

# MEETING SUMMARY

Flood Management Task Force

Friday, February 21, 2025

9:30 AM, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams



## 1. Welcome and Introductions.

- City of Arlington – Lee Jeffrey
- City of Carrollton – Matt Brennan
- City of Coppell – Cole Baker
- City of Dallas – Tam Vu
- City of Farmers Branch – Eric Mueller
- City of Fort Worth – Lisa Biggs
- City of Grand Prairie – Ryan Harrell, Kamal Sapkota
- City of Irving – Gary Fennell
- City of Lewisville – Jeff Kelly
- City of Seagoville – N/A
- Dallas County: Nathan Davison, Noe Villareal
- Kaufman County- Jeremy Mungin
- Tarrant County – Maria Moreno
- TRWD – Craig Ottman, Ashley Lowrie,
- TRA – N/A
- USACE – Bret Higginbotham

## DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The November 15, 2024, meeting summary is [available online](#) for review. The meeting summary was approved unanimously.

## 3. FY 2025 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. (Bret Higginbotham)

- i. **Extension Model Discussion & Approval.** The Task Force will discuss the extension model and vote to approve it.

Bret Higginbotham shared that USACE made some changes to the Clear Fork geometries including river stationing, updated bridges, and inline structures and will re-run with CDC flows. USACE is coordinated with FEMA regarding incorporating the new data into NFIP geometry, similar to East Fork and Main Stem.

USACE has finalized the extension for the East fork and main stem. Documentation was completed and was shared previously at the November meeting. We did not receive any comments regarding the model. USACE won't be combining the models because of complexity but will investigate combining it in the future.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson asks for a vote to approve the model. The model was approved by the Task Force. Jai-W will differentiate the separate models in the NCTCOG website.

Nathan Davison asks where people can download the approved model. Jai-W Hayes-Jackson directed everyone to the webpage on NCTCOG's website and shared that it will be moved to CDC portion of website.

Lisa Biggs asks where the Clear Fork geometry was located. Bret Higginbotham will check to see if the Clear Fork is part of the consolidated model.

- ii. **CDC Training Workshop Scope.** Discuss what communities would like to see in developing a training workshop for the CDC process and model.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson requested input from communities regarding the CDC Training Workshop Scope. Jai-W will provide more information regarding the training as the agreement is being finalized.

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

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson is working with Lisa Biggs and Juliana Behrens on completing the CDC Manual draft that can hopefully be reviewed at the next Task Force meeting.

- c. **East Fork/Denton Creek Update and Expansion of the CDC Program 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 Program into the TSI Project area. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

Matt Lepinski and Jai-W Hayes-Jackson have been meeting with the City of Weatherford as a pilot study regarding how to expand the CDC program westward. The next meeting will be in March.

NCTCOG is renewing its efforts to engage East Fork communities to join COMMON VISION. Jai-W Hayes-Jackson is collecting contacts for the East Fork communities and may reach out to counties for contacts of Floodplain managers for some cities.

- d. **Update on Flood Warning Systems.** NCTCOG staff will give updates on efforts related to the TXShare contract for the Flood Warning Systems. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

- i. Presentations from Flood Warning Systems Vendors

A test site is now available for Flood Data NTX. It will soon be complete with links to vendor websites.

- 1. **AEM OneRain**

Barry Fulfer gave an overview of AEM's products. AEM supports customers with flood warning, flooded roadways, and road weather, using a combination of software, hardware, and data solutions. Currently, data is displayed through the Contrail software, which will soon be replaced by a new version that integrates information from all eight platforms, offering an all-hazard approach. AEM provides comprehensive services

from design and installation to data transmission, decision support, and alerting. Their early flood warning systems are crucial for prevention. They also offer dam safety services nationwide, utilizing centralized sensing and software.

Through a COG contract, AEM presents Elements 360, an all-hazard software solution that includes high water detection, data collection from gauges, wildfire monitoring equipment, and lightning detection. Elements 360 can issue alerts and messages, create rules for alarm management, and provide inventory management of hardware. It also includes a module for issuing work orders for site maintenance.

AEM's StormData and Radar Rainfall and Storm Properties Analysis offer real-time or historical data. Many customers use end-of-month data to adjust fees, while real-time models automate flood inundation data up to 72 hours in advance. AEM's radar water level sensor installations include flow sensors that provide flow rates. Their rain gauges and weather stations monitor temperature, barometric pressure, and rainfall. They offer various brands of data loggers compatible with Alert, Alert 2 networks, cell networks, and satellite communications like StormLink for remote locations. AEM installs and maintains gauges and trains clients on system operations. They run a Dam Safety Program for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, providing real-time dam monitoring.

## **2. HydroLynx Systems Inc.**

Ravi Gopal gave an overview of HydroLynx's product. HydroLynx installs real-time data telemetry systems, with a core strength in protecting lives and property. They install, service, and support systems worldwide, including the Panama Canal. They partner with Water and Earth Technologies Inc. for installations and TriLynx for additional services. Onsite training is available for customers.

HydroLynx's transmitters can accommodate various sensors. The Data Collection Unit collects, controls, and transmits data, programmable using Microsoft Windows. The Data Transmitter collects, processes, and transmits data via radio, cellular, satellite, or internet, operating in the ALERT protocol and adaptable to Contrail and other systems. Automated control systems can be used at upstream water level sites to transmit alarms when high water levels are detected, triggering flashing roadway signs. For example, the City of Dallas is redesigning its FRWS system to incorporate cellular functions and flashing signs using the HydroLynx FRW system.

HydroLynx also provides instrumentation for hydrological data collection, using the ALERT 2 protocol for multiple server data connections. Their NovaStar base station software displays data but is compatible with other software as well.

### 3. TriLynx Systems

Steve Malers gave an overview of TriLynx. TriLynx is based in northern Colorado and is co-located with several companies that specialize in bridge monitoring, equipment installation, communications networks, and the development of bridge and precipitation monitoring systems, as well as open-source software and data solutions. TriLynx focuses on software development and collaborates with other vendors to implement integrated solutions, such as flooded roadway monitoring systems with flashers and gates. They face challenges like physical environmental factors and vandalism.

NovaStar Administrator Software is designed for a small number of users and can define plots and reports that are automatically outputted. This software can be used on websites to communicate information. The Database Tool runs diagnostics to review the database and identify problems. NovaStar Operator Software is used by most users for situational awareness. It can define alarm triggers and notifications for automatic messages and access data summaries. The software integrates with ArcGIS to feed data to clients. Users can click on a point on the map to generate a dashboard of hourly data, including storm totals and battery voltage, to ensure stations are functioning correctly.

TriLynx also offers a cloud-hosted dashboard that assembles information on training, software documentation, and system information. The heat map provides data summaries and indicates if data is missing, such as from stations that are out of service. The details button provides a one-day data count to identify and address data gaps. Regular report analytics are available, and web services can be queried to automate data movement to models, ArcGIS, etc. The Open Water group at TriLynx has an open-source data tool called TSTool, which can access NovaStar web services and build workflows. The City of Dallas is one of their major clients, particularly interested in supporting the Flood Management Task Force.

- e. **Legislative Agenda Program.** NCTCOG staff will provide updates on relevant bills during Texas legislative sessions. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)  
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson discussed bills that have been introduced up until 2/16/2025. Jai-W asks the Task Force if they want updates on water conservation bills as well. Lisa Biggs and Becky Taylor welcome the additional topic. Jai-W will begin including water conservation bills in the update. The update may be posted on the NCTCOG website as it is getting long for an email.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 4. Other Program Related Efforts

- a. **North Texas Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group.** NCTCOG will share updates for the next CRS Users Group Meeting. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

- i. **CRS Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information.** Discuss an opportunity for a collaboration between communities to share resources and reduce duplication of effort.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson gave an overview of the Multi-Jurisdictional Program and asks the Task Force if they would be interested in NCTCOG developing one for the region.

Ryan Harrell shares that he thinks it is a great idea.

Nathan Davison is interested and that it goes along with the TCEQ permit setting out public involvement in floodplain management as separate minimum control measures.

Tam Vu shares she also thinks it is a good idea.

Eric Mueller shares that the City of Farmers Branch is working to join CRS and that it would be helpful to share resources.

Lisa Biggs has been trying to get a PPI at the City of Fort Worth but has not been successful. Doing it as a region would help everyone.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson will coordinate with Stephanie Weeks for a presentation at the May or August Task Force meeting.

- ii. **L0278 NFIP CRS Course.** This course covers the Community Rating System, a nationwide initiative of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson shares information on the L0278 NFIP CRS Course that will take place Monday, August 11, 2025 - Thursday, August 14. Registration for the course will be open for two weeks before the general registration for the Flood Management Task Force. <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/crs-user-group/l0278-nfip-crs-course>

Tam Vu shares that NCTCOG has hosted this class before and would like the link to register.

Lisa Biggs asks how long registration will be open. Jai-W states that it will remain open until it is filled, but the Task Force will have exclusive access next two weeks to sign up.

- b. **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. (Kate Zielke)

- i. **County Watershed & Stormwater Workshop.**

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson is working on getting speakers for the County Watershed Workshop. The meeting is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup> at NCTCOG offices. Jai-W will post more information regarding the meeting closer to the meeting date.

- c. **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program.** An update on iSWM activities will be provided by NCTCOG staff including work on cumulative impact for areas less than an acre. (Kate Zielke)  
Kate Zielke provided an update on the iSWM Subcommittee. The committee met on January 29, and will meet again on April 28th. NCTCOG is also hosting a iSWM workshop on March 3<sup>rd</sup> on iSWM's applications throughout the region.

## OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5. **CDC Applications.** NCTCOG staff will share CDC applications received since the last FMTF meeting and updates to the CDC process. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)  
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson provided an update on the CDC Applications currently being processed.
6. **Roundtable Topics/Other Business.** The FMTF members and NCTCOG staff may share additional items as time allows.
- City of Arlington – Lee Jeffery is excited about CRS program opportunities. The City of Arlington's CRS verification may be in November 2025 so any face time they can get from Stephanie Weeks or other communities would be appreciated.
  - City of Carrollton – N/A
  - City of Coppell – Cole Baker shared that the City of Coppell will have its CRS verification visit in October 2025 so would appreciate any information. There is also a CDC permit expected in the coming months from an ISD agricultural property that is going to the planning and zoning board to add barns.
  - City of Dallas – Tam Vu asks for the link for CRS class. Jai-W Hayes-Jackson will send the link out via email.
  - City of Farmers Branch – Eric Mueller shares that the City of Farmers Branch is trying to join CRS and have submitted permit records and ordinance.
  - City of Fort Worth – Lisa Biggs states that there are no immediate CDCs but there will be some down the road. Lisa also shares that TFMA's early bird pricing ends on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will take place March 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Denton, TX.
  - City of Grand Prairie – Ryan Harrell discussed 2D modeling being done in the West Fork of the Trinity River. Ryan is not sure when the CDC application would be filed as it is a sensitive area. The model should be done at the end of February.
  - City of Irving – N/A
  - City of Lewisville – N/A
  - City of Seagoville – N/A
  - Dallas County – Nathan Davison shares that Dallas County is wrapping up the inland port study and may seek additional flood models.
  - Denton County – N/A
  - Kaufman County – N/A
  - Tarrant County – N/A
  - TRWD – N/A
  - TRA – N/A
  - USACE – N/A
7. **Upcoming Meetings.** The next Flood Management Task Force meeting will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025.

8. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Kate Zielke at [kzielke@nctcog.org](mailto:kzielke@nctcog.org). Thank you.

Attendance List	
Barry Fulfer	AEM
Lee Jeffrey	City of Arlington
Matthew Brennan	City of Carrollton
Cole Baker	City of Coppell
Tam Vu	City of Dallas
Joetta Dailey	City of Denton
Eric Mueller	City of Farmers Branch
Lisa Biggs	City of Fort Worth
Ryan Harrell	City of Grand Prairie
Kamal Sapkota	City of Grand Prairie
Duane Hengst	City of Hurst
Garry Fennell	City of Irving
Jeff Kelly	City of Lewisville
Nathan Davison	Dallas County
Noe Villarreal	Dallas County
Tim Benefiel	DCURD
Stephen Belknap	Denton County
Stephen Moore	Denton County
Pollard, Claire	Dewberry
Jeremy Dixon	Freese & Nichols
Scott Rushing	Halff Associates
Ravi Gopal	HydroLynx
Om Gharty Chhetri	iCivil Engineering
Jeremy Mungin	Kaufman County
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson	NCTCOG
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG
Carl Singleton	NCTCOG
Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG
Becky Taylor	O'Brien Engineering
Yeontae Jeong	Pape-Dawson
Maria Moreno	Tarrant County
Elmer Benitez	Town of Sunnyvale
Steve Malers	TriLynx
Ashley Lowrie	TRWD
Craig Ottman	TRWD
Bret Higginbotham	USACE