

SUMMARY

Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee
Thursday, September 19, 2024
2:00 PM, 616 Six Flags Dr, Arlington 76011



1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

City of Arlington: Lee Jeffrey
City of Coppell:
City of Dallas: Tam Vu
City of Farmers Branch: Terry Lynne
City of Fort Worth: Lisa Biggs
City of Grand Prairie: Kamal Sapkota
City of Irving: Gary Fennell
City of Lewisville:
Dallas County: Lissa Sheppard
Denton County: Stephen Belknap
Tarrant County:
TRWD: Mary Kelleher, Ashley Lowrie
TRA: Lisa Hembry
USACE: Landon Erikson
NCTCOG: Sue Alvarez, Kate Alvarez, Jai-W Hayes-Jackson

PROGRAM UPDATES

2. **Remarks from NCTCOG's Environment & Development Director.** Overview of current Environment & Development programs and upcoming opportunities. (Sue Alvarez)
Sue Alvarez presents an overview on the environmental challenges and opportunities NCTCOG and the Environment and Development Department are addressing. The Environment and Development Department is seeking to bust silos and participating and taking an active role throughout the agency in programs such as Emergency Preparedness' CASA program. More than over 200K people moved to the metroplex last year increasing traffic, water supply, drainage, and air quality challenges.

Sue describes the six primary focus areas of the Environment and Development Departments and the work that is being performed.

- TMDLs for bacteria
- Energy conservation
- Open space programs
- Landfill capacity
- Waste diversion
- Tire dumping
- Public Works which hosts our biggest event, the Public Works Roundup.
- Regional Building Codes is one of Environment and Development's oldest groups. Local code professionals draft the codes which local governments have the option to adopt.
- Development Excellence including CLIDE awards every 2 years.
- RISE looks at climate issues and sustainability.
- Regional Greenhouse Gas inventory;

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- NCTCOG recently worked on applying for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Having an air quality improvement plan is important, especially for public health. Sue also worked on the 5th national climate assessment.

North Texas is experiencing heavier rainfall events, which is classified as getting more days with 2+ inches of rain in a day. This past year was one of the hottest years and average annual temperatures are increasing. Most cities are taking action and business cases are being made for implementing climate action plans to lessen the effects of billion-dollar disasters. Water is one of Texas' biggest risks. The communities in the western region of North Texas are worried about drought and water supply, whereas the communities to the east are facing flooding risks. It makes sense to use a one water solution and work together on these issues.

Sue also presented the schedule of the implementation of the climate grant. She then asks for input on the Air Quality Improvement Plan (www.publicinput.com/dfwAQIP).

3. **Trinity River 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:

- Update of the CDC Manual to the 5th Edition
- East Fork, Denton Creek, and Westward Expansion Efforts
- Trainings
- Elected Officials Seminar and Community Rating System (CRS) Meeting
- Cooperating Technical Partnership

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson shares the history and background of the COMMON VISION Program and the efforts to preserve the active valley storage of the Trinity River. As a region, cities and counties created The COMMON VISION Program to address floodplain management and ensure the Trinity River stayed safe, clean, and enjoyable. Currently there are ten cities, four counties, and two special districts participating in the program. The Trinity River corridor accounts for more than 1/3 of all active storage in the region, which is why preserving it is important.

The Corridor Development Certificate Program is a one-of-a-kind innovative higher standard allowing participating communities to review development along the Trinity River. Jai-W explains the CDC process and the efforts work that has been ongoing such as migrating the trinityrivercdc.com website interface to the NCTCOG web environment as well as updating the CDC Manual to the Fifth Edition. NCTCOG staff is working to expand the program to new communities. Jai-W gives an update on the progress thus far with the City of Mesquite and the pilot study to expand westward with City of Weatherford.

Jai-W provides information on the upcoming trainings and classes for FY25.

- i. The L0273 course and CFM exam will take place September 30 – October 4. The class is full, and a waitlist has started.
- ii. NCTCOG will work with USACE to provide training on use of CDC model.
- iii. The Floodplain Seminar for Elected Officials will be held November 1.

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RELATED ACTIVITIES

- **Trinity River National Water Trail Update (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)**
In 2018, NCTCOG's Transportation Department approached the Environment and Development to assist Trinity Coalition in working with communities to develop a master plan for the Trinity River National Water Trail. The Trinity River is one of 35 National Water Trails in the US with 21 launch sites and covering 130. The master plan promotes long-range actions that promote tourism, recreation, economic development. The plan will provide resources to help communities maintain and develop trail. NCTCOG met with 12 stakeholders to get input and identified 8 unifying goals. The final Master Plan Task Force meeting occurred in August, and the final plan will be published at the end of September on NCTCOG's website.
- **The Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure Study (Kate Zielke)**
Kate Zielke gave an overview of the Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure study. Kate provided background information on the project team and spoke about the project timeline, and the West and North study areas. The study plans address the ongoing challenges of urbanization, stormwater data, and transportation funding.

Landon Erikson stated that the study is trying to simplify what data should be used. Currently the H&H team is taking the lessons learned from the first pilot study and applying them to the Eagle Mountain study. The next step is to prioritize where the study team should prioritize the H&H efforts. The flow data feeds into the hydraulic information that feeds into H&H models. The team will develop an SOP to enhance BLE data. 2D has more information in the lower portion of the study area. In the upper portion of the study, most 1D data is available.

Kate provides an update on the ongoing work taking place on the green stormwater infrastructure modeling and the optimization study. For the environmental piece, the project team has developed a GIS that looks at environmental, socio-economical, infrastructural, and institutional factors to create a flood susceptibility map. The optimization study will model ideal location and sizing for detention ponds and consider potential alternatives. This will help identify where GSI and NBS solutions are possible.

Kate shares some of the upcoming activities that communities can participate in to engage with the study:

- Technical Advisory Group Meeting
 - Friday, October 25, 10:30 a.m. – noon, Microsoft Teams
- Community Site Visits
 - In person in your community: please reach out to a study team member to schedule a visit.
- Training Workshops
 - Potential topics:

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- County Watershed Management
 - Upstream/Downstream Communities Dialogue
- The role of USACE as Technical Advisor and the NFIP/CDC Consolidated Model (Landon Erikson)

Landon Erikson shared the progress on the consolidated NFIP-CDC model. Existing flows and projects have been built in NFIP model and the CDC model has future, planned, and permitted projects added. This helps communities have access to the best available data rather than looking for multiple sources of information. Financial investments of \$2.5 million have been made to create the georeferenced models. The Consolidated model was approved by the Flood Management Task Force last May and is available online. USACE is currently working on the East Fork model extension adding about 70 river miles, ~30 miles on the East Fork and ~38 on Mainstem. The future land use HMS model will have the same land use sources. USACE will soon finish the East Fork model and will send it to FMTF for review and feedback.

USACE's mission aligns well with the mission of the COMMON VISION Program and aims to amplify what the program is doing to help people be safer. 10" in 24 hours is approximately a 100-year flood event in our area and the design level of rainfall has been exceeded many times. The CDC program helps mitigate the flood risks. Weather varies with some active periods followed by decades of drier periods. People's concept of flood risk is influenced by their own experience. USACE has supported the COMMON VISION program with the consolidation of the CDC and NFIP models, the extension efforts, and the updates to the manual. In addition to these programs, USACE provides support to local, state, and other federal groups. USACE has funding programs that allow them to work with communities, some of which are at no cost to the community.

Mayor Terry Lynne asks if dam inspections for smaller, residential dams such as those installed by WPAs or HOAs. Landon states this is not a request typically seen but asks Mayor Lynne to send an email and he will get an answer.

Landon gives an overview of the Trinity Operations Study being led by Water Management team at USACE. The study is looking at reservoir operation plans to reevaluate and maximize flood risk management and water supply benefits for the region. USACE will be scoping the study through Fall 2026. If anyone is interested in participating, Contact Maxwell Strickler at Maxwell.R.Strickler@usace.army.mil.

USACE has provided input on precipitation products such as Atlas 14 and Texas Storm Study. The Watershed Hydrology Assessment is a large basin study that is very thorough and shows developed flood frequency estimates. The average watershed size is approximately 60 square miles and may not meet the needs of all communities. SOPs are being developed in the Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure study on how larger basins can be subdivided to get more information. Hydrology information has the largest uncertainty in understanding of flood risk. Community flood assessments are leveraging existing engineering information and adding detail to give communities tools to make decisions.

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Eric Mueller asked when the NFIP portion of the consolidated model is slated to become effective. Lisa Biggs stated that FEMA is recertifying all the levees and has delayed approval for possibly another two years, but communities can regulate the preliminary data.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **Summary of September 2023 COMMON VISION Steering Committee Meeting.** The summary of the FY23 meeting is [available online](#) for review. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
Lisa Biggs motions to approve the meeting summary from the FY2023 Steering Committee Meeting. Lisa Hembry seconds the motion. The meeting summary is approved unanimously.
5. **Approval of FY 25 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program and Budget.** The Flood Management Task Force (FMTF) met May 17th and assisted NCTCOG with the selection of work program items presented for the upcoming fiscal year. The FMTF approved the FY 25 Work Program on August 16th and recommended Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee approval. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

- New Items
 - i. Coordination for Flood Science Training
 - ii. Draft a Legislative Agenda for a Work Program for Steering Committee Support.
 - iii. Participation in the Model Consolidation Committee.
 - iv. Update Communities' Acreage in Floodplain (FIRM).
 - v. Migrate the Trinity River CDC Website (www.trinityrivercdc.com) to the NCTCOG webpage.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson describes the changes made to the FY2025 Work Program including tracking legislative items and providing updates on relevant bills. Lissa Sheppard suggests tracking the following legislative categories:

- Flood Mitigation and Infrastructure Development Assistance
- Floodplain Mapping and Risk Assessment
- Land Use and Development in Floodplains

Lisa Biggs agrees that any legislation that pops up could fall under these three categories.

Jai-W also describes work that will be done on two additional programs migrating CDC website the NCTCOG web environment and providing training on the CDC model.

- FY25 Budget
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson describes the cost share calculations to the Steering Committee. There will be no increase to the cost shares. Eric Mueller asks if acreage per community will be updated soon. Jai-W states that the acreage for each community will be updated as it has not been done since 1995. Jai-W states we ran staff capabilities as the reason for delay in calculating the acreage of the corridor.

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NCTCOG has requested communities to send the GIS boundaries of their respective regulatory zones. Lisa Biggs asks if the boundaries are the same as the 100-year regulatory zone. Jai-W confirms and has requested that this information be sent by the next Flood Management Task Force Meeting in November.

Lissa Sheppard asks what the rates will be charged to communities in Dallas County who have recently joined the COMMON VISION Program like Seagoville. They are paying into it but not yet getting all the benefits. Jai-W states with the model being finalized soon it will be easier to recruit these communities. The cost shares for prospective East Fork communities with acreage less than 1,000 square miles pay a flat rate of \$1,000.

i. Use of Deferred Funds

Kate Zielke requests the use of deferred revenue funds that have accumulated over the last 10 years. Approximately there is \$110,000 in the deferred revenue balance. This amount is maintained just in case of non-payment of cost shares so that staff can continue work. The Environment and Development Department is seeking use of no more than \$40,000 for to develop the Corridor Development Certificate Model training and no more than \$30,000 to have USACE participate in the TSI Nort Study area.

- Vote for FY25 Work Program and Budget Approval

Mary Kelleher motions to approve the FY2025 Work Program and Budge. Lee Jeffrey seconds the motion. The work program and budget were approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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

- Sue Alvarez attended a meeting hosted by the National Wildlife Federation regarding water issues and helping local municipalities push for appropriate funding for flooding, water quality, stream habitats, and water supply. This work may be helpful to COMMON VISION communities.
- Lisa Biggs shares that TFMA will have a day at the capital in the spring and states to look out for emails. The City of Fort Worth is getting ready to send policies to their council for valley storage outside of CDC so they regulate all their creeks by the end of the year.
- Lissa Sheppard shares that Dallas County is working on the Inland Port flood planning study and that the third and final public meeting will be in November or December. If you would like to attend, contact Lissa Sheppard.
- Eric Mueller is the new stormwater engineer for Farmers Branch.
- Kelly Chastain reports she will be acting as the floodplain administrator for- Kaufman County.

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- Mary Kelleher shares that her and her husband have experienced flooding along Trinity River and thanks the Task Force for the work that they do people in the room.

Upcoming events

- 29th L0273 Floodplain Management Course
 - Monday, September 30 – October 3 • 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Certified Floodplain Manager Exam
 - Friday, October 4 • 8:00am – 11am; 1 pm – 4pm
- Transportation & Stormwater Infrastructure Technical Advisory Group Meeting
 - Friday, October 25 • 10:30am – 12:00pm
- Floodplain Seminar for Elected Officials and Municipal Staff
 - Friday, November 1 • 9:30 – 11:30am

7. Adjournment.

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