

North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Flood Management Task Force
Friday, November 17, 2023
9:30 AM, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome and introductions.**

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The August 18, 2023, meeting summary is [available online](#) for review.
3. **FY 2023 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program Activities Discussion.**

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) welcomes the participants and takes roll of the member communities.

- a. **Steering Committee Meeting Debrief.** NCTCOG will present the results of the Annual Steering Committee Meeting.

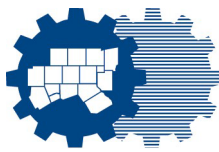
Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) reviews the goals of the COMMON VISION Program and the Task Force.

The Meeting Summary from August is reviewed by the Task Force. Ryan Harrell motions to approve the summary and Lee Jeffrey seconds the motion. The approval of the August Meeting Summary is unanimous.

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) gives an update to the Task Force of the Steering Committee meeting that occurred in September. Two new Work Program items were added: updating each communities' acreage in the floodplain based on the FIRM and expanding the CDC process to more western communities.

- b. **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. (Matt Lepinski)

Matt Lepinski (USACE) gives an update on the model consolidation describing the big picture beyond the region. USACE is discussing with other jurisdictions and FEMA Region 6 on similar initiatives. A lot of communities will individually adopt higher standards, but given that upstream choices impact those downstream, consolidated efforts need to be made so that models can work together. The latest version of the model incorporates additional feedback from users. USACE is making progress on its East Fork model development. The presence of levees adds additional complexity compared to the current model. USACE still anticipates sharing that with the Task Force for review in 2024.



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

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) gives an update on the status of the Fifth Edition of the CDC Manual. NCTCOG is expecting Lisa to provide the final draft of all sections by the end of the day. The goal is to have the manual formatted and posted for review by the next Flood Management Task Force meeting. Jai-W will send an email out when the manual is posted.

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

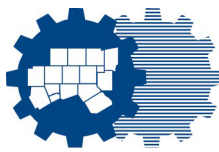
Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) updated the Task Force on the progress made with recruiting additional communities to join the COMMON VISION Program. Staff are working with NCTCOG's legal team to finish the draft ILA to send to the City of Mesquite. NCTCOG expects to have the City of Mesquite join by the next Fiscal Year. NCTCOG will also re-engage with Ellis County about joining.

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) gives an overview of the efforts to expand the COMMON VISION Program westward in tandem with the TSI study. A deliverable for the TSI study is engaging with stakeholders to try to adopt higher standards, including joining COMMON VISION. NCTCOG's engagement strategies will be outlined in TSI Community Engagement Plan. The goal is to add this expansion to the FY25 Work Plan for COMMON VISION and to keep track of progress. Meanwhile, it will be included on the meeting agenda as a standing item for meetings in FY24.

Craig Ottman (TRWD) states that TRWD doesn't have relationships with Wise County or Parker County communities right now but would be happy to work on being a point of contact. TRWD thinks it is important as the current CDC effort started from the EIS report on expected flood damages. Craig asks if USACE has any work completed like the EIS that has information on why COMMON VISION could be important for communities west of the DFW. If not, what would it look like to update the EIS to have something science-based to show that if the valley storage in the Upper Trinity disappears, what are the impacts.

Matt Lepinski (USACE) shares that USACE has many models across the region. Areas like the City of Weatherford have fewer models because most models are downstream of USACE lakes. But USACE could put in a proposal for Floodplain Management Services to fund a dedicated study to look at impacts of the loss of valley storage.

Jerry Cotter (USACE) clarifies that estimated losses were generated in the late 1980s and that those projects are no longer applicable or representative of the current corridor. The EIS showed there could be up to \$11 billion in damages if valley storage was lost, and that estimate would be many times higher with a cost-of-living index applied. Those projections also don't include communities and developments that have been added to the program over the last 30 years. Jerry expresses it would be a good idea to update these estimates.



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Jerry Cotter (USACE) shares that the TSI study will look at valley storage but on a greater scale that includes smaller tributaries and streams. Jerry asks Craig if his concern is the projected losses are out of date.

Craig Ottman (TRWD) answers that it is a magnitude thing and asks if the report considers watersheds in Parker County and Wise County.

Jerry Cotter (USACE) states the report only considered the river and not tributaries. When communities and developments encroach into floodplain and deplete valley storage, you're going to force the floodplain to compensate. The City of Arlington has an ordinance calling for no loss of valley storage but that does not exist everywhere else. We would need to investigate this for all the streams in the corridor. As a part of the TSI study, we are going to attempt to quantify damages that would result from loss of valley storage. The hope is that the Regional Flood Planning Group will make recommendations.

Craig Ottman (TRWD) supports working at it from a legislative angle.

Nathan Davison (Dallas County) asks about whether "no loss" meant no loss or if minute changes were allowed. A developer was building a small structure in a floodplain and conducted a study showing there was a no rise scenario in BFE, although we know that if you add fill to the floodway, you are taking away valley storage. Nathan stated that if you let everyone build something small, the cumulative loss would add up.

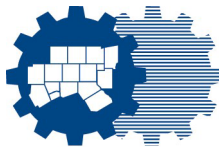
Jerry Cotter (USACE) stated that the hydrologic models are not able to show impacts from one single small development but agrees that that there is a cumulative effect. When the USACE looks at the entire floodplain we can see that effect. There's a lot of noise, data, and uncertainty in the data, so on smaller projects, you can't show that. USACE has not tested this with RAS 2D but it may be able to show some of that effect. In the past, H&H modeling has been separated using two different methods and could not show minute changes. But RAS 2D may be able to demonstrate on a project-by-project basis, while still testing the model. If we want to protect communities, we must look at it regionally and cumulatively.

Nathan Davison (Dallas County) asks if the zero-loss policy is written in a way that prohibits loss or does it just come down to if you are adding fill. For example, if you have one cubic yard of fill, do you need to add one cubic yard of valley storage?

Jerry Cotter (USACE) shares that the CDC process does allow them to redistribute the floodplain by adding valley storage. Unfortunately, we do not have the requirement that the valley storage must be at the same elevation, so development can still have negative effects due to storage being added at different elevations. Redistribution tends to concentrate storage at a lower elevation. The CDC program is a compromise. If we had prevented all development, it would not have been politically viable.

- e. **Update on Flood Warning Systems.** NCTCOG staff will give updates on efforts related to the RFP for the Flood Warning Systems. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)
Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) shares an update of the progress of the procurement of vendors for Flood Warning System software and related hardware.

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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NCTCOG has procured 3 vendors for flood warning software and hardware: TriLynx and OneRain for software and HydroLynx for hardware. The master agreements have been completed and signed for HydroLynx and TriLynx. NCTCOG is finalizing the agreement with OneRain. Jai-W will email the Task Force when all agreements have been completed. Jai-W thanked the scoring committee. More information can be found at <https://txshare.org/available-contracts/flood-management>.

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) shared that NCTCOG's procurement team is looking for additional ideas for TXshare contracts. If you have any suggestions, please contact Jai-W Hayes-Jackson.

NCTCOG is reviewing websites that have a security risk. Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) asks group about their use of Flooddatantx.com and Nctcog.onerain.com sites so we can consider whether to transfer these into the secure NCTCOG environment. We will also take the flooddatantx.com data website down temporarily to ensure fairness for the other vendors.

Craig Ottman (TRWD) does not use Flooddatantx.com but pulls in some of the data; he agrees that it would be a good idea to have portal to the OneRain site and a portal to the TriLynx page. DCURD is using the website and uploading rain data; Tim Benefiel is using both websites.

NCTCOG will re-evaluate next steps for the websites so we don't impact access.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. Other Program Related Efforts

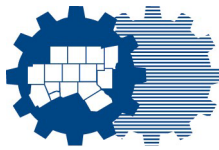
- a. **28th Annual FEMA NFIP L0273 Course and CFM Exam.** The FEMA NFIP L0273 Course will be held December 4 – 7, with the exam taking place December 8. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

Registration for the L0273 Course and the exam closed November 13. The class and exam are full. The exam will be all digital this year.

Stephanie Griffin (Half) states that if you are taking the cfm exam, please read all the details TFMA provided via email.

- b. **North Texas Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group.** NCTCOG will share updates from the October CRS Users Group Meeting. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) provided an update on October's CRS Users Group Seminar. For more information about upcoming events and meetings, please contact Erin Blackman.



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- c. **Trinity River Paddling Trail.** NCTCOG will provide an update on the designation of the Trinity River in Dallas-Fort Worth as a National Water Trail and efforts to enhance the trail and maintain the National Park Service designation. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

The next National Water Trail Task Force Meeting will take place December 13. For more information about upcoming events and meetings, please contact Erin Blackman.

- d. **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. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

Jai-W updated the Task Force on the TSI study progress since the last meeting. The project team has submitted a scope to Texas General Land Office for funding and has been accepted into the Urban Land Institute's mini-TAP program. The project team has met with the Technical Advisory Group and the Steering Committee and is currently working on a Community Engagement Plan.

- e. **Cooperating Technical Partnership.** NCTCOG staff will provide an update on the CTP projects that are ongoing. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

Jai-W provides an update on the two remaining CTP Risk MAP projects (Hog Branch and East Fork). Both projects are currently on schedule with meetings tentatively scheduled for early 2024.

- f. **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program.** An update on iSWM activities will be provided by NCTCOG staff. (Casey Cannon)

Casey Cannon (NCTCOG) presents an update on the iSWM program. The next iSWM meeting is scheduled for January 17 at 1:30 PM.

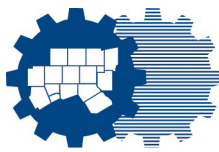
- g. **CDC Applications.** NCTCOG staff will share CDC applications received since the last FMTF meeting and invite members to share any upcoming CDC applications. (Jai-W Hayes-Jackson)

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) shares the status of CDC applications currently in the pipeline.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

5. **FMTF Input on COMMON VISION Value and Engagement.** NCTCOG Staff is looking for input on ways to make the COMMON VISION Program more valuable to our community. Seeking input and suggestion on what changes can be made to increase engagement in the program.

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) is seeking input of changes to the COMMON VISION Program that could increase engagement and value to communities.



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Ryan Harrell (City of Grand Prairie) expresses that training is helpful especially for networking and the ability to interact with people to get tips from them.

Nathan Davison (Dallas County) asks if there is a regionwide flood model appropriate for adding smaller projects.

Matt Lepinski (USACE) shares that the USACE has a Trinity basin model for SWM and has watershed hydrology assessments that are publicly available.

Jerry Cotter (USACE) shares that the CDC model is available for use on a project-by-project basis but only for the area USACE has regulatory oversight on. Other areas are governed by local government ordinances and FEMA keeps those effective models, but they can't be updated dynamically on a project-by-project basis. The only model where this takes place is the CDC model, but it is not set up for all the tributaries. USACE has been talking about this on the state level. It took several years to link up the two models for the consolidated model. It is a complex issue and a problem for the flood science community; models are scattered all over the place and no one is tracking them or tracking the cumulative impact of development in the tributaries. The state is working on one for the whole region, but a lot of technological changes and shifts are challenging to manage.

Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) asks if with the state looking at statewide floodplains. Would it make sense to do model repository as a part of that?

Jerry Cotter (USACE) said that there is no legislative funding for that, but it is being discussed by flood organizing groups including many state agencies. TDIS is talking about developing modeling servers and systems to maintain all this. There is some TX GLO funding for a larger flood science effort. USACE is not opposed to trying to tackle a pilot project to do this for the Task Force, but it is a complicated subject.

Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) suggests applying for a grant.

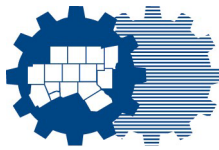
Jerry Cotter (USACE) says if the Task Force tells them to do this, they will. If a few communities volunteer, USACE will start working to try to set up a system for those communities.

Matt Lepinski (USACE) provides a link to the Texas flood planning data hub as resource. <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/data.asp>. Many resources exist; the goal is how can data be standardized in one resource.

Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) will send out a survey regarding the frequency and format of meetings and possible training opportunities.

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

City of Arlington: Lee Jeffrey (City of Arlington) shares he would like to see more training opportunities. The City of Arlington is trying to hire new engineers and he thinks it would be helpful to assess what new and existing employees can benefit from. In-person training would allow cross training between communities and informal collaboration. In the last month, the City of Arlington got existing flood modeling stations converted from ALERT to ALERT2. They hope by the end of calendar year, they will add 3 more sites to the flood



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monitoring network. The city is also in the final stages of reviewing expansion of a landfill in Arlington, so it will probably have that application within the next 3 months.

Jerry Cotter (USACE) asks if Lee is seeking detailed technical training like how to use RAS or for elected officials.

Lee Jeffrey (City of Arlington) clarifies that he is interested in mostly technical training for city employees. He agrees that RAS training is always helpful and is also interested in cross training like the CRS Users Group meeting that occurred earlier this year.

Jerry Cotter (USACE) agrees that TFMA training for floodplain administrators is really great. For more technical training like RAS and HMS, Halff was teaching classes in coordination with USACE that you could purchase. Matt has also been working on developing agreements to bring hydrologic center staff here to do training.

Matt Lepinski (USACE) shares that there is some funding to create video tutorials that give an overview of the INFRM program, the Flood Decision Support Toolbox, the viewer, and the Watershed Hydrology Assessment viewer. USACE has talked to TWDB about creating a video to highlight how the state flood planning effort leverages INFRM. The next step would be how users could download models, what is in a RAS model, and step-by-step instructions on how to leverage BLE models to do an update. We have support to do training, we just need to ID the desired format and specific topics.

Jerry Cotter (USACE) suggests including in the survey that if region wants training, it will require an agreement to provide funding for trainers. We have gotten requests from river authorities and state agencies. But the hydrologic training center does not want to do individual agreements. USACE would like to have a region-wide training agreement with COG as a pilot and set up a fee structure, so training is paid for or used to hire a vendor. We would need at least 20 attendees for it to be economically feasible to do the training.

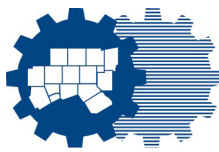
Jai-W Hayes Jackson (NCTCOG) asks if these would need to be individual agreements and what is the cost. Jerry says the cost is several thousand dollars, but if you could get 20-30 people, the cost would be lower. USACE would just need an agreement with NCTCOG and NCTCOG would need to have an agreement with all the cities.

City of Grand Prairie: Ryan Harrell (City of Grand Prairie) shares that the project on the West Fork of trinity has gone to the Planning and Zoning Commission and was approved. The consultant and applicant will do more detailed flood studies, and he expects a CDC application to be submitted in the next 3 months.

Dallas County: Nathan Davison (Dallas County) shares that Dallas County is working on development in inland port area. They are currently working on modeling, and it would be good to see how the tributaries work with the main stem and look at the whole picture. The project is expected to generate stormwater changes.

TRA: Webster Mangham (TRA) shares that TRA just finished 400 cross sections on the Elm Fork for the USACE. If anyone needs that data let him know and he will send it.

Stephanie Griffin (Halff) announced that TFMA is planning to have its early bird registration posted in end of December for the annual meeting in March in San Antonio. Nominations for annual awards open in early December.



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Jai-W Hayes-Jackson (NCTCOG) shares information on the upcoming training on stormwater pollution and the request for comment on the DFW Air Quality Improvement Plan.

- Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled to be held on February 16, 2024, at 9:30 AM Meeting format TBD.
- Adjournment.**

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

Attendance List

Name	Organization
Lee Jeffrey	City of Arlington
Cole Baker	City of Coppell
Joetta Dailey	City of Denton
Juliana Behrens	City of Fort Worth
Ryan Harrell	City of Grand Prairie
Duane Hengst	City of Hurst
Garry Fennell	City of Irving
Jeff Kelly	City of Lewisville
Nathan Davison	Dallas County
Tim Benefiel	DCURD
Claire Pollard	Dewberry
Jeff Ballew	Edgecliff Village
Jim Keith	Freese and Nichols
Stephanie Griffin	Halff Associates
Angela Davidson	Halff Associates
Larissa Knapp-Scott	LJA Engineering
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson	NCTCOG
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG
Casey Cannon	NCTCOG
Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG
David Cowan	NTMWD
Yeontae Jeong	Pape Dawson
Webster Mangham	TRA
Zach Huff	TRWD
Craig Ottman	TRWD
Matt Lepinski	USACE
Jerry Cotter	USACE