

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, May 26, 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 10:01am.

2. Attendance and Announcements

Susan Alford	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 March 24, 2022 meeting

The March 24, 2022 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*)

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

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

5.1. Recommendation of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs

Sam Hinojosa introduced the agenda for the presentation and went over the upcoming schedule. Potential placements for the hardcopies of the draft Regional Flood Plan for public comment were discussed, including Sugar Land, Williamson County, and the Brazos River Authority's Central Office in Waco.

Ryan Londeen presented over Task 5 and the current lists of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs. RFPG members commented that the distribution of reactive sponsors likely reflects the areas of highest need in the region.

The Technical Consultant Team confirmed that the RFPGs are not asked to rank the projects, only recommend or not recommend. The TWDB will perform their own ranking process on the FMPs from all regions.

The RFPG asked why sponsors are still listed for FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs that are not recommended due to lack of sponsorship. It was explained that these are the sponsors who were identified as being the primary stakeholder for the FMX and were reached out to. However, there was never explicit approval given from them, so they were not recommended.

The RFPG discussed the implications of listing themselves as sponsors for FMXs that do not have identified sponsors. It was decided this is unfavorable and may cause confusion on the RFPG's role in the Flood Planning process. Sponsors may step up to claim FMXs during the public comment period after the draft submittal, or during the next cycle of Regional Flood Planning.

5.1.1. ACTION ITEM: Consider the approval of Recommended FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs.

The motion was made by Alysha Girard to approve the recommended list of FMPs, with these changes: move FMP ID#s 83000709, 83001062, and 83001063 to the Not Recommended FMP list due to the project area being less than 1 square mile; the recommended list of FMSs, as presented; and the recommended list of FMEs, with these changes: move the 34 identified FMEs to the Not Recommended FME list due to the study areas being less than 1 square mile. The motion was seconded by Sujeeth

Draksharam. The motion passed unanimously.

5.2. Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations

Sam Hinojosa presented over the submitted Chapter 8.

The RFPG expressed concern over the recommendation of making dam safety reports public. There is sensitive information contained within the reports that may not be appropriate to publish. Further concern was expressed over the recommendation of dam inspections, there are already requirements for this. The Technical Consultant Team agreed to look at these recommendations again and add nuance where appropriate.

The RFPG discussed the potential incorporation of recommendations concerning the allocation of water rights and the coexistence of water supply and flood control. It was determined that this is largely infeasible due to the intricacy of the laws and rights associated with these concepts.

The RFPG requested that the Task 8 Recommendations are discussed again next month.

5.3. Updates on Regional Flood Plan

Hector Olmos presented on Task 4A and the updates made to reflect the RFPG discussion from the April meeting.

Jordan Skipwith presented over Task 6. Chair Brandon Wade lead a discussion on the intricacies of water supply. The RFPG discussed several reasons why projects benefiting water supply and flood control at the same time are very difficult to execute. Water supply rights are obtained through permits for surface water, and through land ownership for groundwater. When water rights are invoked, dam operators must release the specified amount of water. Due to this, it is important that water supply dams are kept full, when possible, this makes using these lakes for flood control difficult. Any changes in water allocation of lakes must go through Congress, and the process takes many years. The needed conditions for water supply are almost directly in conflict with the needed conditions for flood control; because of this, and the numerous laws and rights surrounding water supply, it is difficult to create projects that benefit both.

Sam Hinojosa gave final updates and proposed next meeting's agenda. Further discussion of Chapter 8 and the presentation of Chapters 5, 6, 9, and 10 will happen in June. The Technical Consultant Team will be looking for overall approval of the Draft Regional Flood Plan in July.

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 April 2022 was approved as presented. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to approve the finance report and Anthony Beach 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)

Non- voting members did not have any new updates to provide to the RFPG.

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, June 23, 2022 at 10:00 am. Noted the change of the July meeting to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month - July 21, 2022.

14. Adjourn

Brandon Wade adjourned the meeting at 12:45 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the June 23, 2022 meeting.

Matt Phillips, Secretary

Brandon Wade, Chairman