

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024  
9:00 a.m.

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group convened a public meeting, in person as well as virtual, on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel opened the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Voting Members Present:

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

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

Ex Officio Members Present:

Susan Alvarez, arrived after roll call  
Steve Bednarz  
John Blount (absent)  
Justin Bower  
Todd Burrer (absent)  
Humberto (Bert) Galvan  
Diane Howe (absent)  
Lonnie Hunt  
Risa King  
Neely Kirkland  
Manuel Martinez  
Katie Koslan  
Andrea Sanders (absent)  
Matthew Lepinski  
Lisa McCracken (absent)  
Greg Waller (absent)  
Adam Whisenant  
Amanda Young (absent)

Approval of the Minutes of the October 4, 2024, Meeting

Motion: Rachel Ickert 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 – Katie Koslan, TWDB

There were no significant updates. Ms. Koslan acknowledged R3RFPG progress on the amendments. The TWDB 2nd Cycle Contract Kickoff webinar had been held the previous month, and the slides and recorded session were posted on the website. A webinar on payment requests was scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2025, and will be presented by Katie Koslan. Plans were also underway for an RFPG Chairs conference call to discuss lessons learned from community outreach in 2025, though the date had not yet been determined.

Craig Ottman, TRWD, requested an update on the 2024-2025 Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) cycle applications. Ms. Koslan stated that TWDB was working on finalizing the rankings for FMEs and FMPs internally and they should post them for public comments soon.

Update from the Policy Subcommittee – Rachel Ickert, TRWD

No updates were provided.

Updates from Region 3 Technical Consultant – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

Stephanie Griffin, Halff, provided a review of the agenda, starting with the 2023 plan amendment request. It was noted that the meeting slides had been updated from the version posted online due to revisions made after reviewing the submitted information. Some data had been miscategorized, with FMSs included among FMEs, necessitating adjustments. The revised slides would be posted after the meeting to ensure attendees had the most current information before taking any action. The agenda also included a review of Chapter 1, an update on Chapter 2 and public outreach activities, and a status update on the project schedule.

a. Amendment requests for 2023 Region 3 Trinity Regional Flood Plan –  
Stephanie Griffin, Halff

i. Requests received:

Following the October 2024 RFPG meeting, the opportunity for amendment requests was open until December 1, 2024. A total of nine FME requests, 38 FMP requests, and six FMS requests were submitted. Notably, the FMS submissions were new and had been initially miscategorized within other data. As a result, FMP numbers decreased while FMS numbers increased.

The submitted projects were being reviewed to determine their correct classifications. Revised slides were planned for the next meeting to provide updated information. It was noted that the amendment submission to TWDB was due on April 1, 2025, with internal deadlines set for early March to ensure timely preparation.

The FMPs required the most effort due to updates needed for tables, maps, and related documentation. Submissions included FMXs from various cities and counties, with notable contributions from Chambers County, Liberty County, and Highland Park. Several recategorization efforts were discussed, such as reassigning certain projects to align with sponsor eligibility.

The RFPG acknowledged the significant response from diverse regions and expressed satisfaction with consultant engagement. It was emphasized that the amendment window had closed, and future submissions would be considered in the next phase. A motion was proposed to approve the submitted FMXs for further review and consideration in the 2023 amendment process.

There was considerable discussion about future amendments. The contract with TWDB allowed for two amendments to the original regional flood plan. Although a second amendment was technically possible, the timeline presented challenges. Discussions also addressed downstream considerations for FIF funding and the next FIF cycle's timeline, which was still under development. While details remained uncertain, it was understood that submissions for the 2028 RFP might overlap with ongoing 2023 RFP amendments. These efforts aimed to align with the timeline for the 2026-2027 FIF cycle and beyond, ensuring eligibility for future funding cycles. It was acknowledged that the 2023 RFP amendment and 2028 RFP planning process would need to remain dynamic to reflect progress and integrate new projects, fostering a continually evolving and effective flood mitigation strategy.

There was discussion on the feasibility of the Technical Consultants meeting the TWDB amendment submission deadline. The Technical Consultants expressed confidence in completing the necessary updates by March, despite acknowledging limited flexibility. It was noted that some FMPs might need to be disqualified if essential information was not submitted on time. In cases where data was missing or inaccessible but

already produced, efforts would be made to address the issue. However, entities failing to provide the required information would have their FMPs reclassified. Communication with these entities was ongoing to clarify the sponsors intended submissions and address deficiencies. The process aimed to ensure that all submissions were appropriately categorized.

- ii. \*Consider approval of FMX amendment requests for further review

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called for a motion to approve the list of FMXs for further review and consideration for the 2023 RFP amendment.

Motion: Scott Harris moved to approve the list of FMXs for further review and consideration for the 2023 RFP amendment;

Second: Jordan Macha; Action: Motion passed unanimously.

- b. 2028 Regional Flood Plan Update – Audrey Giesler Klump, Halff

- i. Task 1 Planning Area Description Update:

Audrey Giesler Klump, Halff, provided an update on Chapter 1. The presentation was relatively straightforward, with updated graphics reflecting slightly newer information from the previous cycle. The project schedule was outlined, emphasizing the TWDB's deadline of September 19 for the Technical Memorandum. The focus until that deadline would primarily be on tasks 1 through 4B, with some tasks initiated earlier as necessary.

The chapter provided familiar data on the Trinity region, which covers 38 counties and approximately 18,000 square miles, including 27% of the area subject to a 1% annual chance flood event. Updated statistics highlighted over 5,800 flood claims and \$426.5 million in claims paid through 2024. Population growth was projected to increase by 20% by 2050, with significant changes in flood risks due to urbanization, particularly in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and other growing counties.

Sub-regions within the Trinity basin and their unique flood risks were discussed. Updated participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) showed 77% community involvement, with efforts ongoing to involve more communities.

Questions addressed included data coverage, NFIP participation, and the impact of population growth on flood risks. Mrs. Giesler Klump concluded with an overview of agricultural and natural resource management trends. Key trends included the decline of working lands by nearly 496,000 acres since 1997, likely due to urbanization.

- ii. \*Consider approval of use of Data Collection Tool

Mrs. Giesler Klump provided an update on the Data Collection Tool. Over the past few months, significant efforts were made to improve the data collection tool based on feedback from its previous iteration. Key changes included simplifying the login process, refining the survey to 23 questions (down from over 170), and an updated interactive map that integrated base-level data from the State Flood Plan Viewer.

For community representatives, the process now involves self-creating passwords and providing essential information like city, title, and contact details, addressing confusion from the prior cycle. The tool's enhancements aim to foster clear communication, avoid overwhelming users, and focus on actionable data. Additionally, sensitive data submission concerns were addressed by encouraging direct conversations rather than anonymous uploads. The revised tool is set to launch on December 12, with a soft deadline for data submission by February 11. Data submitted prior to February 11 was guaranteed to be included in the 2028 Regional Flood Plan. The tool will remain open after February 11 until a hard deadline is determined. Further testing by external stakeholders and regional representatives was recommended by the RFPG members to refine usability.

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called for a motion to approve the Data Collection Tool as presented.

Motion: Galen Roberts moved to approve the Data Collection Tool as presented;

Second: Lissa Shepard; Action: Motion passed unanimously.

iii. Task 2 Existing and Future Conditions Flood Risk Analyses Update – Samuel Amoako-Atta, Halff

Samuel Amoako-Atta, Halff, provided an update on Chapter 2. He emphasized the need for data from the TWDB and outlined the goal of assessing flood risks, including mapping extents, depths, exposures, and vulnerabilities for the Trinity Basin.

The presentation covered existing conditions, focusing on riverine, pluvial, and coastal flooding, and the data sources used in the first flood planning cycle, such as FEMA and USGS. Plans for the second cycle included integrating updated data sets, adding ten-year flood maps, and assessing social and agricultural impacts using new tools and datasets, like the TWDB Texas Flood Social Vulnerability Index (TX F-SVI).

Future conditions mapping was also presented, with considerations for climate variability, sea level rise, and land-use changes. TWDB funded Future Conditions Mapping, a flood quilt, through 2060 by Fathom, Aqua Strategies, and AECOM. The Technical Consultants and RFPG members highlighted challenges in ensuring the accuracy of future flood predictions, expressing concerns about uncertainties and the potential

real-world consequences of imprecise data. They discussed the possibility of forming a subcommittee that includes voting and nonvoting RFPG members as well as Technical Consultants, to evaluate technical details of the forthcoming future condition datasets.

iv. Outreach update – Dorothy White, Cooksey Communications

Dorothy White, Cooksey Communications provided an update. A detailed e-blast that provided instructions for updated data collection needs was distributed to stakeholders. A [PDF flyer](#) outlining data collection procedures was also created, linked in the e-blast, and hosted on the website. Information was posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, and a media advisory was issued to raise public awareness.

RFPG members were encouraged to share the information on their individual LinkedIn accounts since the Trinity RFPG lacked a LinkedIn presence. The team considered establishing an organizational LinkedIn page to reach professionals. Meanwhile, X, remained the primary social media channel due to its broad reach and media usage.

The Cooksey Team continued to maintain the website, update the stakeholder list, and acknowledge public comments. The Team planned to use e-notifications to announce key milestones and share updates via public meetings, postings, and media advisories. Additionally, the potential of reviving an old LinkedIn account was discussed to further enhance outreach.

c. Project schedule – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

Stephanie Griffin, Halff provided an overview of the project schedule. The schedule outlined aimed to meet the deadlines for two significant TWDB deliverables. April 1 for the 2023 RFP amendment request and September 18 for the Technical Memorandum submission.

Proposed meeting dates were suggested, but scheduling conflicts arose. It was agreed to use a polling platform to finalize meeting dates due to potential scheduling difficulties.

Updates from liaisons for adjoining coastal regions

- a. Region 5 Neches RFPG: Katie Koslan, TWDB, provided an update. Region 5 is currently in the planning stage.
- b. Region 6 San Jacinto RFPG: Scott Harris, Gulf Coast Authority, provided an update. Region 6 is currently in the planning stage.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor – Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel, TRA

- a. Member terms

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel provided an update regarding member terms and participation issues, which had been discussed at previous RFPG meetings. A letter was sent to a member who had missed a sufficient number of meetings to be out of compliance with the RFPG bylaws. Based on the RFPG's prior direction, the letter was unambiguously worded to state that a vacancy would be created for the member's position. No response had been received to date.

The RFPG decided to address the matter at a later meeting, incorporating it into the next full group session. Additionally, the establishment and convening of a nominating committee were identified as the next steps. Scott Harris, who chaired the committee previously, was asked to lead it again, pending the RFPG's approval.

b. \*Establish Nominating Committee

A proposal was made by Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel to maintain the same slate of members as the previous term for the Nominating Committee, while allowing any member to opt out if they choose. The Nominating Committee Members confirmed were Lissa Shepard, Jordan Macha, Rachel Ickert, Matt Robinson, and Scott Harris. Scott Harris was confirmed as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The group should review RFPG member attendance records to determine compliance with bylaws and continued eligibility. Further, they should review the attendance of members whose term limits are set to expire in July 2025. Members with expiring terms will need to convey their willingness to continue serving. Outreach, potentially via email, will be necessary to engage these members and confirm their interest in continued participation. Formal action on this matter will be required in July 2025.

RFPG Member and Term Selected as of June 2023:

- Jordan Macha, 5-year
- Lissa Shepard, 2-year
- Scott Harris, 5-year
- Chad Ballard, 5-year
- Melissa Bookhout, 2-year
- Glenn Clingenpeel, 2-year
- Matt Robinson, 5-year
- Sarah Standifer, 5-year
- Rachel Ickert, 5-year
- Galen Roberts, 2-year
- Sano Blocker, 2-year
- Andrew Isbell, 2-year

Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel provided an update on invoices. Katie Koslan, TWDB, acknowledged that when invoices are received, they will aim to process payment requests promptly. TWDB noted no RFPGs have submitted a payment request yet. Additionally, the recent resignation of the TWDB Contracts

Specialists manager, responsible for contract reviews and payments, was highlighted as a factor potentially causing delays in future payment requests. The RFPG expressed concerns about past delays in contractor payments, emphasizing the need for improvement to avoid similar issues.

Katie Koslan reassured the RFPG that key individuals at TWDB were informed, and, given the lack of recent payment requests, they hoped delays would not affect the start of the second cycle. They acknowledged ongoing challenges with TWDB Contract Specialist staff turnover, which had contributed to payment delays. Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel noted that the R3RFPG first payment request had already been reviewed by the TRA finance team, with questions addressed, and was expected to be submitted to the TWDB soon.

#### Receive registered public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

No registered public comments were received.

#### Announcements

There was considerable discussion on weather conditions. The RFPG noted that apart from spring flooding, the season had been relatively quiet. It was mentioned that ERCOT announced a high probability of rolling blackouts, possibly due to plant maintenance schedules and the transition between El Niño and La Niña weather patterns. However, the National Weather Service's forecasts conflicted with ERCOT's assessment, suggesting uncertainty.

Regarding seasonal observations, it was noted that October, typically the second wettest month, was unusually dry, leading to extended foliage activity in trees. The legislative update indicated no significant developments yet, though TFMA, ASC, and TWA government relations committees were monitoring any developments. It was anticipated that future discussions might involve funding for water initiatives, especially if triggered by extreme weather events. Additionally, federal progress on a related initiative was mentioned as positive news.

#### Confirm meeting date for next meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 1:00 pm at the City of Huntsville Service Center  
448 State Hwy. 75 North, Huntsville, Texas 77320.

#### Consider agenda for next meeting

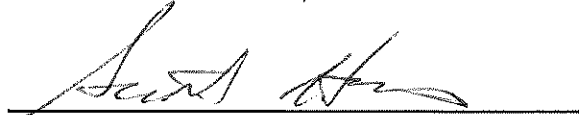
- Create a subcommittee to review the Future Conditions Mapping dataset produced by Fathom and funded by TWDB

#### Adjourn



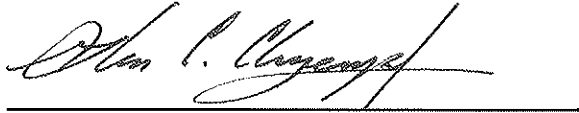
10:33 a.m. adjourned

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 DECEMBER 11, 2024.



SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary  
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

3/13/25  
Date



GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair  
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

3/13/2025  
Date