

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Virtual Meeting

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, March 25, 2021

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Phone: 469-206-8623 Conference ID: 210 324 90#

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chair Brandon Wade called the meeting to order at 10:00am with a quorum present.

2. Attendance and Announcements

Roll Call:

Voting Members

Susan Alford	P	Glenn Lord	P
Anthony Beach	P	Matt Phillips	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Gary Spicer	P
Andrew Earles	P	Mark Vogler	P
Alysha Girard	P	Brandon Wade	P
David Lilly	P	Claudia Wright	P

P- Present, A- Absent,

Quorum Present: Yes, 10 of 12 voting members present at roll call. Quorum is 7 of 12 voting members.

Two voting members confirmed their presence after roll call, Andrew Earles and David Lilly.

3. Approval of Minutes from the February 25, 2021 meeting

The February 25, 2021 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Anthony Beach made the motion to accept the minutes with the edit as noted above and Glenn Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Input - Public questions and comments on agenda items or flood planning issues (*limited to 3 minutes each*)

Brandon opened the floor for public comments. A public comment was received prior to the meeting by email from Mr. Mike Sutherland of Bryan, TX, the written comments are included as an attachment to the meeting minutes. Two individuals provided comments during the meeting, Mr. Russ Ford, Brazos County Commissioner and Mr. Mike Sutherland, landowner downstream of Lake Limestone.

5. Report and possible discussion on report from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff

Ryke Moore, TWDB Regional Planner, provided a brief update including reminders of important dates in regional flood planning. He noted that TWDB is requesting comments on the Technical Consultant Guidance by April 1st and that TWDB extended the due date for signing and returning the contracts between TWDB and the Flood Planning Group Sponsor until April 30th with the direction to return ASAP.

6. Presentation from General Land Office (GLO) on GLO Combined River Basin Flood Study Overview

Laura Atlas of H2O Partners gave the presentation on behalf of the GLO "Combined River Basin Flood Study Overview".

7. Report and possible discussion on report by Regional Planning Sponsor

Pam Hannemann, BRA Regional Planner, provided updates on the flood planning sponsor activities. The BRA is still awaiting the final contract for signature with the TWDB. The contract due date for executing the TWDB contract has been extended to April 30th, BRA's priority is to execute the contract ASAP.

Letters of invitations to join Region 8 as non-voting members were sent to the following agencies: USACE, FEMA, Ft. Bend Subsidence District and Brazoria County. USACE representative is Charlie (Landon) Erickson, USACE Alternate is Lisa M. Mairs, FEMA's representative is Larry Voice, Fort Bend Subsidence District Representative is Mark Turco, who is also the Region 6 Liaison to Region 8, and Brazoria County's representative is Matt Hanks.

8. Report and possible action on recommendation from the RFQ Committee on selection of a Technical Consultant for the Region 8 – Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group.

Alysha Girard, Chair of the RFQ Committee presented the committee's recommendation to the group. Resolution: "The RFQ Committee recommends to the members of the Region 8 - Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group the selection of Half Associates to serve as the Technical Consultant for the Region 8 - Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group." Alysha Girard made the motion to accept the resolution as stated and Claudia Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Possible action to authorize the Region 8 RFPG Sponsor, Brazos River Authority, to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm to provide technical consulting services in conjunction with the development of a regional flood plan

Chairman Wade read the Resolution: "The Region 8- Lower Brazos Regional Water Planning Group authorizes the Region 8 RFPG Sponsor, Brazos River Authority, to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm to provide technical consulting services in conjunction with the development of a regional flood plan." Glenn Lord made the motion to accept the resolution as stated and Sujeeth Draksharam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and possible recommended action on pre-planning meetings

Item held over until the next meeting due to the group wanting to have the Technical Consultant on board to assist in conducting these meetings.

From: msoutherland@suddenlink.net
To: [Pamela Hannemann](#)
Subject: Comments for REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP 3/25/2021
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:22:10 AM

This message was sent from outside of the organization. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

MS Hannemann

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.

I request that the operation of Lake Limestone dam be changed so that the constant flooding it causes can be reduced in the severity and frequency. Per the National Weather Service record, the lake has flooded my partnership land 38 times in the past 20 years, sometimes for 6 months. It has covered all but about 5 acres of 126 acres for as long as 6 months. The operational releases also block and damage the county roads and bridges in several places that are impassible. The operational releases of the dam destroy any useful recreation and the economic value of the land downstream. I believe based on research and speaking with experts that the Lake Limestone releases can be much better managed to almost stop the avoidable downstream damage.

- 1. The Brazos River Authority (BRA) management asserts that it is not possible to maintain Limestone lake level below 363 ft. A check of lake history with the National Weather Reveals records reveals the lake has been consistently below 363. Obviously during droughts, but the lake continued to function.**
- 2. The lake is not a flood control lake, however there is a flood stage listed by the USGS at 370, 7 feet above the 363-pool level where spokes people have said beyond which is unsafe. The lake level can rise to the flood stage of 370 as it was designed, or it would have been set at 363.**
- 3. BRA management says that there is no greater release of water downstream from the dam than that taken in. The problem is the velocity and the volume of the releases. Mother nature, without the dam, would start releasing water as the rainfall begins. Runoff immediately starts gently into the river and starts flowing immediately, not after it accumulates and then like a beaver dam bursts and floods everything down stream. Mother Nature has cut the river channel to accommodate her flows. The BRA has not done anything to accommodate their flows. My neighbor has property that has been in the family for 150 years. Her grandfather was able farm the land productively. The flooding was not significant enough to prevent him from raising crops and cattle for his livelihood. Only in the recent past, since the dam has been created and the management of the lake has gone off track has productive use of the land been curtailed significantly.**
- 4. BRA management asserts you are in the floodplain we need to expect flooding. As you can see from above that is not true. Landowners along a river expect flooding from Mother Nature not from operational releases completely controlled by man. The current management of the dam I believe in fact constitutes a government taking.**

Even though flood control is not a Lake Limestone mission, flood control is inherently part of any dam's function, because effectively managed releases can be controlled to the advantage of all. There is no physical difference between a lake built for flood control and one built for water conservation. Only human lake management is different. The dam makes a lake for both and someone controls the flow.

The operate Lake Limestone must be changed. The abuse the 1000's of acres downstream must be stopped. The downstream landowners are paying the price to have boats float in Lake Limestone.

Regards,

Mike Southerland
979 229 7805
3401 Parkway Ter
Bryan TX 77802

11. Report from Lower Brazos RFPG Chair

Brandon Wade gave the Chair report. Reported on the first Regional Chair's meeting and stated that Region 8 is moving forward in a timely manner based on discussion with TWDB Staff.

12. Discussion on new business to be considered at next meeting

Chairman Wade recommended that an Agenda Item be added to the next meeting Agenda for Reports from Non-Voting Member Agencies and Liaisons.

13. Confirmation of next meeting date – May 13, 2021

Discussion of the next meeting date being moved to mid-May and not having a meeting in April.

14. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:47am by Brandon Wade.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the May 13, 2021 meeting.



[Matt Phillips \(May 20, 2021 08:19 CDT\)](#)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



[BrandonWade \(May 19, 2021 13:25 CDT\)](#)

Brandon Wade, Chairman

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Final Audit Report

2021-05-20

Created:	2021-05-19
By:	Pamela Hannemann (pamela.hannemann@Brazos.org)
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