

# Meeting Minutes

## REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Brazos River Authority, 4600 Cobbs Dr. Waco, TX 76710

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, September 23, 2021

Phone: 469-206-8623, Conference ID: 729 910 956#

Meeting agendas and meeting materials are available online at [www.lowerbrazosflood.org](http://www.lowerbrazosflood.org)

### 1. Call Meeting to Order.

Vice Chair, Alysha Girard served as the presiding officer at the meeting location 4600 Cobbs Dr. Waco, TX 76710. Alysha called the meeting to order at 10:01am with a quorum present.

### 2. Attendance and Announcements

#### Roll Call:

#### Voting Members

Susan Alford	P	Glenn Lord	P
Anthony Beach	P	Matt Phillips	Alt. Brad Brunett
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Gary Spicer	P
Andrew Earles	A	Mark Vogler	P
Alysha Girard	P	Brandon Wade	P
David Lilly	A	Claudia Wright	P
P- Present, A- Absent,			

Quorum Present: Yes. Quorum is 7 of 12 voting members.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from the August 26, 2021 Meeting

The August 26, 2021 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Anthony Beach made the motion to accept the minutes and Claudia Wright 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*)

Alysha Girard opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were received.

### 5. Report and possible discussion on update from Region 8 Technical Consultant

#### 5.1. Task 3A Floodplain Management Practices

#### 5.2. Task 3B Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals

#### 5.3. Updates on Flood Planning Tasks

Sam Hinojosa provided an overview of the update from the consultant team. He stated that the regional flood planning group would need to take action in October but no later than November on flood management practices and floodplain management goal recommendations.

Dr. Jacob Torres presented flood management practices to the regional flood planning group to consider for adoption and recommendation. Proposed practices for adoption included full county participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, enacting compensatory storage requirements in the 1% ACE floodplain, adoption of Atlas 14 rainfall rates, and enforcing of no adverse impacts. RFPG members stated that making recommendations on flood management practices was preferred over adoptions so as not to unduly burden the region. Sam Hinojosa stated that Atlas 14 rainfall rates would help communities design drainage infrastructure to better handle rainfall. Outdated floodplain maps would be a continued challenge. Beach supported no adverse impact practices. Alysha Girard and Ryan Londeen stated that the current NFIP allows for impacts and it is up to the regulating community to have higher standards such as no adverse impact. Present group members were in favor of using regional zones to recommend flood management practices as presented by Jacob Torres. Alysha Girard tasked the consultant team with providing an updated list of recommendations for review and possible approval.

Ryan Londeen presented on recommended flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals based on data collected from the region through the survey. He presented multiple goals in five categories: Floodplain Management; Buyouts, Flood Proofing, and Mitigation Projects; Flood Studies and Analysis; Flood Warning and Readiness; and Education and Outreach. Gary Spicer stated that reducing the loss of life to a specific goal is challenging since it may not be quantifiable. Sujeeth Draksharam suggested that the several goals be combined. Alysha Girard requested that the buyout category be renamed to Mitigation Projects. She also requested that the consultant team not overprescribe goals. Glenn Lord stated that goals need to be set that the region can align to. Ryan Londeen stated that the goals will be updated based on the discussion and presented back to the group for review.

Sam Hinojosa provided an update on the other flood planning tasks currently underway. He reported that the survey data collected prior to the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline was being used. He stated that any regional flood planning group members who are contacted by entities with concerns or input should notify Pam Hannemann for documentation and delivery to the consultant team. Sam Hinojosa stated that the existing condition flood risk map is not yet complete as updated Fathom data has not yet been provided by the TWDB. Hector Olmos provided an update on future conditions mapping efforts. Ryan Londeen provided an overview of the process to identify FMEs, FMS, and FMPs. He stated that the group would need to take action on a process before the end of the year.

Sam Hinojosa closed the update with an overview of the upcoming discussion and possible action items for the October and November meetings.

#### **6. Report from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff**

Ryke Moore, TWDB Planner, provided the update from the TWDB, the additional \$10 million funding from the legislature was approved by the TWDB Board, the TWDB will be

presenting a webinar “Payment Requests for Regional Flood Planning Grant Contracts” on September 24, 2021, reminder that registration for the Water for Texas Conference ends tomorrow.

**5. Report from the Regional Planning Sponsor**

No report from the Planning Sponsor.

**6. Discussion and possible action on formation of Technical Committees for Region 8**

Alysha opened the floor for discussion asking the planning group for input on how do we move these actions forward? Gary Spicer stated his concerns of the time commitment needed for Committee Meetings. After further discussion by the group, Halff will take feedback from today’s meeting and update information to provide to meeting materials 1 week before the October meeting for planning group members to have the opportunity to review and be prepared to discuss at the meeting. No action taken on this Agenda Item. This item will be on the next meeting’s agenda.

**7. Report from Non-voting Member Agencies (TPWD, TDEM, TDA, TSSWCB, GLO, TCEQ, USACE, FEMA, Fort Bend Subsidence District and Brazoria County)**

Michele with TDEM gave an update reminding interested parties to visit the TDEM website for information on upcoming application submittal due dates for Hazard Mitigation Grants.

**Report from Liaisons (Region 6, Coastal, Region 7, Brazos G and Region H)**

Liaisons updated the planning group on regional planning activities.

**8. Report from Lower Brazos RFPG Chair**

Alysha Girard, Vice-Chair, presiding officer for this meeting reminded planning group members come prepared to discuss meeting materials at the October meeting.

**9. Discussion on new business to be considered at next meeting**

Agenda item on the possible formation of Technical Committee(s).

**10. Confirmation of next meeting date**

Thursday, October 28, 2021 – 10AM

Tuesday, November 16, 2021- 10AM

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 – 10AM

**11. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:37pm by Alysha Girard.

*Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the October 28, 2021 meeting.*

---

Matt Phillips, Secretary

---

Brandon Wade, Chairman