

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024
10:00 a.m.

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group convened a public meeting, in person as well as virtual, on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel opened the meeting at 10:03 AM.

Voting Members Present:

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

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

Ex Officio Members Present:

Jake Madewell
Andrea Sanders
Manuel Martinez (absent)
Steve Bednarz
Justin Bower (absent)
Susan Alvarez
Todd Burrer
Jerry Cotter
Humberto (Bert) Galvan
Diane Howe (absent)
Lonnie Hunt
Lisa McCracken (absent)
Greg Waller
Adam Whisenant (absent)
Risa King (absent)
Neely Kirkland
John Blount (absent)
Amanda Young (absent)

Approval of the Minutes of the October 5, 2023, Meeting

Motion: Rachel Ickert moved to approve the minutes as presented;
Second: Matt Robinson; 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

Jake Madewell with TWDB provided an update. All amended plans had been deemed acceptable and would be presented to TWDB in March 2024. The TWDB held the Second Planning Cycle Regional Flood Plans (2028) Request for Applications (RFA) meeting on January 17, 2024. The recording and meeting materials were subsequently posted on the [TWDB Flood Planning website](#) and distributed via email. Furthermore, the TWDB sent out the Second Planning Cycle Regional Flood Plans (2028) Draft Contract language via email and posted it on the website. RFPG members were asked to review the language and provide any feedback with the RFA submission. TWDB referred to the November 2023 newsletter, which outlined the remaining timeline for the first flood planning cycle, the forthcoming timeline for the second flood planning cycle, and details about the RFA process.

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel highlighted that TWDB staff had formally approved the Region 3 Amended Regional Flood Plan. The TWDB staff would present the Amended Plan to the TWDB Board for formal approval in March 2024. Additionally, TRA was working on the TWDB RFA due on February 22, 2024. TRA committed to providing copies of the RFA, attachments, and proposed TWDB contract language upon the RFPG member's request. Contract documents and guidelines were also accessible on the [TWDB Flood Planning website](#).

Update from Region 3 Technical Consultant – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

- a. Consultant team addressed two TWDB Requests for Information (RFIs) relating to the amended plan.
 - I. Both responses were submitted prior to the December 29th deadline.
- b. Amended Plan was accepted by TWDB

The first cycle of flood planning has been completed. The Consultants will be submitting their final billings.

Update from the Policy Subcommittee – Rachel Ickert, TRWD

The Policy Subcommittee was assigned the task of reviewing the Legislative and Regulatory recommendations that had been received during the first flood planning cycle. An update was provided by Rachel Ickert from TRWD. The Policy Subcommittee convened on January 8th, with RFPG members Lissa Shepard, Galen Roberts, Jerry Cotter, Matthew Lepinski, and Susan Alvarez serving on the subcommittee. Stephanie Griffin from Halff attended and provided support for the meeting. During the session, the subcommittee delineated its goals and objectives. Discussions centered around Chapter 8 of the Amended Regional Flood Plan and Appendix K, which contained written comments received on the Draft Regional Flood Plan along with RFPG responses. Of particular focus was Public Comment number 6, which comprised recommendations submitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

It was determined by the subcommittee that the initial step would entail contacting TWDB to determine how they plan to consolidate Chapter 8 from all flood planning regions, followed by outlining subsequent actions. USACE volunteered to hold a direct meeting with TWDB to discuss the consolidation of recommendations and subsequent steps, with USACE agreeing to provide a report back to the subcommittee.

Additionally, the subcommittee deliberated on other committees and initiatives in which its members were individually engaged outside of RFPG, particularly those concerning policy and legislative recommendations. It was noted that such involvement could offer opportunities and insights for the RFPG's review of policy recommendations.

Discussions also touched upon the authority of counties in floodplain management and the principles of higher standards.

Due to ongoing research, the subcommittee refrained from providing recommendations to the RFPG at this time. Their action items include determining how TWDB plans to consolidate Chapter 8 from all regions and delineating subsequent steps. The subcommittee is scheduled to reconvene in February 2024.

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel commended the subcommittee for their efforts and expressed anticipation for their recommendations.

Updates from liaisons for adjoining coastal regions

- a. Region 5 Neches RFPG: Chad Ballard stated there were no updates.
- b. Region 6 San Jacinto RFPG: Scott Harris and Todd Burrer stated there were no updates.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Heather Firn provided an update. TRA intends to have the Consultant selected and a contract negotiated by the end of May 2024. TRA intends to present the TWDB and Consultant contract to the TRA Board in June 2024.

TRA reviewed the TWDB second flood planning cycle key dates provided by the TWDB:

- February 22, 2024 – Deadline for Sponsors to submit applications for grant funding.
- June 2024 – Deadline to negotiate and execute grant contracts between TWDB and the Planning Group Sponsors.
- August 2024 – Technical consultants are selected and approved by RFPGs and procured by Sponsors.
- September 2024 – Deadline to negotiate and execute subcontracts between Sponsors and technical consultants.
- September 19, 2025- Prepare and Submit Technical Memorandum to TWDB.
- January 26, 2026- Prepare and Submit Draft Flood Management Evaluation (FME) List
- February 26, 2027- Prepare and Submit Draft Flood Plan to TWDB.
- January 10, 2028- Prepare and Submit Final RFP to TWDB.

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel reiterated that the TWDB key dates were deadlines and clarified this did not prohibit TRA or RFPG from procuring a consultant and executing contracts beforehand. TRA's procurement policy is a two-step process that involves requests for qualifications (RFQs) and proposals (RFPs). The RFPG has received a list of firms that the RFQs will be sent to. Once the RFQs are received, the RFPG voting members will be emailed the RFQs and will provide TRA with their rankings independent of other members. The RFQ deadline for firms is February 12th. The deadline for RFPG ranking of RFQs is March 4th. Upon receipt of the list of prequalified firms, the RFP would be disseminated. TRA intends to release the RFP in March, aiming for a decision by early April. Considering the protracted duration of contract negotiations, TRA anticipates presenting both the TWDB contract and Consultant contract to the TRA Board in June 2024. All materials can be provided to the RFPG at their request.

The second flood planning cycle grant funds requested from the TWDB is \$2,857,800.00. There are three new tasks in the scope of work: Task 4C Performance of Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs), Task 5B Recommend a list of FMEs to be performed by the TWDB, and Task 11 Implementation and Comparison to Previous Regional Flood Plan. An agenda item will be added to the next RFPG meeting to review the tasks in the second flood planning cycle.

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 –

There were no discussions.

Receive registered public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

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

Announcements

Sue Alvarez from the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) announced that the NCTCOG was actively engaged in securing an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction grant to formulate an Air Quality Improvement Plan for the DFW region. Solicitations were made for projects encompassing water, wastewater, stormwater drainage, and green space to be integrated into the Plan. Specifically, the NCTCOG sought projects that were in the planning stage but not yet executed, ready for immediate implementation, lacking sufficient funding from alternative sources, and beneficial to low-income, disadvantaged neighborhoods. Interested parties were urged to promptly forward their projects to Sue Alvarez.

The Plan was slated for presentation to the NCTCOG Executive Board during the final week of February, with a subsequent submission deadline to the EPA on March 1, 2024. The funding from the EPA ranged from 2 million to 500 million, prompting the NCTCOG to strategize on maximizing funding for the DFW region. Emphasis was placed on identifying planning projects, particularly those ready for immediate implementation and demonstrating resilience. For additional details, stakeholders were encouraged to visit the [NCTCOG DFW Air Quality Improvement Plan website](#).

Six Metropolitan Statistical Areas in Texas, including NCTCOG, were submitting planning grants to the EPA, while the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality managed a state planning grant focusing on the Industrial Sector. The planning grants are due to the EPA on March 1st, with the implementation grant due on April 1st. NCTCOG anticipated funding availability for projects by early 2025, with funded projects required to achieve substantial completion within five years. For more information, stakeholders were directed to visit the [EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant website](#).

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel expressed congratulations to Jerry Cotter on his retirement, acknowledging Cotter's significant contributions to water supply and flood risk reduction. He highlighted Cotter's impact not only in the Dallas Fort Worth area but also statewide, possibly even at a national level. He emphasized the difficulty in overstating Jerry Cotter's influence and expressed best wishes for Jerry Cotter's retirement on March 31st.

Jerry Cotter expressed gratitude for the kind words and acknowledged the collaborative effort with his colleagues in flood risk and water supply management. He highlighted the positive experience of working within a supportive community and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to their collective efforts.

Confirm meeting date for next meeting

April 4, 2024, at 2 p.m. Hybrid; In-person at the TRA General Office.

Consider agenda for next meeting

- Review second flood planning cycle scope of work and tasks
- Policy Subcommittee overview

Adjourn

10:44 AM adjourned

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 JANUARY 18, 2024.



SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

6/20/24

Date



GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

6/21/2024

Date