

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00am – Thursday, January 27, 2022

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Meeting agenda, materials and audio recordings are available online at 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
Anthony Beach	P	Gary Spicer	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Mark Vogler	P
Alysha Girard	P	Brandon Wade	P
David Lilly	P	Claudia Wright	A
Glenn Lord	P		
P- Present, A- Absent,			

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the December 14, 2021 Meeting

The December 14, 2021 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Glenn Lord made the motion to accept the minutes and Gary Spicer 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 on recommendation from the Executive Committee on the selection of a candidate from the applications received for the Small Business interest representative vacancy.

The Executive Committee interviewed two applicants: Charlotte Gilpin and Larry Walden. The chair presented the resolution for the group. Alysha Girard made the motion for the RFPG accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to appoint Charlotte Gilpin to represent Small Business interests as a voting member of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group. Sujeeth Draksharam seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

6.1. Chapter 1 Discussion

Technical consultant team requested that the RFPG reads through Draft Chapter 1 and provides feedback in February meeting.

6.2. Overview of Task 5: Evaluation and Recommendation of FMEs, FMSs and FMPs

Ryan Londeen introduced Task 5 and updated RFPG on response from stakeholder engagement efforts. Brandon Wade expressed that the participation is underwhelming, but the this is not due to lack of effort from the RFPG and technical consultant team to engage public. He suggested that if Regional Flood Planning is advertised and recognized in the way that Regional Water Supply planning is by the TWDB then public engagement would increase. Glenn Lord and Gary Spicer encouraged the technical consultant team to present the engagement weighted by the population of the entities that were contacted, instead of purely geographically.

6.3. Public Outreach Meetings Update

Susan Roth presented on Public Outreach meeting times, locations, and dates. Sujeeth Draksharam asked if there will be any sort of flyer or informational handout given out at the meetings. Susan replied that we are considering providing some but will also provide much of the same information on the invites that are initially distributed and advertised. Sujeeth suggested that a one-page informational handout pointing individuals to the website and giving general information about the Region would be helpful. Alysha Girard asked if the information and graphics used for the presentations at the meeting will be posted to the website. Susan confirmed that all the information presented at the Roadshow events will be made available on the website for those who cannot attend in person. Sujeeth asked if elected officials, such as Congressmen and Senators, will be asked to attend. He emphasized that these individuals will control funding in the future. Susan replied that the technical consultant team has not looked at inviting elected officials yet but will work to make sure the invitation is extended to them. She agreed that the support of these politicians would be very beneficial.

6.4. Updates on regional flood plan

Scott Rushing presented over Task 2A. Anthony Beech asked if a large working version of the Flood Quilt could be made available at the Roadshow events. Scott confirmed that this will be available. Alysha Girard suggested adding a writeup to attach to the Flood Quilt to explain what it is, and what it is not. She also recommended avoiding the terminology of "Floodplain Quilt" and instead using "Flood Quilt" to ensure there is no confusion. Scott agreed that both suggestions would be beneficial and agrees to work on implementing them.

6.5. Water Supply and Flood Control

Philip Taucer and Jason Afinowicz presented on the interactions of Water Supply and Flood Control. Brandon Wade emphasized that water reallocations take several years to process and is largely funded by water utilities. This makes it difficult to reallocate water to make it useful for both water supply and flood control purposes. Additionally, there are impacts to electric generation, recreation, etc. if reservoir levels are lowered to make room for flood control. Sujeeth Draksharam recommended putting legislative action as a recommendation in our plan to make these interactions simpler to achieve. Alysha Girard reminded the group that the purpose of the plan is supposed to mitigate flooding for the entire watershed, not just Brazos River flooding. There are several dams along the tributaries that could be focused on without creating as many issues.

6.6. Emergency Need Definition

Sam Hinojosa presented on the proposed emergency need definition. Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the flood claims that are being considered are only from the 100-year storm event. Sam replied they are any flood complaints that have been received, not one specific flood event. Sujeeth asked what is included in the definition of a critical facility. Sam responded that it is any facility that provides health, safety, or welfare for the public. This includes police and fire stations, hospitals, water and wastewater treatment plants, public schools, and more. Sujeeth requested that areas that heavily impact the economy of the state are looked at and weighted higher. Sam replied that the technical consultant team has not looked into this previously but will consider if it is possible. Anthony Beech requested that historical loss of life due to flooding events is considered. Sam replied that the technical consultant team is looking at impacted populations for both daytime and nighttime. Historical loss of life had not been previously considered, but the technical consultant team will consider if this information would be helpful in

developing the definition. Anthony suggested recommending a database for this, if there is not one already, as part of our regional flood plan.

7. Report from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff

Ryke Moore, TWDB Planner provided the TWDB update. The TWDB has deemed the Technical Memorandum administratively complete and issue the letter to proceed for Task 5 on 1/26/22. Detailed informal comments from TWDB on the Technical Memorandum can be expected late Spring. Contract amendments are being worked through at this time. Ryke plans to attend all of the Public Roadshows as a TWDB representative, and other representatives may attend select meetings as well. Brandon Wade requests that the TWDB explains the emergency need definition further in the Chair conference call.

8. Report from the Regional Planning Sponsor

Pam Hannemann updated the RFPG that the request for action on amendments to the TWDB and Halff contracts necessary due to the additional funds allocated from TWDB would be presented at BRA's Board of Directors meeting on January 31st.

9. Report, Approval and Certification of the Finance Report expenditures

The financial report of expenditures for November 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.

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

Michele Ellis of TDEM reminded the group about funding possibilities, visit <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/> for more information.

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

Chair provided updates on upcoming meetings for the regional water planning groups. Region H will meet Feb. 2 at 10am at SJRA in Conroe and Brazos G will meet Feb. 23 at 10am at BRA in Waco. Both of these groups meeting in person.

12. Report from Lower Brazos RFPG Chair

The Chair did not have any update for the RFPG.

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

No one brought forward any new business for the next meeting

14. Confirmation of meeting dates for this calendar year

Region 8 RFPG meets monthly on the 4th Thursday, except November and December

15. Discussion and possible action on nomination and election of RFPG Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and two (2) members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee.

15.1. Nominations, discussion, and possible action on election of Chair

Anthony Beach made the motion for Brandon Wade to continue in his role as the Chair for another year. The motion was seconded by Glenn Lord. The motion passed unanimously.

15.2. Nominations, discussion, and possible action on election of Vice Chair

Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion for Alysha Girard to continue in her role as the Vice Chair for another year. The motion was seconded by Anthony Beach. The motion passed unanimously.

15.3. Nominations, discussion, and possible action on election of Secretary

Anthony Beach made the motion for Matt Phillips to continue in his role as the Secretary for another year. The motion was seconded by Alysha Girard. The motion passed unanimously.

15.4. Nominations, discussion, and possible action on election of two (2) members-at-large to serve on

the Executive Committee

Alysha Girard made the motion for Sujeeth Draksharam and Anthony Beach to continue in their roles as members-at-large for another year. The motion was seconded by Glenn Lord. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Adjourn

Brandon Wade adjourned the meeting at 11:56am.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the February 24, 2022 meeting.



[Matt Phillips \(Mar 10, 2022 09:59 CST\)](#)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



[BrandonWade \(Mar 8, 2022 12:11 CST\)](#)

Brandon Wade, Chairman









Minutes January 27 Group Meeting

Final Audit Report

2022-03-10

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Status:	Signed
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