

SUMMARY

TSI Technical Advisory Group Meeting
Monday, October 23, 2023
3 PM – 4:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams



I. Introduction

Attendees introduced themselves in the chat and Jai-W Hayes-Jackson (NCTCOG) invited everyone to introduce themselves.

II. Recap July 12th Meeting

a. Update on current progress

Jai-W describes 4 subareas and noted the next steering committee meeting will be in November.

III. Technical Advisory Group Action Items

a. Education and Outreach

i. Related TSI Projects

ii. ULI Mini-TAP for outreach to industry

Kate went over the scope of the mini-TAP Program. The preliminary topics the project team identified are:

- Overcoming barriers to nature-based solutions, green infrastructure
- Implementing above at watershed scale
- Promoting TSI concepts
- Easing burden for under-resourced local governments
- Policy recommendations for sustainable design

Kathy Jack asked if these topics are directed toward real estate and insurance agents. Kate confirmed that we are looking to engage developers, real estate agents, and insurance agents. Kathy Jack stated it would be nice to have more targeted support from these sectors and to address the barriers.

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Josh McClure asked whether the effort included green infrastructure. Kate said anything that they could feasibly implement was fair game.

Kate asked the group if anyone had had any experience working with this group. The TSI study team will be engaging ULI again to find out who will be participating.

iii. Community Engagement Plan Opportunities and Challenges

Kate gave an overview of plans for the Community Engagement Plan. The study team would like to tap the TAG group's experience to identify strategies that they have implemented in the past that were successful.

Samuel Morrall said for community engagement, when getting people to come to meetings, attendees are looking to connect the experience with their current position. They may not be familiar with the project. He has used infographics and social media to engage people. Sometimes attendees care less about the content being presented and more about the people who presented it.

Kathy shared work done to create an NBS model by the Florida Nature Conservancy that used a stakeholder-driven planning model to ID and prioritize NBS projects. Outreach had a set time and was structured to identify what tasks were occurring in specific time periods and the end goal of the tasks. Because government staff is

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busy, you must make it really clear what is the end goal, subgoals, and what is the opportunity to participate.

Josh McClure shared that data was collected from the Regional Flood Planning Group, and he will reach out to Stephanie Griffin for lessons learned to share. Reaching out to the subconsultants who work for the smaller cities who are doing the work was helpful in their effort. Using those established connections could be productive.

Jacob Lesue shared similar advice in working with GLO with communities for Hurricane Harvey. The firms he recommends reaching out to are Freese, H2O Partners, and Dewberry.

b. Funding

i. Transportation Grant and Funding Updates

Jeff Neal gave an update on grant program eligibility and what these grants will look at moving forward. The RAISE program has significant funding spread out over 5 years. These are specific programs where sustainability and resilience and asset management are major criteria for the funding. For INFRA, Jeff said the Transportation Department realized that a similar project (Southern Dallas County Inland Port) allowed his team to include proactive flood mitigation. He said grant efforts should include not just the cities but also the rural areas. The SS4A Program addresses the costs and benefits, a major element for review for the Department of Transportation (DOT). For the BIP grant, the state of Texas is addressing bridges in poor condition and allowing

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for funding for repair; the program aims to expand bridges that are deficient because of design or bridges that will fail over time. The RCPP aims to use \$3 billion of potential funds to redo obstacles that affect or contribute to flooding. PROTECT gets more federal participation in these projects.

ii. Efforts to Support Smaller Cities in Developing Grant Applications

Jeff asks what information might be most useful when trying to support smaller cities. He said it is not just finding the proper funding but what to do if you win a grant and have to manage the grant. Federal funds sometimes come with restraints.

Many DOTs recognize problems and are beginning to ask questions about the discretionary grant process. Questions include topics on identifying disadvantaged communities and how to maximize reward success. Communities stand better chances of getting awarded if they meet requirements. Communities will need to ask themselves before applying, is this the right grant.

The DOT Navigator is a good starting point for preparing for grant opportunities and determining how a municipality might respond to the considerations. Jeff asks the Technical Advisory Group what more they would want to talk about with funding going forward. He also talked about the funding efforts on the state side.

Josh McClure asked what means are there for communities to fund projects or funding for TSI? Jeff said whatever projects that come out of TSI could go after the funding he described. He said the

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project should prioritize vulnerabilities and funding for planning to implement solutions should be sought.

c. Data and Technical Topics

i. Bridgeport Pilot Study

Matt gave an overview of the Bridgeport Pilot Study. The study team will use the pilot study to guide H&H work for the larger study area. Matt said that when you zoom down to the subbasin level, Bridgeport is covered by the subbasin. There was a need to refine this for additional detail. Dr. Jaber's work will help fill in some of this information. The study coordinated efforts with the planning, transportation, and environmental teams. The end goal is a plan to approach the remainder of the project. Using HEC HMS, the study team sees one junction that has a set of flow that is captured on the revised model didn't exist previously. There is a better level of granularity with this model. The study team tested out this approach to break a subbasin into smaller subbasin. They will take the existing BLE and refine the model as needed using information gathered from TxDOT. This allows the study team to identify the base conditions for flooding in the areas. The team will do an optimization study to determine mitigation structures. The results could help with inundation models and flood warning systems. If a certain flood level is forecasted, communities can make more informed decisions.

Nick Fang shared that they study team is working hard on the optimization study.

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Matt said the H&H study addresses where the study area has 1D BLE models. It does not address where there are 2D Models. TWDB just wrapped up a study that will allow the study team to review 2D BLE. The team were able to bring in USACE funding to review this information.

ii. Water Supply and Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Kate shared with the group what the study team has learned on aquifer recharge. The team had an opportunity to learn from TWDB on aquifer recharge and aquifer storage and recovery. With recharge, there isn't control on where the water goes. With storage and recovery, the process operates like a "savings account" for the water.

Kathy suggested the study team meet with people who use aquifer recharge as conservation in the Hill County.

Kate shared the steering committee expressed concerns about future drinking water. She said aquifer storage and recovery is a way to extend water supply but didn't eliminate the need for a reservoir. TRWD has launched a pilot project which will last about 11 years.

Josh shared that Dallas Water Utilities is also doing an ASR study that they are doing in collaboration with City of Denton or Denton County.

iii. Sources of Stormwater Data

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Kate shared the efforts the study team has made reaching out to communities for stormwater data. This information will be used to assist the study. For less urban modeling, communities are being asked if they have information that would support riverine modeling. For the more urban areas, communities are being asked to share data on gray infrastructure. Additional inputs would be detention ponds, NBS, GSI, velocity control efforts, erosion control efforts, and BMPs.

Josh McClure shared that there should be database that is readily available through the Regional Flood Planning Group. Can share from the flooding planning (what is available) from the cities.

Ryan Harrell asked what the preferred format for the data is. Matt said GIS data, but the project can accept all types of data.

Kathy asked whether there is discussion of the SWM approach. Dr. Jaber responded that because it is a larger area, the study team will use Dr. Fang's map for future development and use a SWOT model for that area. The team will use SWM in the pilot area with a stormwater infrastructure model.

Ben Thompson asked if there are areas of data the study team is looking for. Matt specified some data but said the study is open enough to include data the study team is not aware of. In the H&H context, if there is information that Technical Advisory Group members think the study team should have, please send it. The more that is shared the better.

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Ben shared the City of Fort Worth is wrapping an effort in RAS 2D that covers the city and ETJ. It takes into account storm drainage. If the city knows there is an interest in specific areas, the city can be more helpful. Matt said the study can be done at this scale; if there is more information in some areas, the study will be able to provide more robust information.

d. Policy

i. Water Rights

Erin Blackman gave an update on proposed topics for a water rights webinar. She sought feedback on ideas and speakers. The webinar likely would take place in Spring 2024. She which of these topics would help communities understand water rights:

- Groundwater and surface water,
- Diffused surface water,
- Waters of the US, and
- Waters of the State of Texas.

Josh McClure suggested that a good foundation would be what can and can't be captured. With groundwater, a lot of water isn't covered under the groundwater conservation district. There is no district in Dallas County. Aaron Hoff shared that Tiffany is really in tune with the agricultural and rural communities. She could have information about water rights the study team can use.

ii. Wise County Flooding Outreach

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Erin gave an overview of the Wise County Flood Outreach that the team is planning. The idea is to bring the study leaders and Wise County communities to discuss the different efforts.

iii. Review of new Texas Legislation

Erin covered new legislation in effect in September 2023 that could impact work related to TSI. She highlighted:

- HB 2127 - can prevent cities and counties from adopting ordinances contained in state code unless expressly allowed by state law
- HB 3699 – also known as the shot clock bill; affects delegation and 3rd party review of plats
- SB 2038 – deals with the annexation of ETJs

IV. Next Steps

Jai-W recapped the action items that will take place over the next quarter, including drafting the Community Engagement Plan, planning the workshops, beginning the environmental planning work, applying findings from the pilot study, and projecting future stormwater fees.

Attendees:

Name	Agency
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson	NCTCOG
Cody.Powell	Wise County
Josh McClure	Halff
Larissa Knapp-Scott	LJA
Erin Blackman	NCTCOG
Waqar Fatimah	Halff
Marsha L Gipson	USGS

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Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG
Amanda Black	City of Paradise
Chang Lee	City of Dallas
Michelle Wood-Ramirez	TRWD
Stephen Nichols	City of Fort Worth
Maribel Martinez	NCTCOG
Heather Firn	TRA
Jody Loza	NCTCOG
Benjamin Thompson	City of Fort Worth
Samuel Morrall	NCTCOG
Jeffrey Neal	NCTCOG
Ryan P. Harrell	City of Grand Prairie
Kyle Honnerlaw	TxDOT
Kathy Jack	TNC
Glenn Clingenpeel	TRA
Juliana R Behrens	City of Fort Worth
Elizabeth Rophael	NCTCOG
Matt Lepinski	USACE
Daniel Li	UTA
Aaron Hoff	TRWD
Jerry Gleason	USDA
Bill Smith	City of Weatherford
Malcolm Hamilton	TWDB
Eduardo Tovar	DFW Airport
Fouad H. Jaber	Texas A&M AgriLife
Semu Moges	City of Dallas

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integrating **Transportation**
& **Stormwater Infrastructure**

Blake Alldredge	UTRWD
Joan Flowers	LJA
Jacob Lesue	Dewberry
Nick Fang	UTA
Christina Derr	City of Springtown
Bret Higginbotham	USACE
Jerry Cotter	USACE
Russell Blessing	Texas A&M AgriLife
Ada G Inda	DFW Airport