

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting
Friday, October 4, 2024
9:00 a.m.

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group convened a public meeting, in person as well as virtual, on Friday, October 4, 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, absent
Glenn Clingenpeel
Rachel Ickert
Craig Ottman, alternate for Rachel Ickert
Scott Harris
Andrew Isbell, absent
Jordan Macha
Galen Roberts
Matt Robinson, joined after roll call
Lissa Shepard
Sarah Standifer

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

Ex Officio Members Present:

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

Approval of the Minutes of the July 11, 2024, Meeting

Motion: Galen Roberts
Second: Rachel Ickert

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

Katie Koslan, TWDB Project Manager for Region 3 RFPG, provided an update. Ms. Koslan highlighted the recent email distribution of the updated timeline and documents for the amendment process, with a new deadline set for April 1, 2025. Supporting materials, including required amendment documents and spreadsheets, were sent out to guide submissions. Additionally, a discussion clarified that the TWDB advance sent to TRA refers to working funds allocated to cover administrative expenses, including consulting fees. The timing of amendment submissions, which integrates into the state water plan, was noted as essential for FMX sponsors seeking funding eligibility, with more details to follow.

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 an update. The meeting covered several key topics. The consultant team introduced their members and shared updates, including minor personnel changes. The agenda included updates on the state flood plan, an overview of the 2028 plan content, details of the amendment process, the proposed project schedule, and planned public outreach efforts. The team expressed appreciation for being selected to continue their roles, with the same project manager and deputy project manager leading. Additional team members were introduced, and attendees were informed they would be more involved throughout the planning process.

a. Technical consultant team – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

The Technical Consultant Team will include:

- Stephanie Griffin, Halff, Project Manager
- David Rivera, Freese and Nichols, Deputy Project Manager
- Cooksey Communications

- Fang Research Group, Water Resources, The University of Texas at Arlington
- Nathan D. Maier, Consulting Engineers, Inc.

b. State Flood Plan updates – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

The TWDB has incorporated data from all 15 regional flood plans submitted in July 2023 into the state flood plan. The plan was approved on August 15 by the TWDB board of directors, and an interactive web viewer has been launched for public access at TexasStateFloodPlan.org, offering users options to view the flood plan in PDF format or interactively by watershed. The web viewer provides information on future flood risk, recommended solutions, and details on studies (FMEs), projects (FMPs), and strategies (FMSs). There was some discussion on the GIS detail level in the viewer, with acknowledgment that data on finer details like culvert sizes might not be available due to challenges in maintaining updated data.

\$375 million dollars is available for funding in the 2024-2025 Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) cycle, and only FMX items included in both the regional and state flood plans are eligible for this funding. The FIF application process involves a two-step submission, with the preliminary abridged application due on April 15, 2024; top scoring full applications will be invited by TWDB to submit complete financial assistance applications.

Craig Ottman, TRWD, confirmed they have submitted an application to the TWDB for FIF funding and noted they are waiting for further updates on scoring progress. Mr. Ottman inquired if there was any information on the completion date for FIF scoring, citing delays and uncertainty.

Katie Koslan, TWDB, stated that FMS full application invitations would be issued within the next month. FME and FMP abridged applications were still being reviewed for eligibility, but the ranked list for those will go out for public comment before the end of the year.

c. Amendment process for Regional and Statewide Flood Plans – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

The amendment process proposed by the consultant team was created to address both statutory deadlines and practical limitations with consideration of the requirements of the Texas Open Meetings Act, and in alignment with the TWDB guidance. The TWDB has set a date of April 1, 2025 for RFPGs to submit amendments for consideration. There is a two-amendment limit for the current regional flood planning cycle, although additional modifications could be made without state reimbursement.

Key dates include an October 15, 2024 notification to stakeholders soliciting FMXs for inclusion into the amendment, a December 1, 2024 deadline for FMX submissions with supporting data to be received by the RFPG, and a December 11, 2024 review meeting. Priority will be given to

FMX submissions providing all required information (Tier 1) and from entities intending to pursue FIF-cycle funding. Given limited time and resources, prioritization will focus on well-prepared submissions with necessary documentation, such as benefit-cost ratios, to avoid deferring projects to future cycles.

Ultimately, the TWDB has an early 2026 amendment review planned, with final adoption expected by summer or fall of 2026.

d. Project overview – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

The 2028 Regional Flood Plan development involves a structured approach similar to the previous 2023 plan, with 11 key tasks. Initial tasks cover descriptions of the planning area, existing and projected flood risks, and analyses of floodplain management practices. Chapter 5 will include submitting a list of FMEs to be performed by TWDB. Further, a new element will be the inclusion of an historical assessment to compare progress with the previous flood plan. Additionally, chapter 11 will include a retrospective evaluation of flood planning to incorporate past data and outcomes.

There was considerable discussion that emphasized the need to account for climate change and extreme weather patterns, including possible future conditions impacting flood risk. Although it was clarified that the plan is not meant to serve as a climate forecast, it aims to adaptively track and respond to trends, with a focus on establishing a dataset for ongoing assessment and adjustment of flood risks. Notably, NOAA's Climate Atlas 15, is expected to address climate change's effects on flood patterns, and may provide critical data for future planning cycles.

Other changes to the 2028 Regional Flood Plan scope of work include specific considerations for low water crossings, which will now be analyzed separately, and additional Task 2 analyses to include smaller, more frequent flood events. Provisions for evaluating infrastructure, such as levees and dams, are also expanded. In Task 4, FMPs and FMSs that avoid or prevent future flood risk can be evaluated and recommended within the Regional Flood Plan. Finally, the Data Collection Tool will be simplified and have a public collection side and a government collection side.

e. Proposed project schedule – Stephanie Griffin, Halff

- September 2024 contract work commences
- September 19, 2025, Technical Memorandum is due to TWDB
- January 26, 2026 Recommended List of FMEs is due to TWDB
- February 26, 2027 Draft 2028 Regional Flood Plan is due to TWDB
- January 10, 2028, Final 2028 Regional Flood Plan is due to TWDB
- July 31, 2028, contract work concludes

f. Proposed outreach plan – Dorothy White, Cooksey Communications

The proposed outreach plan emphasized a comprehensive approach to engaging the public and soliciting stakeholder input in the flood planning process. The strategy includes:

- I. Website Management: Ongoing updates for relevant content, including public comment records and e-notifications, as well as new tools like links to the TWDB flood plan viewer and updated FAQs.
- II. Stakeholder Engagement: Updating the list of regional stakeholders and interested parties, along with intentional outreach to diverse and hard-to-reach communities. This includes maintaining public meetings, ensuring inclusivity, and capturing a range of public inputs.
- III. Social Media Strategy: Expanding beyond the platform “X” to include LinkedIn and possibly Instagram, Facebook, or Threads. A toolkit for partner entities was proposed to ensure consistent, wider-reaching messaging, especially on active, widely accessed channels.
- IV. Accessibility Enhancements: Addressing upcoming ADA requirements to ensure the website’s inclusivity for all public users.
- V. Geographical Inclusivity of Meetings: In response to group input, there was a strong consensus for hybrid meetings that also rotate locations across the basin, especially in areas where resources for project completion are limited, like the southern region. While this presents technical challenges, rotating meeting locations is considered vital to fostering inclusivity and addressing potential perceptions of regional neglect.
- VI. Strategic Goals: Overall, the outreach plan’s goal is to ensure transparency, drive public engagement, and encourage stakeholder entities to contribute, thus fostering comprehensive regional flood planning.

Stephanie Griffin, Halff, provided a 6 month look ahead and an overview on the outreach plan to solicit FMXs for the amendment:

- October 2024 – Pre-Planning Meeting
- November 2024 – No RFPG Meeting
- December 2024 – RFPG Meeting to discuss selection of FMXs to advance through amendment process and approve the release of the Data Collection Tool
- January 2025 – No RFPG Meeting
- February 2025 – No RFPG meeting
- March 2025 – RFPG Meeting to approve amendment

The outreach plan involves creating an informational flyer detailing amendment submission requirements. This flyer will be distributed electronically to city and county officials, public works directors, water districts, and other relevant stakeholders, reaching approximately 1,500 recipients. RFPG members may add specific contacts, and the flyer will also be available on the website and shared on social media platforms, supplemented by a media advisory on the amendment

process, submission requirements, and deadlines.

Updates from liaisons for adjoining coastal regions

- a. Region 5 Neches RFPG: No updates were provided.
- b. Region 6 San Jacinto RFPG: Scott Harris provided an update. The next Region 6 meeting would be held on October 10th. An executive session was held in September.

Update from Planning Group Sponsor – Glenn Clingenpeel, TRA

- a. Status of contracts for second cycle of planning – Glenn Clingenpeel, TRA

The planning group sponsor confirmed that contracts for the second cycle are active and functioning smoothly, with the first allocation from TWDB received, which should result in more timely payments. However, during the previous cycle, there were significant delays with reimbursements—up to eight months in one case. This was largely due to issues such as overlapping invoices and the TWDB’s audit process, which took longer than expected. Personnel changes within the contracting and finance teams at TWDB also contributed to these delays.

Despite these challenges, the issues were resolved, and reimbursements were completed. The goal moving forward is to improve the efficiency of these processes to ensure more consistent and timely payments for the planning group.

- b. Member attendance and excessive absenteeism – Glenn Clingenpeel, TRA

The group discussed issues surrounding attendance, noting one member who has attended only one meeting since 2023, with no attendance in 2024. The Region 3 Regional Flood Planning Group bylaws allow action on members who miss three or more consecutive meetings, which the absent member has significantly exceeded. The RFPG members agreed that this level of absenteeism represents a lapse in commitment, depriving their stakeholder group of representation.

The planning group sponsor will notify the individual of potential action to be considered at the next meeting. Additionally, a replacement is needed for an additional member who has moved out of state but has maintained good attendance; this replacement will be coordinated with the June 2025 re-election of members with two-year terms. The nominating committee will reconvene if necessary to fill vacancies.

Second Cycle Pre-Planning Meeting (pursuant to Texas Water Code §16.062(d) and Texas Administrative Code RULE §361.21(h)) – Glenn Clingenpeel, TRA

A pre-planning meeting, required at the beginning of the flood planning process, was conducted to allow both public and planning group members to offer suggestions, recommendations, and raise any concerns regarding the upcoming planning cycle. Although the work plan is largely fixed, this meeting provided an opportunity for any input on process direction. No additional suggestions were presented, and the meeting requirement was successfully completed.

Receive registered public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

No registered public comments were received.

Announcements

Lissa Shepard, Dallas County, announced that the Dallas County Inland Port Flood Planning Project is set to hold a public meeting, as required by the TWDB, on November 20 at 6 p.m. at the Cedar Valley campus of Dallas Community College in Lancaster. This planning project, which functions similarly to a large Flood Mitigation Evaluation (FME), aims to identify specific Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs) and Flood Mitigation Strategy Scenarios (FMSs). The team has been actively working on these elements, and the public meeting will serve as an opportunity to share progress and gather community input.

Greg Waller, National Weather Service, announced that the NWS is expanding its role, particularly in climatology, to support water decision-making. In collaboration with river authorities, Tarrant Regional Water District and others, NWS has been working to assist water supply entities with lake management, initially due to low water levels and then for flood operations as lake levels rose. NWS now conducts weekly climate outlooks focused on aiding water supply organizations, including a closed 12–15 minute briefing for river authorities from the Sabine to the lower Colorado regions. These sessions provide timely climate updates and regional status reports. If any RFBG members would like to join the status updates, please contact Greg Waller.

Matt Lepinski, US Army Corps of Engineers, announced that the USACE Hydrologic Engineering Center has publicly released the HEC-RAS 2025 Alpha version, featuring a complete redesign with a modernized interface, marking the culmination of over five years of development. This update significantly upgrades the user experience, similar to the transition from ESRI ArcMap to ESRI ArcPro. A live public webinar on Friday, October 11, will provide further insights. Interested individuals can register on the HEC website. A recording has been made available on YouTube.

Sue Alvarez, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), announced that the Integrating Transportation & Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) effort has recently achieved two key milestones: the completion of several sub-regional meetings across the North and West areas and the acquisition of General Land Office funding for the North area. Contracting for the North region is currently underway.

Matt Lepinski, USACE, elaborated on the TSI project. The TSI project focuses on proactive, integrated planning for the western DFW metroplex, addressing stormwater management, transportation, and environmental planning needs through 2070. Current efforts include conducting advanced hydrology and hydraulics (H&H) modeling, adding detail to flood risk management, and incorporating infrastructure data, such as TxDOT bridges and culverts, into the analysis. This approach aims to avoid duplicative efforts and align with Region 3 flood planning initiatives funded by the TWDB. By incorporating tools like optimization studies, the project identifies high-priority infrastructure upgrades, including bridges and crossings, as well as adding green infrastructure elements. These efforts aim to provide the region with long-term resilience and efficiency in stormwater and transportation planning. TSI will deliver complementary projects to the Region 3 RFPG for inclusion in the 2028 regional flood plan.

Sue Alvarez, NCTCOG, added that a key focus in the TSI project is identifying optimal locations for water storage by using insights from area-specific meetings. For example, Weatherford identified a low-lying area initially considered for wastewater polishing but potentially beneficial for stormwater storage.

Glenn Clingenpeel, TRA, summarized that this integrated approach seeks to maximize efficiency for road crossings and storage, aiming to reduce long-term costs by consolidating stormwater and transportation planning. This holistic method aims to prevent redundant infrastructure updates and foster more effective, comprehensive planning.

Confirm meeting date for next meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 9 a.m. at the Trinity River Authority

Thursday, March 6, location to be determined

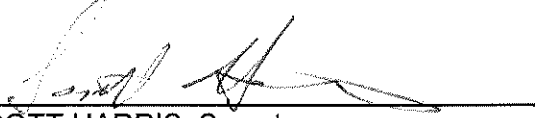
Consider agenda for next meeting

RFPG voting member attendance

Adjourn

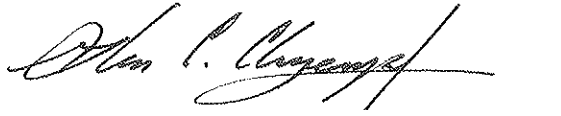
11:02 a.m. adjourned

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 OCTOBER 4, 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