members were asked if they support the submittal of the two high-level points.

Sarah Standifer provided a comment in support of the high-level points. She requested that the importance of regional flood planning be emphasized. In addition, stress that prioritization of projects is not solely indicative of funding.

Chairmen Glenn Clingenpeel called for a motion to authorize the chairmen of the R3RFPG to submit a letter to TWDB on the proposed methods for ranking that addresses the issue of transparency in the ranking process, and whether or not it is appropriate to rank the projects.

Motion: Scott Harris moved to approve the authorization of the chairmen of the R3RFPG to submit a letter to TWDB on the proposed methods for ranking that addresses the issue of transparency in the ranking process, and whether or not it is appropriate to rank the projects.

Second: Sarah Standifer; Action: Motion passed unanimously.

15-minute Break: Reconvened at 10:40

The next flood planning cycle will begin this Fall. The selection of a Sponsor and a Technical Consultant team will take place this fall. The Amended Regional Flood Plan is due July 14, 2023. The current contract with Halff will expire December 2023.

TWDB will email a timeline highlighting next steps. TWDB recommended that the R3RFPG meet in September or October of this year to elect the R3RFPG Sponsor and then select the Technical Consultant team. TWDB expects the second flood planning cycle contracts to be finalized over the winter. If work commences prior to the execution of contracts, TWDB surmises that a clause will be included in the contract to back date reimbursable work similar to the first flood planning cycle. Work is allowed to fix remaining deficiencies on the Amended Regional Flood Plan under the current contract until December 2023.

TWDB will confirm when the Sponsor term for the flood planning cycle terminates.

It was recommended that the Sponsor for the second flood planning cycle be selected after the Amended Regional Flood Plan is submitted on July 14, 2023. The Request for Proposals and Quotes process for the Technical Consultant will begin in July, 2023, with the intent of executing a contract in September or October 2023.

Update from Region 3 Technical Consultant – Stephanie Griffin with Halff

Stephanie Griffin provided an overview of the content to be discussed by the consulting team including an update on TWDB Comments on Final Regional Flood Plan and Proposed Responses, an update on Task 12 as well as the status of FMXs on the work order approved by R3RFPG in February 2023, and a Proposed Project Schedule.

- a. TWDB Comments on Final Plan and proposed consultant team responses – Stephanie Griffin with Halff:

TWDB Comments were received by the Technical Consultants on March 28. Responses to TWDB Comments as well as updated files are due April 11. TWDB Comments focused on Chapters One through Five. Level 1 comments must be addressed by April 11. Level 2 comments must be addressed by incorporation into Amended Regional Flood Plan.

Proposed Responses to TWDB Comments include seeking clarification on apparent conflict with previous TWDB direction provided in November 2022; a request for additional explanation regarding Americans with Disability Act errors on March 29; Unique IDs will be corrected; and discrepancies between geodatabase and TWDB-required tables will be corrected. All files will be updated on the R3RFPG website after TWDB review.

- b. Update on Task 12 – Caroline Short with FNI

The Consultant provided an update on FMP Analysis Progress. A Map of FMP Distribution for Tiers 1 and 2 were shown. Tier 1 FMPs were substantially complete and will be presented to R3RFPG at the next meeting to recommend for inclusion in the Amended Regional Flood Plan.

17 of 32 Tier 2 FMPs were substantially complete. At least one from each submitting entity have been reviewed. A few FMPs were submitted from TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) contracts. Chambers County FIF contract sponsored by Liberty County WCID#5, submitted the necessary data to be considered a Tier 2 FMP by the January 27th, 2023 R3RFPG deadline. The project is ongoing and new data and documentation will be submitted to elevate the project to Tier 1.

Five of 26 Tier 3 FMPs were substantially complete. Kaufman County FIF contract will be elevated to Tier 1 once the necessary data and documentation has been submitted.

Key components of FMP analysis were presented in table format. The table documents the status of each project and is updated as a project progresses through the work order.

c. Project Schedule – Stephanie Griffin with Halff

The Technical Consultant's approach to reviewing the Draft Amended Plan were presented. Minimal chapter updates will be needed for the Executive Summary and Chapters one, two, three, and ten. Extensive updates will be needed for Chapter four, five, six, and nine.

Chapters with updates will be sent out to RFPG members with Track Changes. Chapters that do not have updates will not be sent to RFPG members. Chapters Four and Five will be sent to the RFPG on May 19th. The RFPG will have 10 days to review the proposed changes. Chapter Six will be sent to the RFPG May 25th. The RFPG will have five days to review the proposed changes. Chapter Nine will be sent to the RFPG on June 2nd. The RFPG will have five days to review the proposed changes. The Executive Summary will be sent to the RFPG by June 8th. The RFPG will have 5 days to review the proposed changes.

The RFPG will meet on June 22, 2023 to adopt the Amended Regional Flood Plan. The Amended Regional Flood Plan will be submitted to TWDB by July 14, 2023.

Updates from liaisons for adjoining coastal regions

- a. Region 5 Neches RFPG: Ellen Buchanan provided an update. They are at the equivalent place as Region 3. Region 5 submitted a recommendation to TWDB proposed FMP ranking criteria. They proposed a language change from estimated population at 100-year flood risk to estimated percentage of population at 100-year flood risk.
- b. Region 6 San Jacinto RFPG: Scott Harris provided an update. The results of the statewide comparison of FMXs showed that Region 6 has the most FMPs statewide, but second to the USACE Gulf Coast Protection District Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study (CSR) project. Region 6 also received an update from the USACE Gulf Coast Protection District. They are currently working on finalizing plans to acquire additional funding for the Galveston Bay CSR project.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor

There were no updates.

*Review administrative costs requiring certification

There were no administrative costs requiring certification.

* Discuss Planning Group activities post submittal of the amended plan, including the potential formation of subcommittees – Glenn Clingenpeel with TRA

The agenda item is intended to remove the lag time between the adoption of the amended regional flood plan and the beginning of the second flood planning cycle. It was proposed that interim charges be assigned to better understand the quantity and quality of the various models available. For example, there are several river models available for different portions of the Trinity River. In addition, there are several entities that develop models. The idea during the interim would be to formulate a better picture of how these models fit together. This will enable the group to better understand the flood landscape.

Scott Harris expressed his support to continue with planning meetings during the interim. Melissa Bookhout also conveyed her support for the subcommittees. Lissa Shepard noted that once the TWDB Category 1 FIF projects are completed the results will allow the R3RFPG to formulate a larger understanding of the region.

The R3RFPG was charged with determining one to three major topics that the R3RFPG would like to focus on. For example, what riverine, upland and/or stormwater models currently exist in the Trinity River basin?

Rachel Ickert also recommended that the RFPG start reviewing Legislative recommendations.

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

Edith Marvin, Environment and Development Director at the North Central Texas Council of Governments is retiring. Chairman Clingenpeel thanked her for her service to the R3RFPG and for everything she has done to help the citizens of the Trinity basin.

Confirm meeting date for next meeting

June 22, 2023 at 10 am. Location TBD


Consider agenda for next meeting

Adjourn

11:23 AM 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 April 6, 2023.



SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

12/5/23

Date



GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

12/5/2023

Date