

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
9:30 AM, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
Sue thanks folks for working in a leadership role working toward floodproofing our communities.

PROGRAM UPDATES

2. **Presentation on the Trinity River COMMON VISION Program**
 - a. Overview of the Trinity River COMMON VISION Program and the Corridor Development Certificate (CDC) Program (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
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 (Lisa Biggs)
Lisa is currently the acting floodplain manager for Fort Worth. The model update team was formed to find a way to combine the FEMA and CDC models to streamline the CDC process during permitting. The manual is being updated to reflect those changes. The manual will show side-by-side how to go through the process of submitting for FEMA and CDC permits and will show step-by-step roles and responsibilities, providing clarification for applicants and city staff. CDC permits are currently valid for 5 years with one-year extensions, but the new manual will adjust to this to be more compatible with the region's regulations. It will be revised to a 2-year term to match up to term limits on floodplain development permits, with a max of 3, one-year extensions. The model will include the model maintenance fee, which is already in effect, but will be added to the manual for the first time. The team is revising the format of the chapters to ensure the process is clear. FAQs have been developed for different audiences - one for communities and one for the public. It will provide a comparison of the current manual to the updated manual; the manual will be treated as a living document and will have a summary of changes that have happened over time. The glossary has been updated to make information easier to find and describes other revisions in the manual, such as terminology changes. The team is working with NCTCOG to compile the final draft and will send it to the Flood Management Task Force for review and comments. Comments will be reviewed and addressed.

A new task has been identified for the team, to develop guidance for new communities that don't currently have a CDC model. We are also looking to provide support and training for developers and others who will have questions about the manual. Lisa is the Region 4 Director for TFMA, which will enhance our ability to distribute the manual.

- Update to the newly georeferenced NFIP/CDC Consolidated Model to include future flows and permitted projects and update to the new East Fork Trinity and mainstem extension model (Matt Lepinski)

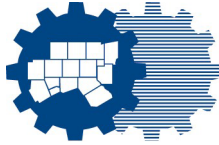
FEMA was continuing to make updates to the NFIP model in tandem with the CDC model. The CDC model is considered a higher standard, but models weren't consolidated so FEMA, USACE, and the COMMON VISION Program decided to create a unified model, requiring a lot of coordination. This is a unique initiative to have multiple communities come together to implement higher standards voluntarily. The NFIP model looks at existing conditions and the CDC model looks at future conditions, including planned and anticipated projects, not only constructed projects. The result was consolidated hydraulic model that can be used for many purposes.

FEMA coordinated with USACE to create a new model for the DFW area. This was a multi-million-dollar effort and was based on enhancing the CDC model. FEMA issued preliminary flood insurance rate maps that were then modified for the CDC model. Now, the COMMON VISION Program has one hydraulic model with HEC-RAS software, which has a geometry file for NFIP and CDC purposes but is maintained and updated as one model file. As a result, the NFIP-CDC Consolidated model was approved by the Flood Management Task Force in May and can be found on the CDC website.

Bret Higginbotham thanks everyone who worked on this. In 2008, USACE worked on updating hydrology and wanted to do this but didn't have funding until the FEMA partnership. We will continue to make improvements to the model.

The goal for future models is to extend the consolidated model to the East Fork and the Main Branch of the Trinity River a further 38 miles. This will impact Dallas, Ellis, and Kaufman counties. This will help manage growth and development along the East Fork and Main Stem of the Trinity River. This opens up opportunities for more communities to be involved. FEMA modeling for this area has already been released as preliminary maps and models. Those models are downloadable as current conditions data in the meantime.

- East Fork Trinity and Denton Creek Community Integration (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
NCTCOG is currently drafting a resolution for the City of Mesquite to join the COMMON VISION Program. Ellis County has also expressed interest in joining and will take the opportunity to its commissioners to gauge interest in joining. NCTCOG also met with the City of Weatherford to discuss expanding the model farther west to include more upstream communities.
- Elected Officials Seminar and Community Rating System (CRS) Meeting (Erin Blackman)
NCTCOG partners with TFMA and FEMA on the North Central Texas CRS Users Group meeting. NCTCOG recognizes and encourages the practices that meet and exceed NFIP standards. Receiving credits leads to property owners receiving lower rates on flood insurance. CRS Users Groups collaborate to meet floodplain mitigation goals and qualify for CRS credits. The next meeting includes elected officials and municipal staff as a part of our annual floodplain seminar. Oct 19 9:30-



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11:30 AM at NCTCOG. Expected to offer two Continuing Education Credits.

ACTION ITEMS

4. **Summary of September 2022 COMMON VISION Steering Committee Meeting.** The summary of the FY22 meeting is [available online](#) for review. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson) Noe Villareal motioned to approve the minutes; Amy Cannon seconded the motion. The Steering Committee approves the summary.
5. **Approval of FY 24 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program and budget.** The Flood Management Task Force (FMTF) met May 19th and assisted NCTCOG with the selection of work program items presented for the upcoming fiscal year. The FMTF approved the FY 24 Work Program on August 18th and recommended Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee approval. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
The Work Program is carrying over from the past Fiscal Year but adds language regarding procurement of vendors for flood warning software and updating communities' acreage in floodplain (FIRM) – this has not been updated since 1995 but not anticipating a change in cost shares.

Garry Fennell motioned to approve the FY 24 Work Program; Lisa Biggs seconded the motion. Jai-W Hayes-Jackson moves through the roster; all members in attendance approved the Work Program (City of Irving, City of Fort Worth, City of Lewisville, City of Arlington, Dallas County, Tarrant Regional Water District, Trinity River Authority).

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Trinity River National Water Trail Update (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
The Trinity River Water Trail Task Force and Master Plan effort include an effort to reduce the distance between launch sites to 6 miles. The vision and goals for the master plan aim to continue to integrate segments of trail into cohesive paddling trail, shorten distances between sites, make trail more accessible, integrate the trail into existing land trails to create more cohesive recreational opportunity. Jai-W describes questions that NCTCOG is asking communities to ascertain the challenges and opportunities present for planning along the Trinity River. NCTCOG asks for anyone who wants to be involved in master plan to visit website or contact Jai-W Hayes-Jackson or Erin Blackman.
- Upper Trinity River Basin Transportation Stormwater Integration (Kate Zielke)
Kate presented an overview of the TSI study and the methodology being used to develop the technical tools that will be resources to the study area communities. The North Central Texas population is growing at a rapid rate which is bringing in more development and impervious surfaces. Communities are being faced with the challenge of urbanization, water quality, stormwater, and transportation infrastructure. The study is helping communities address these issues using mapping, modeling, and policy recommendations. The study is also looking into enhancing Flood Alert Systems and a menu of Green Infrastructure options.
- The role of USACE as Technical Advisor (Matt Lepinski)

USACE serves as a technical advisor and offers funding assistance to different partners locally, across the state, and across the nation. USACE's mission is to deliver vital engineering solutions to communities that need it. Since 1920, rainfall events have exceeded what we are designing infrastructure to. We are experiencing periods of active and less active storms. Since 2009, we've experienced an extremely active period. The CDC Program looks at future scenarios to help us become more resilient and to proactively plan. The Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure Study is helping to address this too. The COMMON VISION Program is an innovative coalition and concept that has saved billions of dollars and can continue to evolve and grow. We are trying to reduce uncertainty related to flood risk.

USACE's role as technical advisor is to help prepare resiliency tools, do storm shifting to make flood concept more relatable, etc. Communities can make decisions and enact policies based on information provided to the COMMON VISION Program.

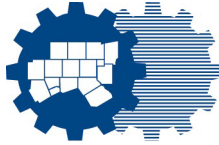
USACE can provide local and usable data to be used in plans, including non-regulatory data. In regard to water management, USACE dams help supply 60% of water for DFW and are part of reason why 2015 flooding was not worse. USACE's Trinity Operations study seeks to better serve reservoir's authorized purposes and stakeholders.

USACE also has quality underlying data to update models. NOAA Atlas 14 precipitation data is important. Adding this into hydrology, we know how much water is falling and how it fills up communities' aquifers. Hydraulics and BLE data give us good baseline models and data we can use for different scenarios. USACE did a storm shifting study in Dallas to see what the 2015 storm would have looked like if it were shifted to another area. Community flood assessments leverage all the tools to provide enhanced data to communities for their use and methodology for similar work to be done elsewhere.

Jerry Cotter stated that in the last decade, we saw tremendous flooding across the country but also tremendous drought. Therefore, lots of funding is available regionally and nationally to improve data sets and tools used for analysis. Partnership with NCTCOG and FMTF and Steering Committee allow us to bring funding and resources to the table. FMTF is very forward leaning. When we overlay this with technical advances in flood sciences, it makes this partnership more important. USACE is developing tools and analysis so that local governments and state governments oversee decision making and policy. USACE is doing everything it can to look at and modify adaptive management for dams.

Bret Higginbotham says it is hard to change the mindset on how we regulate and build and construct. He spent a week in class on team building and public participation. What came up frequently was Environmental Justice, so we need to start thinking about that. USACE is excited to get the TSI project under way and hopes communities can be proactive rather than reactive.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



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

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson asks Craig Ottman to talk about areas in the TSI study area upstream from the COMMON VISION Program and how to bring them into the COMMON VISION Program. TRWD would like to propose expanding the CDC process to Lake Worth, Mary's Creek, and other communities either in this year's Fiscal Year's Work Program or in the FY25 work program. Jai-W asks if we want to amend the work program to include what Craig suggested.

Matt Lepinski - Lisa Biggs talked about a memo for what communities can do if we don't have models; it doesn't preclude them from being involved in COMMON VISION or adopting higher standards in the meantime. We are currently trying to develop what that process looks like. It takes time to develop models; what models can be used in that area as we develop new models? We can investigate whether freeboard can be implemented. Wants to have that conversation and assistance from the FMTF. Asks can we forecast future conditions and, if we implement TSI strategies, what does that do to flooding.

Jerry Cotter - USACE will not vote on this, it is up to FMTF and the Steering Committee. We have done TSI outreach meetings in the study area, which includes 85 communities and 8 counties, and have found that communities are vastly under resourced and don't have the expertise to manage flood risk in all cases. We will provide datasets and new technology, but they don't know about these things and don't have the staff or expertise to fully utilize the information. Bringing these communities into the COMMON VISION Program or FMTF can only help them. If this group does decide to expand, USACE will support efforts and try to bring funding.

Sue - the CDC process is a good parallel process from a policy standpoint to support TSI technical work. It's a good partner piece for the work being done for TSI as well. She doesn't see a downside. She thinks Jerry is correct that the administration of the program may be beyond communities' abilities, so governance needs to be concerned. We could look at how to ramp these communities up and focus on doing it in FY25. Fundamental pieces need to be in place to support successful participation.

Craig - Kaufman County could be a great pilot for this initiative as they haven't had a model for a while, but their floodplain ordinance refers to valley storage preservation. They could be a great advocate for us to other communities.

City of Arlington – (Amy Cannon) not against proposal to expand west; in support of developing a strategy on how to get them into program but has questions she would like to develop on this, ok with adding to FY24 or FY25 Work Program.

City of Carrollton - absent

City of Coppell - absent

City of Dallas – (Tam Vu) will need to talk to boss on this.

City of Farmers Branch - absent

City of Fort Worth – (Lisa Biggs) in support of expansion but has questions on what that will look like; is ok with starting discussions in FY24.

City of Grand Prairie - absent

City of Irving – (Garry Fennell) in support but has a lot of questions about what it will involve.

City of Lewisville – (Jeff Kelly) support of western expansion, wants to wait until FY25.

City of Seagoville - absent

Dallas County – (Lissa Sheppard) Dallas County is working on the Inland Port Flood Planning Study; has a meeting next month. In support of expansion but wants to develop a plan and include it in the FY25 work plan.

Denton County - absent

Kaufman County - absent

Tarrant County - absent

TRWD – (Mary Kelleher) approves of westward expansion

TRA - no longer online

USACE – (Jerry Cotter) has nothing further to add. We need to be looking that way at some point in time and they will need to come to the table. USACE will help out however they need to.

Craig Ottman – Wants to know if there is a compromise to adding an item on work plan to plan a potential expansion and actual outreach can wait until FY25.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson – can add the item to the FMTF agenda to discuss at the next meeting.

Lisa Biggs asks Craig if communities have expressed interest in joining.

Craig Ottman – no, they haven't; doesn't necessarily have those relationships. Would be leaning on NCTCOG for that, hoping to follow the blueprint for the East Fork.

Amy Cannon – The FMTF should talk about lessons learned with East Fork and Denton Creek expansion. East Fork communities and Denton Creek communities reached out to us with interest in joining. In this case we would be reaching out to them.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson will add this topic as discussion item/standing item for FMTF meetings.

Sue Alvarez asks if we needed to vote to add this discussion to the work plan via a vote.

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson says there are no bylaws for a situation like this, so we have flexibility.

Craig is okay with not putting the item of the work program if it goes on the agenda as a standing item.

Noe Villereal – is the October 19 event a TFMA forum?

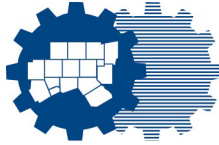
Lisa Biggs says no since we just had a technical summit in Denton. There will be additional opportunities for training. She will send out more information by the end of the month. There will be networking socials and lunch and learns. Email her if you need help finding CECs through the end of the year.

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.

Participation List	
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson	NCTCOG
Tam Vu	City of Dallas
Craig Ottman	TRWD
Mary Kelleher	TWRD
Zach Huff	TRWD
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG
Amy Cannon	City of Arlington
Lee Jeffrey	City of Arlington

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact NCTCOG's Title VI Coordinator by email at Title-VI-Coordinator@nctcog.org 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.



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Jeff Kelly	City of Lewisville
Joseph J. Jackson	Tarrant County
Matt Lepinski	USACE
Lisa Biggs	City of Fort Worth
Claire Pollard	Dewberry
Noe Villarreal	Dallas County
Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG
Erin Blackman	NCTCOG
Garry Fennell	City of Irving
Lissa Shepard	Dallas County
Webster Mangham	TRA
Bret Higginbotham	USACE
Jerry Cotter USACE (Guest)	USACE