

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, March 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	A	Glenn Lord	P
Anthony Beach	P	Matt Phillips	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Gary Spicer	P
Alysha Girard	P	Mark Vogler Alternate: Jeffery Janecek attended	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 February 24, 2022 meeting

The February 24, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to accept the minutes and Alysha Girard 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. Chapter 3 Comments

- Sujeeth Draksharam asked about the recommended standards. One of the recommendations prohibits fill in the floodplains, is it appropriate for the RFPG to dictate what people do on their private property or how entities regulate?
 - Ryan Londeen clarified that these are not enforceable. They are recommendations for the best practices; it would be up to specific entities to adopt these criteria if they wish.
 - Sujeeth recommended that this be left to community discretion.
 - Ryan confirmed that this is the case. The Technical Consultant Team will review the text to ensure this is conveyed.
- Alysha Girard inquired if Chapter 3 is just the finalization of what the RFPG had previously approved. This had been a contentious topic in the past, so it was ensured that the standards were soft recommendations not requirements.
 - Ryan agreed that this is the intent of the chapter.
 - Alysha confirmed that she believes it is the RFPG's responsibility to recommend best practices. It is up to the entities to decide whether or not they implement.
 - Ryan clarified that the standards would need to be re-approved if any changes were implemented.
 - Sujeeth requested that the phrase "recommended best practices" be incorporated into the text to clarify what the standards represent.
 - Ryan agreed. Currently there are no "musts" or "shalls" in the documentation.
- Jeffery Janecek asked about Table 1. It shows compensatory storage for development in the 100-yr floodplain but not for the 500-yr floodplain for the southern portion of the Brazos watershed.

- Ryan confirmed that this is the case. It was decided to not require storage to for development in the 500-yr floodplain in the southern portion of the watershed since a large amount of the land is within the 500-yr floodplain already.

5.2. Public Meetings

- Glenn Lord asked what the mechanism is for catching the public comments, documents, etc received in these meetings.
 - Susan Roth replied that there will be several avenues:
 - Flood risk maps will be available to mark up by the public.
 - Team members will be taking notes regarding their conversations.
 - The website will have links to upload information or email the team.
 - Laptops will be available for the public to interact with the online flood-risk map.
 - Alysha replied that she would prefer the meeting materials be made available ahead of the meetings.

5.3. Updates on regional flood plan

- Update on Flood Risk Data
 - Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the metrics are based only on structures / areas / populations that are within the Brazos River mainstem floodplain, or if it is looking at affected structures / areas / populations within any 100-yr floodplain in the watershed.
 - Scott Rushing replied that the metrics were determined based on the watershed as a whole, the values were determined by intersecting the locations of these infrastructure with the flood quilt.
 - Sujeeth asked if there is any way to differentiate between the risk along the Brazos mainstem vs the tributaries.
 - Scott confirmed that this could be supplied to the RFPG for reference, but it is not what was requested to be provided to the TWDB as part of Chapter 2.
- Task 5 Discussion
 - Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) will be based on FEMA criteria, USACE criteria, or some other methodology?
 - Ryan Londeen replied that it is up to the RFPG and Technical Consultant Team to use whatever methodology deemed best as long as it is consistently used for evaluating all FMPs and FMSs. Currently, the intent is to use the tool provided by the TWDB, it is very similar to the FEMA criteria.
 - Alysha Girard wanted to ensure that projects provided by the RFPG have been included in the list. She also inquired about projects that have already been funded.
 - Ryan replied that the projects submitted on behalf of the Upper and Lower Brushy Creek Flood Protection Plan, the Williamson County Flood Protection Plan, and other individual submittals have been included in the project list. New projects can be added as the evaluation is continued.
 - Sujeeth asked if the list of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs will be available at the Public Meetings.
 - Susan Roth replied that the draft list will be presented at the Public Meetings, and the information will be posted to the website afterwards.
 - Sujeeth asked if one of the strategies included could be recommending Hazard Mitigation Plans are funded through the TWDB?
 - Hector Olmos confirmed that this could be incorporated, potentially into Task 8 Recommendations if not in Task 5. Currently, many of the FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs are being sourced from the Hazard Mitigation Plans.
 - Sujeeth commented that if entities cannot maintain their flood infrastructure on a local level, that is not a concern for the RFPG. These types of improvements would not have regional effects.
 - Alysha Girard agreed that as indicated by the small associated costs, they would not be impacting the region as a whole.
 - Repair needs could be emphasized over general maintenance, especially with dams. Consider what qualifications would be needed to classify as a major repair projects versus general maintenance.

- Sujeeth expressed that the RFPG would like to make sure that the BCA is reasonable over just looking at project size. Also want to ensure that any combined projects are truly interacting.
 - Alysha expressed that the included projects should be truly regional, not just the combination of random neighborhood projects to overcome a threshold.
 - Glenn Lord agreed. Combining the projects could also be inhibiting the ability to actually implement them. If they are brought forth in an individual manor, then they should be kept as such.
 - Jeffery Janecek agreed that this could encourage entities to submit information that is not truly impactful.
- Jeffery Janecek wanted to ensure that the intent of the entities is being considered. There may be reasoning behind the separation of regulation submittals.
 - Sujeeth agreed. Also wanted to ensure that multiple entities' goals are not being combined, keep within a community.
 - Matt Phillips clarified that we are looking at the categorization of the needs, not telling them how to do it. The RFPG is just recommending them for funding.
 - Alysha recommended asking the entities before combining.
- Matt Phillips asked if NFIP Compliance Programs are even within the scope of the TWDB plan.
 - Ryke Moore responded that he would have to check.
 - Alysha Girard recommended this be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on if there are specific steps and goals backing the programs. A one-time grant may not help with the costs associated with this type of goal. May need to determine what the entities would be using the money for.
- Brandon Wade asked how the interaction between State Water and Flood Planning will be handled.
 - Hector Olmos replied that the Technical Consultant Team is working on this internally with staff that works on Water Planning.

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 February 2022 was approved as presented. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to approve the finance report and Glenn Lord 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

No new business was brought forth for the next meeting

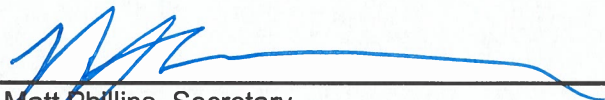
13. Confirmation of the next meeting date

Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 10:00am

14. Adjourn

Brandon Wade adjourned the meeting at 11:22 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the April 28, 2022 meeting.



Matt Phillips, Secretary

BrandonWade

BrandonWade (May 3, 2022 09:44 CDT)

Brandon Wade, Chairman