

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00am – Thursday, February 24, 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 Alternate: David Sherrill	P	Glenn Lord	P
Anthony Beach	P	Matt Phillips	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Gary Spicer	P
Alysha Girard	P	Mark Vogler	P
Charlotte Gilpin	P	Brandon Wade	P
David Lilly	P	Claudia Wright	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 January 27, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Anthony Beach made the motion to accept the minutes and Sujeeth Draksharam 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 the Region 8 Technical Consultant as it relates to:

5.1. Technical Memorandum Addendum

- Scott Rushing presented over the proposed submittal for the Technical Memorandum Addendum.
- Alysha Girard asked if what counts as a “gap” has been defined by the TWDB.
 - Scott Rushing replied that this definition was left to the RFPG to determine. What is being presented is based on the preliminary definition that the Technical Consultant Team decided upon but can be changed per request.
 - Glenn Lord asked if this definition only included areas that do not have any available information.
 - Scott Rushing replied that this is not the case. Any areas that do not have “good data” such as Base Level Engineering or detailed model coverage were considered as gaps.
 - Alysha Girard asked if some of the counties are suffering from multiple types of data gaps. Scott Rushing confirmed this to be the case. It was difficult to show in detail in one map.
 - Alysha Girard recommended that a table is added to the map to show all the data gaps per county so the public can easily understand the information.
- Sujeeth Draksharam inquired about the increase in At-Risk Structures between the existing and future floodplains.
 - Sam Hinojosa replied that only the main stem of the Brazos River was unchanged for future conditions. For all the tributaries to the Brazos River, the existing 0.2% ACE floodplain was considered to be the future 1% ACE floodplain.
 - Sujeeth Draksharam requested that this is clarified within the Memorandum. He also reemphasized his concern over the 33% increase, regardless of the methodology used.
 - Sam Hinojosa stated that the Team will review further. Many assumptions were made to determine these numbers. However, this is largely a planning tool, so it is not reflective of NFIP data, or any other dataset. A recommendation could be made for a more detailed analysis of

- future conditions for the next planning cycle.
 - Sujeeth Draksharam expressed his concern that public perception could still be problematic. He recommended adding a footnote disclaimed describing the assumptions made and the uncertainty the numbers entail. He also emphasized the need for a better explanation within the Technical Memorandum Addendum.
- Chair Brandon Wade inquired about the difference between Map 5 and Map 7. Map 5 shows the flood risk in Fort Bend County as very high, but Map 7 does not show them as being vulnerable.
 - Sam replied that the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) has more factors than just flood risk. It defines the ability of the community to respond to flood events; since Fort Bend has many plans, tools, and funds to respond to these events, it does not rank as having a high SVI. Having a low SVI can affect potential funding opportunities. Scott replied that Fort Bend County has a 0.22 SVI. Mark Vogler agreed that a low SVI has been a challenge with funding for Fort Bend County.
 - Matt Phillips recommended that the use of SVI in funding should be addressed in Task 8. Potentially the RFPG could make a recommendation that this is not a factor used for awarding funding. Alysha Girard agreed with this recommendation. She also encouraged the TWDB to not look at the SVI on a county-wide basis, but instead on a more localized level. David Lilly and Sujeeth Draksharam agreed with this recommendation.
 - Sam Hinojosa replied that this map could be broken down by census tracts for the RFPGs benefit. The submittal will still need to be on a county-wide basis, but the Group could look at the localized ratings.
- Mark Vogler requested that the term “USACE Leveed Areas Subject to Flooding” is revised in the legend since many of these levees are not actually owned by the USACE

The Chair presented the resolution for the group to consider for action: “The Region 8 Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group authorized the Brazos River Authority and Halff to submit this Addendum of the Technical Memorandum to the Texas Water Development Board, pending textual changes necessary to address comments received, no later than March 7, 2022.” Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion for the RFPG to accept the resolution as presented by the Chair. Anthony Beach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5.2. Emergency Need Definition

- Laura Haverlah (H2O Partners) presented on the proposed definition of Emergency Need.
- Alysha Girard expressed concern that the definition as proposed would overwhelmingly include every FME, FMS, and FMP (Flood Mitigation Needs).
 - Laura Haverlah agreed that it is a broad description, it would be applied on an as-needed basis to the Flood Mitigation Needs.
 - Alysha Girard expressed concern that several of these categories may not really warrant an “emergency”. She would prefer a definition that narrows down and prioritizes the Flood Mitigation Needs, not includes them all. Brandon Wade agreed with Alysha. He emphasized that all of Fort Bend and Brazoria County would be emergency needs using this definition.
 - Laura Haverlah confirmed this. Flood Mitigation Needs have not been classified yet though, and this discussion is intended to narrow down the definition.
 - Brandon Wade encouraged the TWDB to provide more guidance on this definition going forward. Matt Phillips agreed that guidance is needed from the TWDB. He asked if it would make more sense for the definition to require multiple of the components to be met to categorize a Flood Mitigation Need as emergency.
 - Alysha Girard expressed concern that the feedback received last month was not incorporated. The Lower Brazos Region was moving towards a more specific definition.
 - Sujeeth Draksharam requested a writeup of the proposed definition and how it would be implemented be provided to the RFPG.
 - Sam explained the need for the definition and how it may be utilized within the plan by the TWDB.
 - Matt Phillips recommended looking at the definition from a perspective of what would happen if the projects are not implemented.
 - Charlotte Gilpen expressed concern that the proposed definition does not help prioritize the projects.
 - Sujeeth Draksharam recommended looking at levee and dam failures as well as evacuation route

access in the definition.

5.3. Chapter 1 Discussion

- Sam Hinojosa presented over Chapter 1 development.

5.4. Updates on regional flood plan

- Susan Roth presented over location and schedule of public roadshow meetings.
 - Brandon Wade recommended that at the beginning of the meetings there is an expectation set for what the RFP is. Matt Phillips requested that the BRA's role as a sponsor is made clear to attendees.
- The Technical Consultant Team introduced Tasks 6, 7, and 8.
 - Sujeeth Draksharam recommended state-wide or regional flood insurance pools and funding pools for the operation and maintenance of levees are considered as RFPG recommendations.

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

Ryke Moore provided the TWDB Report to the RFPG.

7. Report from the Regional Planning Sponsor

No report from the Sponsor.

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

The financial report of expenditures for January 2022 was approved as presented. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to approve the finance report and Alysha Girard 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 reports from non-voting members.

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 did not have an update for the RFPG.

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

Additional discussion on the emergency need definition.

13. Confirmation of the next meeting date

Thursday, March 24, 2022

14. Adjourn

Brandon Wade adjourned the meeting at 12:09 PM.

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



[Matt Phillips \(Apr 1, 2022 14:00 CDT\)](#)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



[BrandonWade \(Apr 1, 2022 14:53 CDT\)](#)

Brandon Wade, Chairman

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Final Audit Report

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