

SUMMARY

Flood Management Task Force

Friday, May 16, 2025

9:30 AM, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams



1. Welcome and Introductions.

- City of Arlington – Lee Jeffrey
- 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
- City of Irving – Garry Fennell
- City of Lewisville – Jeff Kelly
- Dallas County – Lissa Shepard
- Denton County – Stephen Belknap
- Kaufman County – Jeremy Mungin
- TRWD – Ashley Lowrie (filling in for Craig Ottman)
- TRA – Webster Mangham

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary Approval.** The February 21, 2025, meeting summary is [available online](#) for review.

Lissa Shepard (Dallas County) made a motion to approve. The motion requires an edit to fix Maria Moreno to Tarrant County not Dallas. A Coppell employee noted that an individual named 'Kamal' was incorrectly listed and should be associated with Grand Prairie. Cole Baker seconded. Voting passed, with no opposition.

3. **Trinity-San Jacinto River Basin Selected as Regional Integrated Water Science (IWS) Basin.** The U.S. Geological Survey selected the Trinity-San Jacinto River Basin (TSJRB) as the fifth regional Integrated Water Science (IWS) basin due to its potential impacts from future extreme hydroclimatic events and expanding urbanization on urban flooding. The basin includes two large urban metropolitan areas, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston, with a combined population of over 15 million that experience differential impacts across communities in terms of resiliency and vulnerability to flooding. To better understand how these impacts are currently distributed and are predicted to be distributed in the future, the TSJRB Integrated Water Availability Assessment (one part of the IWS basin study) phase 1 assessment will be aimed at understanding the hydrologic landscape of the river network with an overarching goal to predict and understand future flood risk, in particular the urban flooding impacts from land cover change and climate variability. (Erik Smith, USGS)

Erik Smith (USGS) presented an overview of a five-year study focused on urban flooding in the Trinity and San Jacinto River basins, part of the Integrated Water Science (IWS) Basin program. The study targets future flood risks in rapidly urbanizing areas like Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston, using tools from the Integrated Water Availability Assessment (IWAA) and Next Generation Water Observation System (NGWOS) programs. Hydrologic modeling is being conducted with the Pywatershed version of PRMS, incorporating future land use and climate scenarios to inform HEC-RAS hydraulic models.

The project builds on existing models from the InFRM platform and integrates updated terrain data, automated scripts, and climate inputs from the CONUS404 PGW dataset. Land use projections are based on EPA's ICLUS datasets, refined with local insights. A notable innovation is the use of Landsat-derived surface water extents to calibrate historical flood events, improving model accuracy. Population exposure is being assessed using LandScan data and machine learning to estimate impacts on people, not just infrastructure.

New data collection tools include RQ30 sensors, camera-based stream monitoring, and real-time street-level flood sensors piloted with Harris County. NGWOS efforts also aim to enhance reservoir discharge estimates. Although funding is limited, USGS has contingency plans for scaling up if resources increase.

During the Q&A, Lisa Biggs (City of Fort Worth) asked how the models would be used locally and how they compare to existing efforts. Erik confirmed that all models will be publicly available and emphasized transparency around assumptions and uncertainties. He expressed interest in comparing USGS models with local studies. Vincent Geracci (USACE) asked about model extents, and Erik confirmed they would align with InFRM reach boundaries.

4. **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. (Vincent Geracci)

- i. **CDC Training Workshop Scope.** Status update and next steps for CDC process and model training workshop.

Vincent Geracci began his update by announcing that Matt Lepinski is no longer with the Corps as of the previous day. Vincent will now assist Mike Danella with the Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) program, alongside Bret Higginbotham, Chief of the Water Resources Branch. He provided several key updates, starting with the development of a CDC training session. This training is being coordinated with NCTCOG and is intended to help communities and consultants better understand the CDC program, including its history, purpose, and the process for navigating it. While Vincent is still getting up to speed on the program, Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) noted that the goal is to complete development of the training by the end of the fiscal year, with potential for additional rollout time, especially for consultant-specific training.

Vincent also provided an update on the East Fork and Main Stem Extension modeling effort, which was approved at the February Flood Management Task Force meeting. These models are now available on the NCTCOG website. However, they are currently separate from existing CDC models and have not yet been combined into a single, consolidated model. That integration may be considered in the future as funding becomes available.

Finally, Vincent discussed a pilot study being conducted as part of the integrating Transportation and Stormwater Initiative (TSI) project to explore the feasibility of expanding the CDC program westward and upstream of the existing Trinity River corridor. This pilot study focuses on Town Creek in the City of Weatherford, which drains into the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The study aims to determine what it would take to regulate disconnected watershed reaches under CDC standards, even though they are not contiguous with existing CDC-regulated areas. Modeling and reporting are currently underway, and the results will be included as a deliverable for the TSI project.

- b. **Update the CDC Manual to the 5th Edition.** The NFIP-CDC Model Consolidation Team will share progress on updates to the CDC Manual. (Kate Zielke)
The CDC Manual update is currently in the final drafting phase. Progress on updating the manual has continued, and although there have been some delays in completing it, much of the section-level work is largely complete. Lisa Biggs noted that the draft materials have already been helpful in her work and that she has begun using some of the draft forms in her community to ensure they function as intended. Vincent Geracci, new to the CDC program, asked for clarification on the current status and any remaining coordination needs. Lisa explained that most coordination with the USACE has already taken place through Mike Danella's previous involvement on the review committee. The next step is to consolidate all the updated sections into a full draft for distribution to the broader team for final review. Lisa and Kate Zielke plan to work together to move this step forward, with the goal of finalizing and approving the manual by this fall.
- 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. (Kate Zielke and Vincent Geracci)
Outreach efforts to expand the CDC program into other communities within the East Fork and Denton Creek areas are currently on pause. This is due to staffing transitions, but interviews are underway with the goal of bringing someone on board soon to resume that work.

Vincent Geracci provided additional context for a slide showing the ongoing pilot study in the City of Weatherford. The map at the bottom of the slide illustrates the comparison between the existing floodplain and the updated inundation area based on CDC methodology, using 2055 future land use. The changes between the two are not substantial, but this represents only the 100-year analysis—work on the Standard Project Flood (SPF) hydrology is still underway.

One of the key goals of the pilot study is to document the process of upgrading an existing model to CDC standards. This will serve as a reference for other communities, particularly those that do not already have robust models like Weatherford. The team is also looking at how communities could use other data sources, such as FEMA's Base Level Engineering (BLE), as a starting point for CDC participation. Finally, a template application for federal funding through USACE's Floodplain Management Services will be developed to support interested communities in obtaining resources for future modeling and CDC expansion.

- d. **Legislative Updates.** NCTCOG staff will provide updates on relevant bills during Texas legislative sessions. (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke expressed appreciation to Katie Hunter (NCTCOG) for compiling and updating the legislative tracking spreadsheet. Although the group did not review each bill individually during the meeting, Kate noted that the posted presentation will include clickable bill numbers for more information.

Kate highlighted several key pieces of water-related legislation that have recently advanced. House Bill 365, concerning financial assistance from the Economically Distressed Areas Account via the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), has moved chambers. House Bill 422, also related to TWDB and bond issuance, has likewise progressed. House Bill 1400 proposes the creation of a Groundwater Science Research and Innovation Fund through TWDB.

Kate invited anyone to join the discussion with insights or questions and continued by noting House Bill 2015, which has passed the House. This bill concerns the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and whether water conservation should be considered when denying petitions to create municipal utility districts (MUDs)—an issue of importance to many local communities.

Senate Bill 480, with an identical House counterpart, has passed both chambers. It involves allowing local governments to enter interlocal contracts for participation in water research and planning. House Bill 3830, related to franchise tax benefits for watershed protection activities, was also mentioned.

Finally, Kate referenced House Bill 4329, which directs TWDB to study the factors influencing drainage infrastructure costs. She also noted that other relevant bills pertain to development and zoning, including House Bill 2025. This bill deals with procedures for filing subdivision plats or replats and had a scheduled public hearing in the Senate as of the previous day.

- e. **FY 2026 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program Discussion.** NCTCOG will verify roster updates with participants and will share proposed updates to the Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program. (Kate Zielke)

The FY 2026 Work Program discussion covered several key updates, which have been posted on the website. At a high level, the work program includes changes based on input from the USACE, particularly regarding the flood science training and coordination for the CDC program. Additionally, updates have been made to reflect progress on initiatives like the East Fork and Denton Creek integration, as well as revisions to the Trinity River CDC website. Some changes were made to the language around the participation in the model consolidation committee and support for the FEMA Community Rating System, as the program faces a reduction in funding.

- f. **Cost Share Advance Notice.** NCTCOG provided FY26 cost share estimates in March 2025 for budgeting purposes. There is no change from FY25 to FY26. (Kate Zielke)
Kate mentioned the updates to the cost summary and the total acreage covered by the Common Vision Program and potential expansion. There are no changes to cost shares for

FY 2026, and advance notice has been given to help with budgeting. The plan is to post the work program with any suggested changes 30 days before the August meeting, where it will be voted on for recommendation to the Common Vision Steering Committee for final approval. If anyone has comments or feedback, they are encouraged to submit them by mid-July for review and revision before reposting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. Other Program-Related Efforts

- a. **North Texas Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group.** NCTCOG will share updates on this program. (Kate Zielke)
 - i. **L0278 NFIP - CRS Course.** This course covers the Community Rating System, a nationwide initiative of FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program. Registration is open. (Kate Zielke)

Erin Blackman is coordinating the L0278 course related to the Community Rating System (CRS), which is scheduled for Monday, August 11th through Thursday, August 14th. For questions or more information, participants can contact Erin Blackman directly.
 - ii. **Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information.** Task Force members have expressed interest in this program. (Kate Zielke)

There was a discussion in the previous meeting regarding the CRS Users Group, with the proposal that it could potentially serve as a multi-jurisdictional program for public information, provided there is sufficient interest. More details about this initiative, including examples from Gulf Coast Florida, will be accessible once the presentation is posted online, with a link to be shared after the meeting. The image shared from Lee County, Florida, showcases Fort Myers Beach post-hurricane, where considerable damage to the pier has impacted the Gulf Coast.
- b. **L0273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP Course.** Registration opens this summer. (Kate Zielke)

The L0273 course is planned for Monday, October 6th through Thursday, October 9th, with the exam scheduled for Friday, October 10th. There has been some confusion regarding the scheduling, which Erin Blackman is working to resolve with FEMA, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA). Registration for the course will open this summer.
- c. **Integration of Transportation and Stormwater Planning.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on community outreach for the integration of Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure study. (Kate Zielke)

This update focused on recent outreach efforts, including the development of a local government FAQ. This FAQ provides background on the study and highlights the benefits for local governments in participating, such as valuable insights into flooding and development hotspots. As part of the outreach, community site visits are being conducted, with visits already made to several cities and more scheduled for Celina, Argyle, Willow Park, Flower Mound, and potentially Everman. These visits are essential for

gathering information about flooding and development intersections, which will help calibrate technical models. Local governments are encouraged to schedule visits if they have not already done so.

The FAQ is available on the study website, and interested parties can contact the team for more information. Additionally, a county watershed workshop is scheduled for the afternoon of July 31st, held in a hybrid format at NCTCOG offices and via Microsoft Teams. This workshop will discuss state code applications and the implementation of regionally recommended standards in watershed management for new development within county-regulated areas. For further details or to attend, interested individuals can reach out to the team.

- d. **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program.** An update on iSWM activities will be provided by NCTCOG staff. (Katie Hunter)

Katie Hunter, a new planner at NCTCOG, introduced herself as the new lead of the iSWM Subcommittee. She reflected on the success of the April 30th meeting, which generated valuable feedback from participants. One of the key topics discussed was the potential retirement of the current SWPPP instructor. In response, a job description has been posted on the iSWM website to recruit a new lead for SWPPP efforts at NCTCOG. During the meeting, Jennifer Rovezzi from the City of Denton gave a presentation on inlet protection, which was well received. The subcommittee's contractor, Halff Associates, also provided updates on current deliverables.

Katie highlighted several recent updates completed by the iSWM contractor team. These include new guidance on implementation strategies for communities in the region, design recommendations for temporary sediment basins, considerations for pipe utility crossings, and expanded guidance on the use of trees in detention ponds. These updates will be reviewed and voted on at the next subcommittee meeting. Katie encouraged anyone interested in participating or learning more to reach out to her or Kate Zielke.

The next iSWM Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 15th from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. The agenda will include setting short- and long-term goals for updates to the iSWM manuals and website, as well as voting on the work program for the upcoming fiscal year. Kate emphasized the importance of attending and noted that a sticky note exercise will be conducted to gather feedback on improving the usability of the iSWM manual.

- e. **Annual Public Works Roundup.** The call for presentations is open for the September 4, 2025, event. (Kate Zielke)
Kate Zielke announced the upcoming Public Works Roundup, scheduled for Thursday, September 4th, at the Hurst Conference Center, marking its second year at this venue. The call for sponsors and presentations is open, and registration will begin in June. Last year's event sold out, so Kate encouraged early registration. For more details, attendees can visit the Public Works Roundup website.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- 6. **CDC Applications.** NCTCOG staff will share CDC applications received since the last FMTF meeting and updates to the CDC process. (Kate Zielke)

- a. **Applications Received**
- b. **Inventory of Users**

Kate Zielke reported that two CDC applications had been received since the last meeting. One application from Arlington is currently in its open comment period, while the other, from Fort Worth, qualifies as an exemption. Several additional items remain under technical review. Kate inquired about the status of CDC 87 from Dallas County, asking whether it had been updated in the CDC tracking system ("Qntrl"). Lissa Shepard responded that the final action form likely still needed to be uploaded. Kate suggested that they may also need to follow up with the USACE for further clarification.

Continuing the CDC update, Kate noted that some projects have progressed to permit issuance after meeting the required criteria. Specifically, Fort Worth's CDC 98 has been issued a permit, while Dallas's CDC 95, submitted in December of the previous year, is awaiting a status update pending the upload of its final action form. Additionally, two Fort Worth projects—CDC 98 and CDC 99—were noted as exemptions submitted in February and March of this year.

Kate encouraged all attendees to review the status of their projects in the CDC system and notify her of any necessary updates to ensure timely resolution. In response, Lee Jeffrey (City of Arlington) mentioned that Arlington's CDC 100, an exemption application, should have completed its comment period. He committed to following up with Kate to finalize and close out the item.

7. **Website Updates.** Flood Data North Texas site is live and CDC site is revised. (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke led a review of the user list for the CDC Qntrl software during the roundtable portion of the meeting, asking attendees to confirm whether listed users were still active in uploading CDC applications. She clarified that names would be removed from the posted slides to protect privacy and avoid publicly identifying inactive users. Given the limited number of licenses, Kate emphasized the importance of updating the list to ensure access for current staff, especially in light of recent turnover.

Several updates were confirmed during the discussion:

- Vincent Geracci (USACE) confirmed Manus Chaiprasert is still involved but was unsure about Steffond T. Johnson and will follow up via email.
- Lee Jeffrey (Arlington) confirmed Amy Cannon is still active for Arlington.
- Tam Vu (City of Dallas) said Bobby Burkes should be removed and will coordinate with David Phan to update the list.
- Eric Mueller (Farmers Branch) requested to replace Danielle Rix as the CDC point of contact.
- Lisa Biggs (Fort Worth) confirmed that she and Juliana Behrens are still handling CDC applications.
- Ryan Harrell (Grand Prairie) confirmed his role and expressed interest in adding a backup user.
- Jeff Kelly (Lewisville) confirmed both he and David Russell are correct contacts.
- Lissa Shepard (Dallas County) confirmed the current listing is accurate.
- Stephen Belknap (Denton County) requested that he be added as the new contact.
- Jeremy Mungin (Kaufman County) confirmed that Garrett Moore should be removed.

- Ashley Lowrie (Tarrant Regional Water District) will verify if Rachel Ickert remains on the list but confirmed she and Craig Ottman should stay.
- Webster Mangham (Trinity River Authority) requested that Heather Firn be added.

Kate concluded by stating that they should have enough user slots available after removing inactive users and thanked everyone for their updates and participation. She then provided an update on recent website improvements, noting that the FloodDataNTX website is now back online. One key change is that the OneRain forecast map now redirects users to the OneRain site directly, rather than displaying the map embedded on the NCTCOG site. The site also includes links to other TxShare contract members—HydroLynx, OneRain, and TriLinx—who presented at the most recent meeting.

In addition, both CDC program pages have been revised. The CDC Program webpage now offers a less technical overview, including resources like the program flyer, the Fourth Edition Manual, an application checklist, and an FAQ. The Trinity River CDC webpage, which was recently migrated into the NCTCOG web environment, is also live. This page includes a Qntrl login link for application access, model downloads, and a newly added NFIP CDC model extents map provided by the USACE. This map serves as a visual reference and is intended to be a helpful tool for users navigating the CDC process.

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

During the roundtable portion of the meeting, Kate Zielke began by sharing an update on behalf of Stephanie Griffin (Halff), who was unable to attend. She noted that TFMA's Flood Awareness Week is coming up next week, with Wear Blue Wednesday happening midweek. She also mentioned the TFMA Technical Summit, scheduled for August in San Antonio—abstracts are under review, and registration is expected to open in early June.

Kate then went around the room for updates from attendees:

- Arlington: No updates (Lee Jeffrey).
- Carrollton: Not present.
- Coppell: No updates (Cole Baker).
- Dallas: Tam Vu noted their group believes a recent CDC item is complete and forwarded; they will confirm with the engineer.
- Farmers Branch: No updates (Eric Mueller).
- Fort Worth: Lisa Biggs expects new CDCs later this fall. She also shared news about a National Flood Conference coming to Dallas, typically held in DC, and encouraged others to attend or stay tuned for a summary. Lisa also mentioned the Region 4 inaugural social was held successfully, and more events like quarterly socials and lunch-and-learns are planned.
- Grand Prairie: Ryan Harrell anticipates a CDC permit application in the next 3–4 months for a project near SH 360 and Post & Paddock.
- Irving: No updates.
- Lewisville: Jeff Kelly reported an upcoming exemption request related to a trail project under Hebron Parkway.

- Dallas County: Lissa Shepard shared excitement for Flood Awareness Week, with a court resolution and events like a Lunch & Learn on Wednesday. She also mentioned a refund was issued for CDC 87, which may need further discussion.
- Denton County: No updates (Stephen Belknap).
- Kaufman County: Jeremy Mungin had no current items but noted rapid growth and anticipated submissions in the near future.
- Tarrant Regional Water District: No updates (Ashley Lowrie).

9. **Upcoming Meeting.** The next Flood Management Task Force meeting will be held on Friday, August 15, 2025. The meeting format is to be decided.

Kate Zielke initiated a discussion regarding the format of the upcoming meeting scheduled for August 15, 2025. Several participants expressed a preference for a virtual format. Lissa Shepard noted that the timing coincides with the start of the school year, which could make attendance difficult. Lisa Biggs added that August is a particularly demanding time due to budget planning. Additionally, Lee Jeffrey and Eric Mueller pointed out that the CRS (Community Rating System) course is scheduled for the same week, potentially creating travel conflicts.

Given the consensus, Kate confirmed that the August meeting will be held virtually. This decision will also help realign the meeting cycle moving forward. She concluded by thanking everyone for their flexibility during this transitional period following Jai-W's departure.

10. **Adjournment.**

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

Attendance List	
Juliana Andrews	City of Fort Worth
Cole Baker	City of Coppell
Stephen Belknap	Denton County
Lisa Biggs	City of Fort Worth
Joetta Dailey	City of Denton
Ryan Edmondson	Texas A&M Forest Service
Barry Fulfer	AEM
Garry Fennell	City of Irving
Vincent A Geracci	USACE
Ryan Harrell	City of Grand Prairie
Aaron Hoff	TRWD
Kyle Hoerner	NCTCOG
Zach Huff	TRWD
Katie Hunter	NCTCOG
Lee Jeffrey	City of Arlington
Jeff Kelly	City of Lewisville
Jonathan Killebrew	
Jacob Lesue	Consultant

Ashley Lowrie	TRWD
Webster Mangham	TRA
Eric Mueller	City of Farmers Branch
Jeremy Mungin	Kaufman County
Claire Pollard	Dewberry
Jennifer Rovezzi	City of Denton
Kelly Roark	Denton County
Scott Rushing	Halff Associates
Lissa Shepard	Dallas County
Erik Smith	U.S Geological Survey
Tam Vu	City of Dallas
Noe Villarreal	Dallas County
Michael Wellbaum	Pape-Dawson