

SUMMARY

Flood Management Task Force
Friday, May 15, 2026
9:30 AM, 616 Six Flags Drive
Arlington TX 76011



1. Welcome and Introductions.

- City of Arlington – Lee Jeffrey
- City of Coppell – Cole Baker
- City of Denton – Mike Linder
- City of Fort Worth – Lisa Biggs
- City of Grand Prairie – Ryan Harrell
- City of Lewisville – Jeff Kelly
- Dallas County – Nathan Davison
- Denton County – Stephen Belknap
- Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) – Craig Ottman
- Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) – Olivia Whittaker
- Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA)/Halff – Stephanie Griffin
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Bret Higginbotham
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Vincent Geracci

Emilie Fryksater (NCTCOG) opened the meeting by requesting two to three (2-3) Flood Management Task Force (FMTF) volunteers to serve as the primary “go-to contacts” for NCTCOG staff between quarterly meetings. These volunteers would be expected to assist with continuity, task progression, and time-sensitive guidance, in addition to reporting to the Steering Committee as representatives of the FMTF during the annual Combined Floodplain Seminar for Elected Officials and Trinity River COMMON VISION Steering Committee Meeting.

Lisa Biggs (City of Fort Worth), and Lee Jeffrey (City of Arlington)/Craig Ottman (TRWD) volunteered to serve as the FMTF representatives.

ACTION ITEMS

2. **Voting Item: Meeting Summary Approval.** The February 20, 2026, draft meeting summary is [available online](#) for review.
A motion to approve the February 20, 2026, meeting summary was made by Lee Jeffrey (City of Arlington) and seconded by Mike Linder (City of Denton). The motion was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **FY 2026 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program Activities Discussion.**
 - a. **CDC Model Consolidation Team.** (Emilie Fryksater, CFM, NCTCOG and Lisa Biggs, P.E., CFM, the City of Fort Worth)
 - i. **CDC Model Files Updated.**
Communities in attendance were encouraged to download and utilize the updated files, uploaded to [the NCTCOG Corridor Development Certificate \(CDC\) webpage](#) as of May 4th, 2026.

ii. **Update the CDC Manual to the 5th Edition.**

Emilie Fryksater (NCTCOG), Christi Upton (NCTCOG), and Lisa Biggs (City of Fort Worth) met on May 8th, 2026, to review the working draft of the 5th Edition of the CDC Manual and assess necessary revisions, additions, and overall completeness.

Discussion focused on prioritizing finalization of the 5th edition within the next fiscal year. While most sections are nearing completion, Section 4 remains the primary section requiring substantive updates. The group also determined that information regarding the CDC Mapper should be incorporated into the manual, noting that the Mapper is intended to serve as a visual aid for communities reviewing CDC applications for comment. NCTCOG will perform final reformatting of the document prior to distribution to the FMTF for broader peer review.

Lisa B. acknowledged the delays associated with staff transitions and changes over the past year and expressed appreciation for everyone's patience throughout the revision process. Only minor adjustments are anticipated moving forward, and a refresher on significant changes can be provided during the review process as needed.

While examining Section 4 of the CDC Manual, which outlines required application materials and supporting documentation to be submitted by applicants, Craig Ottman (TRWD) requested an update from USACE regarding ongoing maintenance of the CDC Models and the integration of as-built information from completed projects. Vincent Geracci (USACE) indicated that regularly updating the Models to reflect completed projects remains challenging, as there is no consistent mechanism within the CDC Process for collecting post-construction mapping and as-built conditions, which are typically captured through the Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) process. Lisa B. added that Fort Worth will likely be among the first communities to navigate this process and submit a model maintenance fee to update the CDC Models accordingly.

b. **CDC Expansion – TSI Project Area.** (Vincent Geracci, P.E., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Vincent Geracci (USACE) presented the results of a pilot study conducted under the Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) Study to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the CDC Program into additional watersheds throughout the region and document the procedures, considerations, and lessons learned associated with potential future expansion efforts. Using the City of Weatherford (TX) as the pilot study area, USACE demonstrated how existing hydrologic and hydraulic models could be adapted to CDC methodologies and documented the process and findings of the pilot study in a final cumulative report. Vincent added that the report is intended to serve as a guide for communities considering future participation and aid in identifying potential funding sources for model development. Throughout the presentation, USACE and NCTCOG solicited feedback from the Task Force, prompting deeper discussion on the potential opportunities and challenges associated with future CDC expansion into the TSI project area.

Conversation focused on the level of effort required for communities to participate in the CDC Program and whether expansion should be pursued throughout entire watersheds or targeted toward specific reaches and tributaries. Lisa Biggs (City of Fort Worth) questioned whether expansion efforts should be limited to connected tributaries of a

certain size, noting that implementation and maintenance could require a significant level of effort. Vincent G. responded that some communities may be interested in participating primarily to protect a particular reach or watershed and suggested that preservation of valley storage may serve as a worthwhile recommendation even where full CDC participation is not pursued. Discussion also acknowledged that community willingness to adopt and enforce ordinance provisions, participate in the Task Force and Steering Committee, and guide applicants through the CDC Process will be critical considerations for future expansion efforts.

Task Force members also assessed model development and maintenance considerations, including whether future expansion models should remain separate from the existing CDC Consolidated Model. Lisa B. expressed support for maintaining separate model files where appropriate to reduce confusion and complexity as additional watersheds/tributaries are added. Jeff Neal (NCTCOG) agreed that maintaining separate models may be beneficial in the near term and encouraged consideration of how tributary models could eventually be integrated into a broader regional framework if expansion efforts continue. Attendees further discussed challenges associated with disconnected watersheds and varying model types, including the growing prevalence of two-dimensional (2D) hydraulic models.

Additional discussion addressed the benefits of preserving valley storage, both locally and regionally. Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) and other participants questioned how CDC principles might apply in watersheds that discharge through reservoirs before ultimately reaching the Trinity River. Vincent G. noted that preserving valley storage remains valuable even in upstream communities because floodwaters will eventually reach downstream systems and reservoirs may already be operating near capacity during major storm events. Craig Ottman (TRWD) added that loss of valley storage can reduce the amount of time available to respond to flood events and manage peak flows, while Lisa B. emphasized the importance of considering downstream reservoir operations and releases when evaluating floodplain impacts.

The Task Force further considered potential incentives and barriers to participation. Participants questioned how communities could be encouraged/incentivized to join the program when many of the benefits are perceived to occur downstream. Bret Higginbotham (USACE) indicated that preservation of valley storage is likely to emerge as a key recommendation of the TSI effort, while Christi Upton (NCTCOG) noted that discussions regarding infrastructure risk, bridge impacts, and broader community resiliency may help demonstrate local benefits. Vincent G. added that the CDC Program provides communities with a framework for implementing higher floodplain management standards, future-conditions modeling, and consistent technical criteria that can support local floodplain administrators in administering and enforcing floodplain regulations.

Attendees then examined potential funding opportunities and technical assistance for communities interested in pursuing CDC expansion. USACE staff noted that Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) funding may be available to assist with model development and related technical support. Overall, the Task Force expressed support for continued evaluation of CDC expansion opportunities while acknowledging that implementation approaches may vary based on local conditions, available data, community priorities, and the level of interest in formal program participation.

c. **CDC Mapper Development.** (Emilie Fryksater and Christi Upton, NCTCOG)

Emilie Fryksater (NCTCOG) reviewed the progress made in developing the CDC Mapper, including the addition of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) layer. The FIRM layer is directly linked to FEMA GIS service layer; any updates FEMA makes to their maps will instantaneously reflect in the CDC Mapper. Other updates included differentiation of CDC applications by color and status (Granted, Abandoned, Granted with Conditions [subject to change], and Rejected); demarcation of municipalities and county lines; attribute filter for CDC Application by year; an easily accessible attribute table; interface sizing capabilities; and the addition of a “Submit Query” box and an instructions tab.

Pending development tasks projected include addition of CDC Models layer/s; revised disclaimer pop-up for purpose and use of Mapper (not meant to replace HEC-RAS model files necessary for CDC Applications); CDC Application file attachment; and plotting of project boundaries for non-exempt projects. Emilie F. then requested input from the Task Force concerning development of the Mapper.

Task Force members provided feedback on future enhancements to the CDC Mapper, including the addition of project boundary polygons for non-exempt (permitted) projects and a separate polygon depicting proposed areas of modification. Attendees noted that while project boundary shapefiles are required as part of the CDC application, additional guidance on creating shapefiles from CAD drawings and other digital formats may be beneficial. Lisa Biggs (City of Fort Worth) emphasized that communities should ensure applicants submit properly formatted shapefiles as part of the CDC review process, while Bret Higginbotham (USACE) noted that accurately identifying the project location remains a primary consideration during technical review.

Additional input included incorporating information identifying areas of effective and ineffective flow where feasible, as well as documenting updates made to the CDC Consolidated Model. Vincent Geracci (USACE) noted that determinations regarding effective and ineffective flow are currently made during the CDC review process, while Lee Jeffrey (City of Arlington) requested that future model updates be more clearly documented for users of the Consolidated Model.

d. **FY 2027 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program Discussion.** NCTCOG will share proposed updates to the Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Program. (Emilie Fryksater) Emilie Fryksater (NCTCOG) went through the updated FY 2027 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Plan, including additions, revisions, and sunseting (through deletion/omission) of tasks.

To review the DRAFT FY 2027 Trinity River COMMON VISION Work Plan with tracked changes, visit the following link: https://www.nctcog.org/getContentAsset/f181766a-5693-438e-843d-c4d40ced9eb8/dfc3d011-8f63-43f6-9ed8-4b444333a1d0/TRCV_FY2027_Work-Program_Draft_v3.pdf?language=en-US.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. **Upcoming Events.** Hosted by NCTCOG and other stakeholders. (Emilie Fryksater)

Links to the following events can be found on slides 41 - 44 in the FMTF May 15, 2026 Meeting Slides located on the Flood Management Task Force webpage:

https://www.nctcog.org/getContentAsset/7fdf32a4-5410-402e-a537-762d377b92ce/dfc3d011-8f63-43f6-9ed8-4b444333a1d0/05-15-2026_FMTF-Slides_FINAL-5-18-26.pdf?language=en-US.

VIRTUAL EVENTS	
June 30 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	FEMA Virtual Brown Bag <u>Topic to be decided</u>

July 28 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	FEMA Virtual Brown Bag <u>Topic to be decided</u>
August 25 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	FEMA Virtual Brown Bag <u>Topic to be decided</u>

NCTCOG EVENTS	
May 21 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Public Works Council Meeting <u>NCTCOG Offices – Centerpoint 2; Regional Forum Conference Room</u>
July 15 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	iSWM Subcommittee Meeting <u>Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams</u>
August 13 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Public Works Council Meeting <u>Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams</u>
August 20 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.	2026 Public Works Roundup 1601 Campus Drive, Hurst, 76054, TX, USA

IN-PERSON EVENTS	
May 26 – 29	<u>Texas Emergency Management Conference</u> Fort Worth Convention Center Fort Worth, TX
May 31 – June 4	<u>2026 ASFPM Conference</u> Baird Center Milwaukee, WI
June 17 – 19	<u>TWA 2026 Summer Conference</u> Horseshoe Bay Resort Horseshoe Bay, TX

IN-PERSON EVENTS	
August 25 - 28	TFMA 2026 Technical Summit Hyatt Hill Country Resort San Antonio, TX
Aug. 30 - Sept. 2	APWA Public Works Expo The George R. Brown Convention Center Houston, TX
October 7 – 9	Texas Water Association – Fall Conference San Antonio Marriot Riverwalk San Antonio, TX

5. **Q4 Meeting Workshop.** Texas Disaster Information System (TDIS) and Flood Explorer. (Emilie Fryksater and Christi Upton)

Emilie Fryksater (NCTCOG) presented plans for the Q4 Flood Management Task Force Workshop, which will feature a demonstration of the Texas Disaster Information System (TDIS) and Flood Risk Explorer led by Dr. Federico Antolini of the Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT) at Texas A&M University. The approximately 1.5-hour workshop will highlight available flood data, mapping tools, and other TDIS resources.

Task Force members considered whether the workshop should be held in person or virtually, noting that an in-person format would encourage collaboration and allow attendees to ask questions more easily, while a virtual format would provide participants with greater opportunity to explore the tools on their own computers. Emilie F. suggested holding the workshop in person but encouraging attendees to bring their own personal laptops to follow along with the demonstrations. Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) suggested inviting the NCTCOG Emergency Preparedness (EP) team, and it was further recommended that Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure (TSI) stakeholders be invited to participate.

The workshop will be held in-person during the next Flood Management Task Force Meeting on August 21st in the Transportation Council Room at the NCTCOG offices (CenterPoint Building II, first floor). To add the event to your calendar, click the following link: [Trinity River COMMON VISION Flood Management Task Force Meeting: TDIS Workshop | AddEvent](#).
6. **L0273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the NFIP Course and CFM Exam.** (Emilie Fryksater)

Emilie Fryksater (NCTCOG) provided an update on plans to host the FEMA L0273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Course September 21st to the 24th, followed by an opportunity for attendees to take the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam the morning of September 25th. Registration for the course will open once the Notice of Decision is received from FEMA. The training is intended to support floodplain administrators and other local officials by expanding technical knowledge of NFIP regulations and encouraging professional certification throughout the region. Registration instructions for both the course and the exam can be found at the following links:

L0273 Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program Course—<https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/trinity-river-common-vision/managing-floodplain-development-through-the-national-flood-insurance-program-l0273>.

CFM Exam— <https://www.nctcog.org/envir/watershed-management/trinity-river-common-vision/certified-floodplain-manager-certification-exam>.

During the update, Lee Jeffrey (City of Arlington) shared that Community Rating System (CRS) verification activities remain on hold after receiving notification from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) that verification visits were suspended during the recent federal shutdown. He noted that participating communities continue to maintain their CRS program activities and documentation while awaiting further direction from ISO.

7. Other Program-Related Efforts.

- a. **North Texas Floodplain Administrators/CRS Users Group.** (Erin Blackman, CFM, NCTCOG)
The June 4th CRS Users Group Meeting has been cancelled.
- b. **Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program.** (Katie Hunter, CFM, NCTCOG)
Katie Hunter (NCTCOG) provided an update on the Integrated Stormwater Management (iSWM) Program, highlighting discussion from the April 14, 2026, iSWM Subcommittee meeting. Updates included an overview of sustainable development and Blue-Green-Gray funding programs, emphasizing opportunities for green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) implementation and replication. Katie also reported completion of the FY 2026 Work Program task evaluating the cumulative impacts of small-footprint development and noted that the Subcommittee has begun identifying priorities for the FY 2027 Work Program, including manual usability improvements and modernization efforts. Attendees were also reminded that the next iSWM Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026, and will include a vote on the proposed FY 2027 Work Program tasks.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

8. CDC Applications. (Emilie Fryksater)

Emilie Fryksater (NCTCOG) provided an update on CDC applications received since the February 20, 2026, Flood Management Task Force meeting. Since the previous meeting, six new CDC applications had been received, including four projects in the public comment period and two projects determined to be exempt from the CDC permitting process. Vincent Geracci (USACE) also reported that technical review was underway for the Graff Interests project (CDC-110) in Irving, which consists of a proposed industrial development including five bridge crossings—three across Bear Creek, one across the Bear Creek split-flow channel, and one additional crossing. One permit had also been issued since the previous meeting for the Crow Holdings Industrial project (CDC-117) in Fort Worth. Attendees were reminded to submit Final Action Forms for completed projects and to notify NCTCOG of any CDC application status changes requiring updates to the CDC tracking system.

9. Open Discussion/Other Business.

Arlington (Lee Jeffrey) – Inquired about the anticipated release of the draft 5th Edition of the CDC Manual. Informed the Task Force of minimized staff travel associated with Community Rating System (CRS) verification visits for lower-scoring communities (in response to Cole Baker from Coppell).

Carrollton – NA

Coppell (Cole Baker) – Requested an update on Community Rating System (CRS) verification visits, noting that the City of Coppell is awaiting its next verification visit.

City of Dallas – NA

Farmers Branch – NA

Fort Worth (Lisa Biggs) – Suggested eliminating the requirement for applicants to submit one hard copy of CDC applications and transitioning to a fully digital submission process. Lisa also reported that the goal is to distribute a draft of the 5th Edition of the CDC Manual for Task Force review by the fall and noted that the revised application forms are currently being tested to ensure they function properly.

Grand Prairie – NA

Irving – NA

Lewisville – NA

Seagoville – NA

Dallas County – NA

Denton County – NA

Kaufman County – NA

Tarrant County – NA

Tarrant Regional Water District (Craig Ottman) – Introduced Olivia Whittaker, who will be attending future Flood Management Task Force meetings on behalf of TRWD.

Trinity River Authority – NA

USACE – Indicated support for transitioning to a fully digital CDC application process while acknowledging that some reviewers may still benefit from receiving hard copies.

10. **Upcoming Meeting.** The next Flood Management Task Force meeting will be held on Friday, August 21st. The meeting will be held in-person at the NCTCOG offices.

11. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Emilie Fryksater by phone at (817) 695-9110, or by email at efryksater@nctcog.org. Thank you.

Attendance List	
Lee Jeffrey	City of Arlington
Cole Baker	City of Coppell
Mike Linder	City of Denton
Lisa Biggs	City of Fort Worth
Ryan Harrell	City of Grand Prairie
Jeff Kelly	City of Lewisville
Nathan Davison	Dallas County
Stephen Belknap	Denton County
Rakib Siddique	IEA Inc.
Jeremy Dixon	Freese & Nichols
Stephanie Griffin	TFMA/Halff Associates
Craig Ottman	TRWD
Olivia Whittaker	TRWD
Brett Higginbotham	USACE
Vincent Geracci	USACE

Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG
Erin Blackman	NCTCOG
Katie Hunter	NCTCOG
Christi Upton	NCTCOG
Emilie Fryksater	NCTCOG
Jeff Neal	NCTCOG