

**The Woodlands Township  
Drainage Task Force Meeting  
Meeting Summary  
July 23, 2019**

**Purpose of this Document:** This document is designed to capture the essence of the discussion, and will serve to summarize the results, actions, and follow-up items agreed to during this meeting.

**Call meeting to order / Introductions / Chairman's Report – The Woodlands Township**

Task Force members and visitors were welcomed by Task Force Chairman Bruce Rieser – Director, The Woodlands Township. Members in attendance included: Jim Stinson, The Woodlands Joint Powers Agency (WJPA); Laura Norton, Helen Bostock, Roland Johnson, Mark Vonderau, and Bruce Cunningham, Montgomery County MUDs; Emil Jacobs, Harris Montgomery Counties MUD 386; Heather Ramsey Cook, San Jacinto River Authority; Diane Cooper, Montgomery County Engineering Dept.; Alan Black, Harris County Flood Control District; Antonio Paz, The Howard Hughes Company; Greg Sherlock, Alden Bridge Village Association; Kyle Brown, The Woodlands Country Club; Becky Martinez, Bayou Land Conservancy; Heather Washburn, Congressman Kevin Brady's Office; and, Burton Johnson and Don Norrell, The Woodlands Township.

Copies of meeting sign-in sheets for members, visitors and public comments are included in **Attachment 1**.

Chairman Rieser noted interest in a recent study by NASA/SMU on the potential effects of aquifer pumping on fault lines and subsidence in southern Montgomery County. A presentation on this study will be made to the Township in an upcoming Board of Directors meeting; another fault line has been identified in the Cochran's Crossing area. Requests are being made to the Texas Water Development Board to restrict groundwater activities in light of the new data obtained.

Commissioner Noack's office has begun discussing how to incorporate Atlas 14 data into the permitting process; this would involve stricter design criteria along the floodways.

Street flooding seems to be more frequent, and in places not previously prone to flooding. Reasons may include the rainfall duration – concentrated volumes of rain in short time duration, for example 4 inches rain in ½ hour. The strong rain events are testing our drainage systems.

**Receive a report from Harris County Flood Control District on the Harris County Bond Projects for Flood Control**

Mr. Black reported that the number of projects have generally not changed from those previously reported, of 146 projects currently underway. Efforts are concentrating on funding sources, including, at the federal level, the National Resource Conservation Service. All grants pursued for recovery have been secured and are being executed; the first grant is approaching substantial completion. An additional opportunity has been identified through the National Resource Conservation Service, a pilot program of their EWP program -- a \$28M opportunity for collaborating with local flood control for flood plain restoration. Three areas where HCFC

have been buying out property owners in a voluntary buyout program may be a consideration for the pilot. HUD funding remains in a holding pattern; rules for the mitigation have not yet been published, however, may see some progress in the next month, prior to an annual HUD conference.

At the state level, Senate Bill 7 and Senate Bill 8 were passed, and TWDB has begun meeting with various flood control districts for statewide planning and mitigation efforts. Rules will need to be developed, public meetings will be held – website contains details. Funding opportunities and challenges were also noted.

Locally, the San Jacinto River Watershed Study – effort that HCFCD is collaborating with San Jacinto River Authority, Montgomery County, and City of Houston – establishing existing conditions/model are nearly complete, will begin to prepare minimum alternatives matrix, which shifts efforts into “what if” scenarios. Upcoming workshop of internal stakeholders will identify and evaluate various alternatives to be considered, including one or more historical studies, for current viability. Project study website will be expanded and improved with more robust language.

Initiative is underway to jump start the Spring Creek siting study with local funding, in collaborative efforts with HCFCD, WJPA, and the various MUDs. Interlocal Agreement and a new agreement with Half Associates will be sent to commissioner’s court for review.

#### **Receive an update on the execution of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the WJPA and HCFCD for the purpose of facilitating the execution of the Spring Creek Feasibility Study**

See notes, above. Mr. Stinson clarified that the Interlocal Agreement would be between HCFCD and the affected Montgomery County MUDs (MUD 1, MUD 7, MUD 46, and MUD 60), and Harris-Montgomery Counties MUD 386, rather than with the WJPA.

Suggestion has been made to TWDB, to allow for pre-award eligibility for reimbursement of local advance-funding.

#### **Review the status of the proposed regional flood mitigation study for the San Jacinto basin which includes Spring Creek**

Ms. Cooper reported that additional data sets are expected to be included in the study, for example, data from study conducted in 1994.

#### **New flood program – Texas Water Development Board – FAQs and outreach information**

Mr. Stinson encouraged everyone to sign up for updates, as suggested on the TWDB website and FAQs, to stay informed.

A copy of the informational email handout is included in **Attachment 2**.

#### **Receive reports from Task Force agencies**

**Woodlands Joint Powers Agency (WJPA) – Montgomery County MUD’s** – Mr. Stinson provided an update on the Bear Branch/Panther Branch improvement, near The Woodlands High School, Capstone neighborhood and keeping Research Forest Dr. passable for emergency traffic and public traffic during a 100-year event: USACE has given their approval of the modified improvement plan.

Other item is Research Forest Dr. being inundated near the Sundance Park area: consultant has received requested input from the Montgomery County Engineer's office; final conclusion and recommendation is currently pending.

**Harris - Montgomery Counties MUD 386** – none.

**San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA)** – Ms. Cook, Communications Director, reported initial preliminary meetings with USACE and others, involving sediment removal, sometimes referred to as “sand trap projects” along the river and tributaries.

The SJRA website and Facebook page are the primary communication tools for updates on the San Jacinto Watershed Study.

**Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD)** – none.

### **Updates from Task Force Members**

Ms. Cooper offered insight on qualifying for certain HUD money, which includes an LMI (Low/Moderate Income) element. Census block LMI may create a challenge for Montgomery County, due to demographics, pockets of prosperous areas surrounding an LMI census block; additional discussion to consider service area definitions, for example, watersheds and sub-watersheds.

### **Public comment**

None.

### **Confirm date and time for the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in September on the 4th Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. – September 24, 2019. There will not be a meeting in August.

### **Adjourn meeting**

The meeting was adjourned.