

## Meeting Minutes

### REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00am – Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Meeting agenda, materials and audio recordings are available online at [www.lowerbrazosflood.org](http://www.lowerbrazosflood.org)

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Brandon Wade presided over the meeting in Waco, TX. Mr. Wade called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

#### 2. Attendance and Announcements

Susan Alford	P	Matt Phillips	P
Alternate: David Sherill			
Anthony Beach	P	Gary Spicer	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Mark Vogler	P
Alysha Girard	P	Brandon Wade	P
David Lilly	P	Claudia Wright	P
Glenn Lord	P		
P- Present, A- Absent,			

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

#### 3. Approval of Minutes from the November 16, 2021 Meeting

The November 16, 2021 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Matt Phillips 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*)

Brandon Wade opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were received.

#### 5. Report, discussion, and possible action from the RFPG on update from Region 8 Technical Consultant as it relates to:

##### 5.1. Draft Technical Memorandum (Task 4C) - ACTION ITEM: Approval for the submission of the Technical Memorandum (Task 4C) to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

- Sam Hinojosa presented an overview and opportunity for discussion on the draft Technical Memorandum.
- Gary Spicer inquired if there are any entities that have multiple flood mitigation needs.
  - Ryan Londeen replied that there are. As many needs as could be found were incorporated to the list.
- Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the flood mitigation needs should be focused on benefits to the Brazos River.
  - Ryan Londeen explained this is a basin-wide study including needs that address drainage issues along the tributaries as well as the main stem of the Brazos. The team is attempting to address the different mitigation needs in different areas. However, in Task 5 the RFPG can decide if they want to recommend these more localized projects or not.
  - Chair Brandon Wade emphasized that the study is intended to look at more than just the main stem.
- Alysha Girard pointed out that there are no FMEs, FMSs, or FMPs in Coryell County. Has the team reached out to the county judge and other officials in this region?
  - Sam Hinojosa replied that there has been outreach effort for this area, and the lack of flood mitigation reflects the lack of response. However, the team will put additional effort towards investigating areas with lack of coverage.
  - Alysha Girard recommended indicating which entities have been contacted but declined to provide input.
  - David Lilly offered to reach out as the County Representative for the RFPG to the counties with a lack of data.
  - Sam Hinojosa clarified that projects that have already been funded are not included in the list.

- Gary Spicer asked for a list or map of the funded projects to help characterize ongoing flood mitigation efforts.
  - Ryan Londeen replied that this can be pulled together for the January meeting.
- Tony Beech asked what qualifies a project as infeasible.
  - Ryan Londeen replied that there is a list of criteria provided by TWDB by which to classify a project as infeasible. So far, for this region, projects have been classified as infeasible due to having a benefit area of less than 1 square mile. Other criteria outlined by the TWDB that must be met, including no negative impact to neighboring areas.
- Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the 1 square mile limitation disqualifies the localized storm sewer projects.
  - Ryan Londeen replied that sometimes it has but TWDB has given the team leeway to combine several related localized projects to boost the drainage area over this threshold.
  - Sujeeth Draksharam expressed concern over this methodology.
  - Alysha Girard agreed that we should include projects that provide regional benefit.
  - Ryan Londeen said this approach was taken to make sure projects were not inadvertently removed from the list. He stated to the group that this is something that can be discussed and acted upon as part of Task 5.
  - Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the consultant can evaluate water supply projects as potentially impacting flood mitigation.
  - Brandon Wade confirmed that this can be looked during the next meeting.
  - Alysha Girard recommended the addition of FMEs that focus on the Brazos River on a large scale.
  - Sam Hinojosa confirmed that these can be added from the Lower Brazos Flood Protection Plan.
- The Chair Brandon Wade presented a motion to the floor for consideration “The Region 8 Lower Brazos Flood Planning Group hereby authorizes the Brazos River Authority and Half to submit the Technical Memorandum to the Texas Water Development Board, pending textual changes necessary to address comments received, no later than January 7, 2022.”
  - Anthony Beach made the motion to approve this action item and Glenn Lord seconded the motion. No objections were made, the motion passed unanimously.

**5.2. Public Outreach Meetings** - Susan Roth presented the plan for conducting public outreach meetings through the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Area. Discussed potential locations, times, and dates of these public outreach meetings.

- Alysha Girard asks what time the meetings will be held. Confirmed that the open house style meeting is a good idea.
  - Susan Roth replied that the team is considering a 2-hour window, potentially 3-5pm or 6-8pm.
  - Alysha Girard recommended 4-6pm so that people can come during or after business hours depending on their needs.

**5.3. Existing and Future Conditions Analysis**

- Scott Rushing presented the approach for existing conditions using Fathom data.
- Hector Olmos presented the approach for future conditions.
- Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the WSEL increases will be increased proportionately to the rainfall intensities.
  - Sam Hinojosa replied that this will be considered on a case by case basis. However, specific regions will be checked if results seem to be unreasonable.
  - Sujeeth Draksharam emphasized that the rainfall intensities could increase by more than the WSEL increase in some areas, but agrees it is a case-by-case basis.

**5.4. Updates on regional flood plan**

- Sam Hinojosa provided updates on the progress and next steps for the project to the RFPG. The draft of Chapter 1 has been presented to the RFPG for review and possible discussion at the January meeting.
- Ryan Londeen updated the group regarding a technical consultant meeting that was had with the TWDB that included discussion of specific technical memo items including the definition of an “emergency need” and changes to the definition of an FMS. The team will bring a “emergency need” definition to the group at the next meeting.

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

Ryke Moore, TWDB Planner provided the report from TWDB.

- Make sure that a quorum is present for Public Roadshow Meetings if this is needed.
- FIF funded projects list and map are available for consideration.
- Voting on officer positions will be happening soon, he will send information to RFPG soon.

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

Pam Hannemann provided the report from the Sponsor. Applications are due December 31st for the Small Business Representative Vacancy. Please share the notice of this opening with others within the Flood Planning Community.

**8. Report, Approval and Certification of the Finance Report expenditures**

The financial report of expenditures for October 2021 was approved as presented. Alysha Girard made the motion to approve the finance report and Sujeeth Draksharam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

No updates were provided by non-voting member agencies.

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

Liaisons did not have any new updates to provide to the RFPG.

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

The Chair requested that all voting members be sure to provide Pam Hannemann with the needed information on who their designated alternate

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

Sujeeth Draksharam requested the technical consultant provide more information on the evaluation of projects for water supply potential.

**13. Confirmation of next meeting date**

Executive Committee Meeting - Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Regular Monthly RFPG Meeting - Thursday, January 27, 2022- 10AM

**14. Adjourn**

Brandon Wade adjourned the meeting at 11:59am.

*Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the January 27, 2022 meeting.*

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Matt Phillips, Secretary

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Brandon Wade, Chairman