



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee

Thursday, September 10, 2020

9:30 a.m., Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YjU4Nzk0MDctZTNmZS00NTQ1LTlhNzAtNjBIYjdmZDY0ZThk%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e36755e2-eefa-4b02-b9cc-4498875cd36a%22%7d

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YjU4Nzk0MDctZTNmZS00NTQ1LTlhNzAtNjBIYjdmZDY0ZThk%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e36755e2-eefa-4b02-b9cc-4498875cd36a%22%7d

Audio will come through your computer speakers/microphone, or you can call in at:
+1 903-508-4574, Conference ID: 805 993 207#

1. **Welcome and introductions** (Mia Brown)

The meeting began with introductions of all present.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **Presentation on COMMON VISION**

- a. Overview of COMMON VISION and the Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) Program (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown presented an overview of the Trinity COMMON VISION program history and the goals of the program.

3. **COMMON VISION Work Program Overview and Activities Update.** NCTCOG staff will provide an overview and update of the listed activities of the Trinity River COMMON VISION Program:

- a. CDC Permitting Update (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown told the committee that two CDC applications were received during the fiscal year. This brings the total applications since the beginning of the program to 218.

- b. NCTCOG hosting of the annual FEMA 4-day National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) course (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown let the Committee know that NCTCOG hosted the FEMA L-273 4-day National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) course for the 24th year in a row and it was full with a wait list. Due to COVID-19, FEMA will not be able to field-deploy the L-273 course. Mia is working with FEMA and TWDB to bring their online “4x2 Floodplain Management Course” to North Central Texas later this year, which will be two hours of instruction daily for four days.

- c. Elected Officials Seminar and Community Rating System (CRS) Meeting (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown gave the Committee a recap of the Combined Elected Officials Floodplain Seminar/CRS Users Group that was held virtually on July 30, 2020. Several representatives from the TWDB spoke on base level engineering, their expanded role in floodplain management in the last few years, and the State Flood Plan process. 80 people were in attendance.

- d. FY 20 Flood Management Task Force (FMTF) Work Program Results
 - i. NFIP/CDC Model Consolidation Team (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown summarized the work of the NFIP/CDC Model Consolidation Team to optimize the CDC process in anticipation of model consolidation. This included the memo approved by the FMTF in January 2020 with a new flow chart for the CDC application process, updated CDC Cost Recovery Fees, and the new Model Maintenance Fee, among other updates. Mia also noted the contributions of \$2 million by FEMA to georeference the NFIP model and \$215,000 by the USACE to incorporate all current projects and fully consolidate the models.

- ii. Website for the CDC Application Process (Brian Geck and Mia Brown)

Mia Brown described the newly launched website at www.trinityrivercdc.com, which will be used as the new model repository for users to download the latest version of the CDC model and be the central location for submitting and reviewing CDC applications. The new website will streamline the CDC application process and put information in a centralized easily accessible location. Full functionality will be available October 1st.

- iii. East Fork Trinity and Denton Creek Community Integration (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown gave an overview of the effort for East Fork Trinity communities to voluntarily join the Trinity Common Vision Program, going back to the first interest meetings in 2016 and FEMA's contribution of \$1.5 million to update the NFIP model for the East Fork Trinity from an unstudied Zone A to detailed Zone AE. In 2019, the City of Seagoville and Kaufman County joined the program. The City of Mesquite is tentatively considering joining the program, pending the resolution going to council. Beginning in FY21, the USACE is contributing \$270,000 to create CDC future flows for the East Fork and Trinity mainstem below the current CDC program area cutoff.

- iv. Other Updates – Administration of the OneRain Flood Early Warning System Contract (Mia Brown and OneRain Staff)

Mia Brown gave an overview of the FMTF request for NCTCOG staff to pursue and set up a regional flood early warning system and the existing contract with OneRain for Contrail Software which began in July 2018 through North Texas SHARE. The current contract has limitations on who can join based on system size. The contract is up for renewal and



North Central Texas Council of Governments

NCTCOG staff have worked with OneRain to negotiate terms for multiple subscription tiers that allow any community to join the program regardless of system size. Charles Yost, Program Manager and Meteorologist with OneRain, gave an overview of the draft proposed options across six subscription tiers. A renewal is anticipated in the next month and information will be distributed to communities once it becomes available.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **Summary of 2019 Common Vision Steering Committee Meeting** (Mia Brown)

Due to the virtual meeting, the summary was made available for review and the Committee was asked if there were any corrections or objections to the document as written. No objections were made, and the summary was passed as final.

5. **Approval of FY21 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program.** The Flood Management Task Force (FMTF) met June 26th and assisted NCTCOG with the selection of work program items presented for the upcoming fiscal year. The FMTF then approved the work program composition on August 14th and recommended Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee approval. The budget remains unchanged at \$100,000. The expanded model and permit system is expected to be available near the end of the fiscal year; after that time the additional East Fork members will be asked to contribute to the program for the next year (FY22). (Mia Brown)

The Committee members voted via the Microsoft Teams chat box, unanimously approving the FY21 Trinity River Common Vision Work Program as presented.

PRESENTATION ITEMS

6. **Related Activities Update.** An update will be provided on related topics outside of this work program to include: a. Trinity River National Recreation Trail Update (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown noted to the Committee that the Trinity Coalition (formerly Trinity Nature Conservancy) submitted their application to the National Park Service for designation of the Trinity River through the DFW Metroplex as a National Recreation Trail (NRT). Designation was anticipated on National Trails Day on June 6, 2020, but this year all applications have been delayed. News of designation will be shared once it occurs. The Trinity Coalition received the Conservation Wrangler designation from Texan by Nature for their efforts. The Trinity Coalition continues to work with communities on signage and possible additional launches.

b. Participation in FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partnership (CTP) Program and North Texas CRS Users Group (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown gave an overview of the FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) grant program and NCTCOG's role and history as a partner. She described the Discovery and Flood Risk Identification phases of the RiskMAP process that NCTCOG participates in as a CTP and completed projects to date. Newly awarded projects include the Catherine Branch Flood Risk Identification Project in Denton County and the Communications and Outreach Mitigation Strategies (COMS) grant for initial outreach efforts in the northern and western areas of the NCTCOG region within the Trinity River watershed for the upcoming Transportation and Stormwater Initiative for integration of infrastructure planning.

c. Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Update (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown gave an overview of the iSWM program and its membership, as well as the certification program. Six communities are iSWM Silver Certified (Fort Worth, Grand Prairie, Denton, Frisco, Kennedale, and Irving), and the cities of Celina and Corinth are currently seeking Gold and Silver certification, respectively. Mia also highlighted recently completed resources posted to the newly redesigned website (www.iswm.nctcog.org), including community inventories for the 16 iSWM criteria, instructional videos, and proprietary device guidance.

d. Upcoming Funding Opportunities for Flood-Related Projects (Mia Brown)

i. State Flood Plan

Mia Brown gave an update of TWDB activities over the last year since the 2019 Texas Legislature tasked that agency with creating the first State Flood Plan, which is modeled closely after the state water planning process. In spring of 2020, the TWDB approved boundaries for flood planning regions by river basin and adopted final flood planning rules. A nomination period was completed over the summer for membership in 12 statutory categories for regional flood planning groups (RFPGs) and sponsors for each RFPG. Edith Marvin, Director of Environment & Development at NCTCOG, nominated herself as representative in the Environmental Interests category for the Trinity River RFPG. NCTCOG nominated itself as the sponsor for the Trinity River RFPG. Other RFPGs partially located in the NCTCOG boundary include the Brazos, Sabine, and Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress. TWDB will announce members and sponsors in late fall 2020.

ii. CDBG-MIT Funds for Texas

Mia Brown let the Committee know that \$4.3 billion has been set aside for the State of Texas from CDBG-DR funds for mitigation. The 2015 and 2016 Floods State Mitigation Competitions are now open and applications are due October 28, 2020. All NCTCOG counties except Collin, Hunt, and Rockwall are eligible for the 2015 Floods competition. In the NCTCOG region, only Ellis, Erath, Hood, Parker, Palo Pinto, and Somervell counties are eligible for the 2016 Floods competition. There is no requirement for a tie-back to the qualifying disaster.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

e. 16-County Watershed Management Initiative (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown gave the Committee the background and purpose of the initiative. A roundtable was held March 14th, 2017, with the county floodplain administrators, who came up with a menu of 13 regionally recommended watershed management standards. NCTCOG staff presented legislation from the 77th Regular Texas Legislative Session that amended the Texas Water Code that gives counties authority to enforce these standards. A forum was held July 12th, 2017, with county floodplain administrators and district attorneys to discuss the legislation. The NCTCOG Executive Board endorsed the initiative in October 2017. Dallas, Denton, and Kaufman Counties have each partially or fully adopted the standards. NCTCOG staff are currently working with other counties to address their questions as they consider adopting from the menu of standards.

f. Transportation-Stormwater Initiative Update (Mia Brown)

Mia Brown showed a map of the project area and shared that the project will target undeveloped and developing communities in the Upper Trinity River watershed. The goal is to limit the increase in future flooding associated with growth and development by providing resources to communities to plan for transportation and stormwater infrastructure together. Outreach will begin in early 2021. NCTCOG now has a dedicated webpage for the effort at <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/upper-trinityriver-transportation-and-stormwater>. Mia also gave an overview of the various funding opportunities NCTCOG staff are pursuing to meet the funding goal of \$10 million.

g. Trinity River Watershed Hydrology Assessment (Jerry Cotter - USACE)

Jerry Cotter, Chief of Water Resources at USACE Fort Worth District, summarized the goals and deliverables of the Trinity River Watershed Hydrology Assessment (WHA) that was performed by the Interagency Flood Risk Management (InFRM) Team. He emphasized that the data is not regulatory but can be used by communities as planning and design guidance for resiliency, assessing risk, and determining if there are nearby events that would adversely impact communities, citing the adoption of Guadalupe River WHA data by San Marcos, Texas, as an example. Data is still undergoing peer review and will be complete by the end of 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- 7. Roundtable Topics/Other Business.** The Steering Committee and NCTCOG staff may share additional items as time allows.

No roundtable items were shared by attendees.

- 8. Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Mia Brown by phone at (817) 695-9227, or by email at MBBrown@nctcog.org.

Thank you.



North Central Texas Council of Governments

Attendance Recorded Via Microsoft Teams

Alberta Blair – Dallas County
Mia Brown – NCTCOG
Sheri Capehart – City of Arlington*
Amy Cannon – City of Arlington
Kelley Chastain – Kaufman County
Tamara Cook – NCTCOG*
Jerry Cotter – USACE
Clair Davis – City of Fort Worth*
Brian Geck – NCTCOG
Noreen Housewright – City of Grand Prairie*
Monique Hunter – Kaufman County
Rachel Ickert – TRWD
Leah King – TRWD*
Matt Lepinski – USACE Fort Worth District
Edith Marvin – NCTCOG
Craig Ottman – TRWD
Lissa Shepard – Dallas County*
Sarah Standifer – City of Dallas*
Ronald Sullivan – Kaufman County*
Charles Yost – OneRain Inc.

*Indicates the Committee member or their designated voting proxy