

North Central Texas Council of Governments

AGENDA

Flood Management Task Force

Friday, February 16, 2024

9:30 AM, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YmViZTAzYjgtYWVmMy00NWFiLThhYWQqZTQ2M2ZmNGY1ODE3%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fef9df7e-b27d-4225-9db6-9edfd4cbfb51%22%7d

Meeting ID: 246 678 284 216

Passcode: grTDsv

Or call in (audio only)

+1 903-508-4574

Phone Conference ID: 597 522 328#

1. Welcome and introductions.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson took attendance of cost sharing members.

City of Arlington – Lee Jeffrey

City of Carrollton – N/A

City of Coppell – Cole Baker

City of Dallas – Tam Vu, Sherrie Rios

City of Farmers Branch – Ryan Sartor

City of Fort Worth – N/A

City of Grand Prairie – Ryan Harrell

City of Irving – Garry Fennell

City of Lewisville – N/A

City of Seagoville – N/A

Dallas County – Lissa Sheppard

Denton County – Steven Moore

Kaufman County – Garrett

Tarrant County – N/A

TRWD – Craig Ottman, Ashleigh Lowrie

TRA – Glenn Clingenpeel, Heather Firn

USACE – Matt Lepinski, Jerry Cotter

Guests

City of Mesquite – John Mears

The Nature Conservancy – Kathy Jack, Justin Kozak

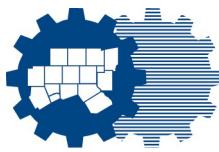
Acknowledgement.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson announced the passing of Kim Dewailly on January 6. The Flood Management Task Force shared memories of Kim and her impact on the community and region at large.

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEMS

- Meeting Summary.** The November 17, 2023, meeting summary is [available online](#) for review. Lee Jeffrey motioned to approve the meeting summary of the November 17th meeting. Noe Villareal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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North Central Texas Council of Governments

3. FY 2024 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program Activities Discussion.

- a. **NFIP and CDC Model Consolidation Team.** USACE staff will update the FMTF on scopes of work and next steps related to the consolidated NFIP-CDC model and maintenance process. (Matt Lepinski)

There are two ongoing studies related to CDC model consolidation. USACE is working with FEMA to complete and post the consolidated model. Please reach out to Jai-W Hayes-Jackson if you have trouble accessing the model. We are getting feedback from consultants and communities that are using it. One of the solutions to fix errors in the lower Dallas cross sections is to run the model in any version later than 5.07 in HEC-RAS. If you use earlier versions, you may have interpolation errors.

USACE is running data on Reach 3 and 4 of the West Fork upstream from Fort Worth. USACE has made updates to reach lengths, nodes, and centerlines for CDC specific geometry. There was no significant impact to the Watershed Science & Engineering. The latest version of the model was sent to NCTCOG. Jai-W Hayes-Jackson will replace earlier model on www.trinityrivercdc.com website.

Jacob Lesue asks if any FEMA representative can answer status of where the model is with becoming effective via Physical Map Revision and updating Flood Insurance Study reports and profiles.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson will follow up with FEMA and see if they can answer questions at the May meeting.

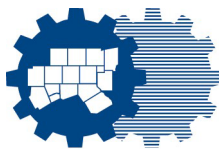
Matt Lepinski shares that the models for Dallas County and Tarrant County are in preliminary stage. They are currently working through updates but have no additional information on timelines.

USACE is still working to develop future flows to update and extend the model. There are complexities regarding levees in the East Fork and Main Stem extensions. The goal is to complete the extension by the end of September 2024. Matt Lepinski has submitted a funding request and timeline request with USACE leadership.

- b. **Update the CDC Manual to the 5th Edition.** The NFIP-CDC Model Consolidation Team will share progress on updates to the CDC Manual. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

Work on updates to the CDC manual continues. When it is finished, NCTCOG will post it for the Flood Management Task Force to review.

- c. **East Fork/Denton Creek Update and Expansion of the CDC process West.** NCTCOG staff will update the FMTF on the initiatives to bring additional communities into the Common Vision program. The FMTF will evaluate opportunities to expand the Corridor Development Certificate process into the TSI Project area. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
- Jai-W Hayes-Jackson shares that the City of Mesquite City Council approved the resolution to join COMMON VISION on Jan 16. NCTCOG is working with the city to finalize details before Mesquite officially joins. NCTCOG is developing a stakeholder engagement plan for the TSI study which includes efforts to expand the COMMON VISION program to westward communities.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

- d. **Update on Flood Warning Systems.** NCTCOG staff will give updates on efforts related to the RFP for the Flood Warning Systems. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
NCTCOG has taken down flood data NTX temporarily to ensure the site is equitable for all TXSHARE vendors including Trilynx and Hydrolynx. The procurement team is working with OneRain to sign the Master Service Agreement.
- e. **Texas Flood Training Initiative.** The purpose of this flood training initiative is to promote various flood planning and resiliency initiatives across Texas and the region. USACE is coordinating with numerous partners to help establish a multi-organization flood training planning group to meet regularly, develop, and provide access to important technical and non-technical training. The intent of this FMTF presentation is to introduce and solicit input on this initiative and share an example draft training video on the Interagency Flood Risk Management (InFRM) program for feedback. (Matt Lepinski)
USACE has discussed with TWDB and other groups the need to provide training regarding new data and technical components on HEC-RAS and other tools and how end users can use the data. Training would also include non-technical training for community leaders.

Jerry Cotter has been talking to state agencies for a few years on the need to train people on how to conduct a science investigation using the applications in a way that reduces uncertainty to acceptable levels. He emphasizes the role of the Flood Management Task Force and NCTCOG, suggesting that we put together a meeting to talk about this in greater depth. Matt is the point of contact on this training initiative with TWDB. Uncertainty in flood risk is driven by climate variability, and the training needs to address helping others understand this uncertainty and manage it.

A promotional video is shared with the group. Matt Lepinski states ultimately there will be a variety of longer videos including a 7-minute video for the estimated base flood elevation viewer.

Ryan Harrell asks what the best mechanism for a community is that is experiencing development and has questions regarding a specific project and wants to have dialogue directly with the USACE.

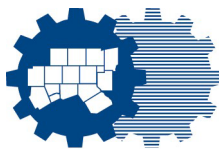
Matt Lepinski says you can refer your questions to him. He will bring in additional team members as needed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. Other Program Related Efforts

- a. **Trinity Floodplain Prioritization Tool and Funding Opportunity.** The Nature Conservancy will share their efforts to advance floodplain conservation, and other nature-based solutions in the Basin, including the Trinity Floodplain Prioritization Tool and related TWDB/FIF funding opportunities. (Kathy Jack and Justin Kozak)
Kathy Jack and Justin Kozak from the Texas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) discuss nature-based solutions and highlight resources of interest in the Upper Trinity Basin. Texas leads the country in federally declared natural disasters, and flooding is the most common kind. The state is losing its natural buffers due to conversions from

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North Central Texas Council of Governments

development and is outgrowing existing stormwater drainage systems. The cost of gray solutions is high, and gray solutions don't adapt well to changes in land use and climate/weather.

At the federal and state level, there has been a massive influx of infrastructure through federal legislation and the Flood Infrastructure Fund, but there is a lack of projects. If you do not have shovel-ready projects in the Water Protection Plan and other plans, they are not ready to receive these funds. However, there are barriers to having shovel-ready plans for nature-based solutions. The whole process requires a shift in thinking and there is a lack of understanding in how they operate.

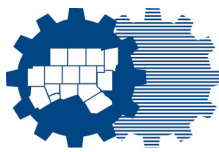
The Trinity Floodplain Planning and Prioritization Tool, a project between the Nature Conservancy and the USACE Silver Jackets, aims to increase flood reduction, water quality benefits and more by adapting an existing TNC tool to the Trinity River basin. TNC wants to identify regions in the basin who want a stakeholder-driven process to integrate nature-based solutions into their plans. Kozak demonstrates the tool. The tool includes water quality and soil data, habitat data, community flood risk data, social vulnerability data, development pressure index and more.

Kathy Jack shared an example from the SUNS project where local officials looked at data and mapped out potential opportunity areas, created a prioritization scheme and identified high level projects that met all their criteria; this led to a regional portfolio of projects. Now each partner can pursue funding for these projects.

Kathy Jack also shares information about funding opportunities for Flood Management Strategies (FMS) and Flood Management Evaluations (FME). For FMSs, the RFPG is seeking qualifying entities to apply for Flood Infrastructure Funds by April 15, 2024. Project development would still need HEC-RAS modeling. For FMEs, there is a plan to create a tool that can model whether you will get a flood benefit if you build a flood mitigation project in a certain location. TNC is not a qualified recipient of these funds but is working with stakeholders and hoping someone will apply. Reach out to TNC if you are interested in this planning effort.

Jerry Cotter shares information about a related initiative called the Sustainable Rivers program that is active for the Trinity, Brazos, Neches, and Cypress rivers. The first step of the program is pulling people together to have discussions. The second involves modifying releases out of USACE multipurpose reservoirs. Groups like TNC are important in helping us understand how to modify dam releases. The opportunity to modify dam releases is available to everyone. Projects can bring as much as \$10 million in federal funding to construct changes you want.

- b. **North Texas Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group.** NCTCOG will share updates from the October CRS Users Group Meeting. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson describes work done by the NCTCOG CRS Users Group. NCTCOG is looking for new meeting topics for future meetings. Please contact Erin Blackman if you have any suggestions.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

- c. **Trinity River Paddling Trail.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the designation of the Trinity River in Dallas-Fort Worth as a National Water Trail and efforts to enhance the trail and maintain the National Park Service designation. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
NCTCOG and Trinity Coalition are working on the master plan for the national water trail. Currently, NCTCOG staff is drafting the background and goals for the master plan and will have the draft done this month to present at the April task force meeting. Currently a meeting with the Master plan committee is being scheduled for March.
- d. **Integration of Transportation and Stormwater Planning.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on the scope and funding for the Integration of Transportation and Stormwater Planning Project. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
Work completed in the last quarter includes meetings with the Urban Land Institute Mini Technical Assistance Program, a kickoff meeting with the Transportation subject matter expert, and the completion of the equity engagement plan funded by FEMA, the literature review, and 1D pilot study. Currently the procurement of the H&H consultant is being finalized.
- e. **Cooperating Technical Partnership.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on the CTP projects that are ongoing. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
NCTCOG expects the East Fork and Hog Branch Risk MAP projects to hold the flood risk review and risk products meetings this spring and wrap up these projects in September.
- f. **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program.** An update on iSWM activities will be provided by NCTCOG staff. (Casey Cannon)
The next iSWM meeting will be held April 24, 2024.
- g. **CDC Applications.** NCTCOG staff will share CDC applications received since the last FMTF meeting and invite members to share any upcoming CDC applications. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson provides an update on CDC applications currently in the pipeline. Some applications have moved slower than expected due to staff vacations.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- 5. **Roundtable Topics/Other Business.** The FMTF members and NCTCOG staff may share additional items as time allows.

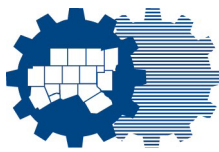
Jai-W shares the results from the COMMON VISION Value and Engagement Survey: The meeting will continue to be 2 hours in length and will be held in-person every other meeting starting with the meeting in May. The May meeting will offer a hybrid option but after that it will be either strictly virtual or in person. Meetings will also recruit guest presenters for future meetings. NCTCOG staff will seek suggestions for presentations the Task Force would like to see.

City of Arlington – will submit a CDC application within the next week for a landfill. It will also need TCEQ permitting.

City of Carrollton – N/A

City of Coppell – N/A

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North Central Texas Council of Governments

City of Dallas – N/A

City of Farmers Branch – N/A

City of Fort Worth – N/A

City of Grand Prairie – N/A

City of Irving – N/A

City of Lewisville – N/A

City of Seagoville – N/A

Dallas County – asks about a CDC permit application that has gone to USACE to review for Southern Dallas County. Liss Sheppard will be giving a presentation to Balch Springs at the end of February and would like to talk to Jai-W Hayes-Jackson about the city and gain understanding about their status with the COMMON VISION Program and the East Fork communities.

Denton County – N/A

Kaufman County – N/A

TRWD – N/A

TRA – N/A

USACE – Matt Lepinski will coordinate with Lissa Sheppard and Mike Danella to provide an update on the CDC application for Southern Dallas County.

Stephanie Griffin – the TFMA Annual Conference is March 19-22 in San Antonio. Registration for the conference is open. If you have flood management solutions in the regional flood plan, TWDB extended the deadline for FIF grant and loan applications to April 15, 2024.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson – announces Jerry Cotter's retirement and that this will be his last Flood Management Task Force meeting.

Jerry Cotter – March 29 will be his last day, but he hopes to continue to work in these areas wearing a different hat but will take a few months off. The region is growing so rapidly, facing so many challenges with that growth and climate variability. Reach out to him if you need assistance.

6. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 17, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

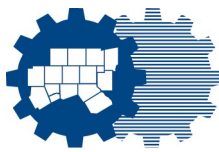
The meeting will be held at NCTCOG Offices.

7. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Jai-W Hayes-Jackson by phone at (817) 695-9212, or by email at JHayes-Jackson@nctcog.org. Thank you.

Attendance List	
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson	NCTCOG
Webster Mangham	TRA
Kathy Jack	TNC
Minhtam Vu	City of Dallas
Garry Fennell	City of Irving
Glenn Clingenpeel	TRA
Justin Kozak	TNC
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG
Stephen Moore	Denton County
Jennifer Rovezzi	City of Denton
Sherrie Rios	City of Dallas
Jerry Cotter	USACE
Lee Jeffrey	City of Arlington

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Stephanie Griffin	Halff Associates
Garrett Moore	Kaufman County
Ashley Lowrie	Halff Associates
Jeremy Dixon	Freese and Nichols
Kofi Sam	Atkins Global
Ryan Sartor	City of Farmers Branch
Matt Lepinski	USACE
Lissa Shepard	Dallas County
Claire Pollard	Dewberry
Caralyn Dawson	City of Denton
Taylor Hegemeyer	NCTCOG
Ryan Harrell	City of Grand Prairie
Cole Baker	City of Coppell
Larissa Knapp-Scott	LJA Engineering
John Mears	City of Mesquite
Heather Firn	TRA
Yeontae Jeong	Pape Dawson
Angela Davidson	Halff Associates
Mike Danella	USACE
Craig Ottman	TRWD
Curt Cassidy	City of Mesquite
Noe Villarreal	Dallas County
Steve Parker	City of Dallas
Mandy Clark	TNP
Joshua Spencer	City of Dallas
Nathan Davison	Dallas County
Jacob Lesue	Dewberry
Matthew Pebworth	O'Brien Engineering
Jeff Kelly	City of Lewisville
Julie Jones	NDMCE
David Phan	City of Dallas
Michelle Wood-Ramirez	TRWD
Raheel Khan	City of Dallas
Benjamin Thompson	City of Fort Worth

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