

Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group Meeting  
April 22, 2021  
9:00AM to 12:00PM  
Publicly Accessible Videoconference

Meeting was conducted via WebEx and telephonically

The Region 3 Trinity Flood Planning Group held a meeting via WebEx on April 22, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Acting Chairman Glenn Clingenpeel called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

Voting Members Present:

Lissa Shepard  
Sano Blocker (absent)  
Jordan Macha  
Rachel Ickert  
Matt Robinson  
Sarah Standifer  
Andrew Isbell (absent)  
Glenn Clingenpeel  
Mike Rickman (absent)  
Scott Harris  
Melissa Bookhout (absent)

Seven voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

Ex Officio Members Present:

Adam Whisenant  
Brian Hurtuk  
Rob Barthen  
Steve Bednarz  
Jonah Chen  
Richard Bagans  
Kevin McCalla  
Greg Waller  
Todd Burrer  
Jerry Cotter  
Lisa McCracken (absent)  
Diane Howe (absent)  
Ellen Buchanan

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Motion: Matt Robinson moved to approve the minutes with corrections mentioned; Second: Lissa Shepard; Action: Minutes unanimously approved.

## Report from Nominating Committee

Scott Harris reported that they had only received one application for the open Small Business Interest Category position, but that the application was received after the closing of the posting period and was therefore ineligible. He stated that because of this, the position vacancy, with a call for applications, would be reposted and a nominee brought before the committee at a subsequent meeting.

The Committee was not able to make a recommendation, and no action was taken.

## Consider Addition of Non-voting Member Seats for Councils of Government

Mr. Clingenpeel stated that the group had decided during the March meeting to create three non-voting seats under a new Councils of Government Interest Category. The specific entities would not be named, allowing the nominating committee greater flexibility in vetting applicants. Mr. Clingenpeel stated that he believed there would be one new interest category with three seats, however, Mr. Bagans with the TWDB clarified that they would interpret the action as simply adding three new seats for councils of government.

Motion: Rachel Ickert motioned to add three new, mandatory non-voting positions for councils of governments; Second: Scott Harris; Action: Unanimously approved.

## TWDB Update

Richard Bagans stated that the TWDB had executed a grant agreement with the Trinity River Authority (TRA) acting as the local sponsor. He said that he anticipated getting TRA the initial installment of grant money within 30 days. He further mentioned that TRA was pursuing a sub-contract with their Technical Consultant and working on getting that executed as well.

Mr. Bagans then thanked anyone who submitted public comments to the TWDB on the flood planning technical guidelines. He mentioned that the deadline for public comments was April 1<sup>st</sup> and that they have been reviewing and incorporating them into the document. Final technical guidelines should be posted by the end of April. Mr. Bagans stated that the document would provide information on what the planning group is responsible for, task by task.

Mr. Clingenpeel asked if there was any update on when TWDB would be done with their review of the Technical Services Agreement with Half Associates. Mr. Bagans stated that the review was more of an after-the-fact review to make sure all the clauses are aligned with the rules and statutes. Mr. Bagans stated that it would be permissible to execute the

agreement with Halff Associates prior to receiving a final review from the TWDB.

#### Update from liaisons for adjoining coastal basins

Scott Harris gave a brief update on the April 15, 2021 meeting of the Region 6 Planning Group. He stated that he had been unable to attend the meeting, but had reviewed their minutes. Mr. Harris stated that Region 6 had meet to deliberate on a Technical Consultant, but that the minutes did not reflect whether a decision had been made at this time.

In the absence of Mr. Isbell, Ellen Buchanan from Region 5 gave an update on their group's activities. She stated that they had decided upon Freese and Nichols for their technical consultant, and that their consultant had already started work. Ms. Buchanan stated that Judge Branick from Jefferson County was their chair, and that the Lower Neches Valley Authority was their sponsor.

#### Update from Planning Sponsor

In regards to ongoing efforts to implement a grant agreement between the Trinity River Authority and the TWDB, Alexis Long stated that the TRA Board of Directors had authorized the creation of a bank account to be able to start receiving funds. She further explained that they are currently waiting on a transfer of funds equal to 20% of the grant total to begin work on the flood plan tasks.

#### Receive report from the General Land Office

Jonah Chen with the General Land Office gave a presentation on "GLO 101 and Disaster Planning." Mr. Chen noted that they specifically wanted to dedicate some bulk time towards a very particular planning activity, referred to as the "Combined River Basins Planning Study," which is the most relevant to Region 3.

Dr. Colleen Jones, Director of Research, Policy and Plans for the GLO, gave a presentation on the GLO-CDR Planning Mission. She stated that the team designs and oversees planning studies to collect, analyze, and communicate disaster-related data to assist decision makers in better protecting Texans from future disasters.

Chris Sallese, Project Manager for the East Region Study Team from Dannenbaum Engineering gave a slide presentation on what his team is doing and the area it covers. He stated that in getting this team together they brought in the Water Institute, which was leading a similar flood study for the state of Louisiana, as well as the Iowa Flood Center. He explained that they started off with stakeholder engagement, collecting data, compiling a risk analysis, developing alternative analyses and finally looking at potential funding sources and available technical assistance.

Rachel Ickert commented that the Combined River Basins Planning Study highlights some of the challenges faced in flood recovery, and that it can take years sometimes before effected individuals receive recovery funds, further highlighting the benefits of flood prevention and the fact that anything that can be done on the prevention side would help in the long run.

Dr. Jones added that they are working with USACE and TDEM to get as much data as possible into a state-wide database to consolidate disaster information into a single source.

### Receive report from USACE on Reservoir Operations

Jerry Cotter, Chief Water Resources USACE gave a presentation on flood control reservoir operations in the Trinity basin. Mr. Cotter stated that this would likely be the first of three presentations offered by USACE.

Mr. Cotter informed the group that there are 32 reservoirs across the state that the USACE has developed and operated over the past 70 years. Mr. Cotter commented that each dam has to be operated as part of a system. He also stated that while the USACE helps develop levee systems, these are eventually turned over to their sponsors like the City of Dallas and Tarrant Regional Water District.

Mr. Cotter suggested that anyone wanting additional information on water management for the Fort Worth District could go to [www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil](http://www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil)

### Pre-planning Meeting

Mr. Clingenpeel called on Richard Bagans to provide opening remarks on the purpose of the pre-planning meeting. Mr. Bagans stated that the pre-planning meetings are a requirement that is necessary for each cycle of flood planning. This allows the public to provide input or comments to the Regional Flood Planning Group members prior to the development of the plan. Mr. Bagans said that this is in keeping with the intent that the entire process be transparent and public. He clarified that, in addition to the infrequent pre-planning meetings, there will always be an item on the agenda for public comment, and as such input from the public can be received at any time; not just during the pre-planning meetings.

Mr. Clingenpeel opened the pre-planning meeting and asked for public comments. After three calls for public comments and confirmation that no one wished to provide input, the pre-planning meeting was closed.

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

Mr. Clingenpeel opened the meeting to public comments. No members of the public made comments.

Meeting date for May 2021 meeting

The time and date of the next meeting was set for 9:00 AM, Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Agenda items for next meeting

The following items were discussed as topics to be included in the next meeting:

Consider filling COG and Small Business seats;

Report from Technical Consultant;

Presentation by Livingwater;

Possible presentations by TDEM, Soil Conservation Groups, NRCS, National Weather Services; and

Review of any legislative action on flood risk or drainage.

Other Business

Rachel Ickert asked if the email from the TWDB containing introductory information and information on training is sent out to new members. Mr. Bagans stated that he would make sure that it is.

Mr. Clingenpeel asked the group to think about in person meetings again possible for the July meeting. The group agreed and Mr. Clingenpeel stated that he would start looking for a venue.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

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 22, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SCOTT HARRIS, Secretary  
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

PLANNING GROUP

---

GLENN CLINGENPEEL, Chair  
REGION 3 TRINITY FLOOD  
PLANNING GROUP

---

Date