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Chapter 10: Public Participation and Adoption of Plan

10.1 Public Participation Overview

Stakeholder outreach and public participation played a crucial role in the development of the first planning cycle of the State Flood Plan. Not only has stakeholder and public feedback been important for identifying and confirming flood risk and project needs in the state but collecting data for these communities and entities has been critical to develop a successful plan. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) allocated funding provided by the legislature in early 2020 for each of the 15 new flood planning regions within the state to specifically focus on tasks covering public participation and flood planning development for their respective basins. In September 2021, TWDB allocated additional funding to prioritize stakeholder outreach and data collection efforts for each of the flood planning regions.

The Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG) has utilized a variety of methods to reach the public about the development of the first flood plan for the region. A regional website and email address was developed early on by the Brazos River Authority to provide a robust tool to inform and communicate with the public on the progress of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan. Brazos River Authority provided project updates via social media and also sent out monthly email blasts to their customers within the planning region, as well as those signed up to receive project information about the flood plan.

The Lower Brazos RFPG held public meetings on a monthly basis to discuss project tasks updates. and An opportunity for the public to speak was provided at the beginning of each meeting. In addition to the online stakeholder survey, the Lower Brazos RFPG conducted a public roadshow in five different cities across the basin to reach the communities in person. The Lower Brazos RFPG has complied with the Texas Open Meeting Act and Public Information Act requirements during the development of the 2023 Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan.

10.2 Lower Brazos RFPG Communications

10.2.1 *New Regional Website and Email Address*

In an effort to effectively communicate with the entities and communities located throughout the Lower Brazos Basin, the Brazos River Authority created a new and separate website for the Lower Brazos RFPG (lowerbrazosflood.org). This website has been an important tool used to publicize the following:

- Upcoming monthly RFPG meetings, including a virtual meeting option with a link to Microsoft Teams;
- ‘Current Events’ section on the home page, which highlights monthly updates on the planning process and draft documents for the public to review and provide comments;
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the flood planning process for Texas and the Lower Brazos Region;
- Meeting archive containing past meeting details, including agendas, supporting documentation, information flyers and meeting minutes;
- Flood risk map available for electronic data collection;
- Portal to upload entity data for the regional plan in a secure manner;
- Links to other flood-related state and federal agencies; and,
- Method to submit public comments for a particular agenda item and/or submit question(s) to the Brazos River Authority and Lower Brazos RFPG.

In addition, the Brazos River Authority created a new regional email address (LBflood@brazos.org) to simplify the process for the public contacting them and/or submitting questions to the Lower Brazos RFPG.

10.2.2 *Social Media*

In addition to using the Lower Brazos RFPG website to publicize meetings and events, the Brazos River Authority leveraged social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to notify and update the public. For each of the monthly RFPG meetings, a colorful and informative flyer was developed by the Technical Consultant Team for the Brazos River Authority to post on their social media accounts for the Lower Brazos RFPG (see examples of meeting flyers in **Appendix A**). For the public roadshow, a ‘Save the Date’ flyer was initially created and posted on social media in advance that summarized all five open house meeting dates and locations; individual roadshow flyers were then developed to publicize each of the meeting locations closer to the date of the event (reference **Appendix B** for copies of the roadshow flyers). Email blasts that publicized important meeting and event details were typically sent out one to two weeks in advance by the Brazos River Authority to their database of customers located in the region, as well as those signed up to receive notifications about the Lower Brazos RFPG.

10.3 Stakeholder Outreach

10.3.1 *Stakeholder Survey*

Stakeholders Identified

To ensure public input was received and incorporated in the Regional Flood Plan, TWDB identified specific scope items requiring the Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPGs) to engage with stakeholders. For the Lower Brazos Region, a survey was one of the methodologies used to fulfill this requirement and

help gather data upfront to characterize flooding needs and efforts in the region.

A list of entities and individuals that were identified to have some flood-related authority or interest was compiled and contact information was gathered. Public officials such as floodplain managers, city engineers, mayors, and representatives of special interest districts (such as municipal utility districts and levee improvement districts) made up the majority of the list created. Over 550 stakeholders were identified to represent the 43 counties and almost 200 municipalities within the Lower Brazos basin. Additionally, any member of the public that registered for flood planning updates through the website was added to the contact list. This list formed the target audience for the stakeholder survey.

Survey Overview

The stakeholder survey was developed by the Technical Consultant Team to be a comprehensive questionnaire working to identify background information, current flood risk, flood related resources, and existing flood infrastructure within a community. **Figure 10-1** shows the categories encompassed by the 65 questions included in the survey.

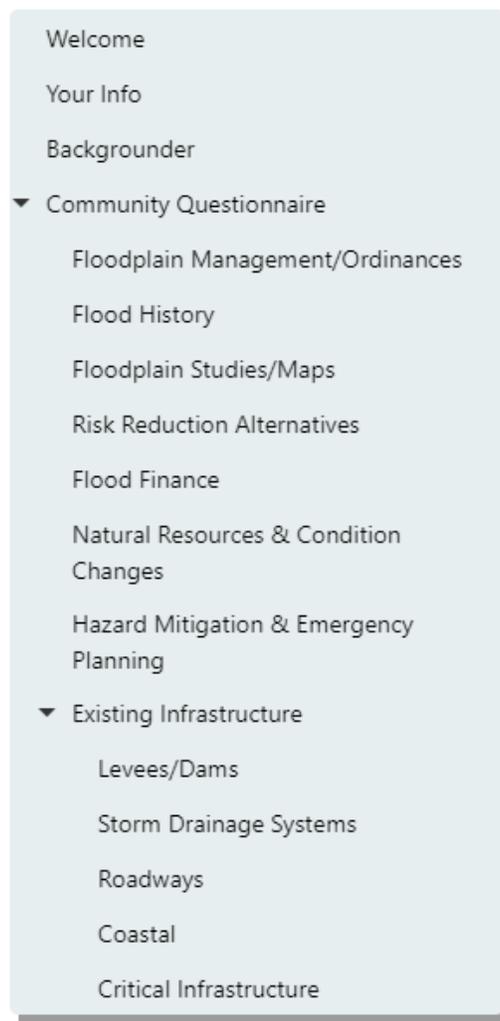


Figure 10-1. Stakeholder Survey Topics

Some questions included opportunities for stakeholders to upload relevant data including information about current floodplain management practices and ordinances, studies backing ongoing flood mitigation efforts, or documentation regarding flooding and flood infrastructure conditions in their community.

In addition to the survey provided to the stakeholders, an interactive web map was available to all members of the public for input. Users were able to drop pins at locations where they had knowledge of flood concerns. Comments and priority level regarding this flooding could then be indicated as seen in **Figure 10-2**.

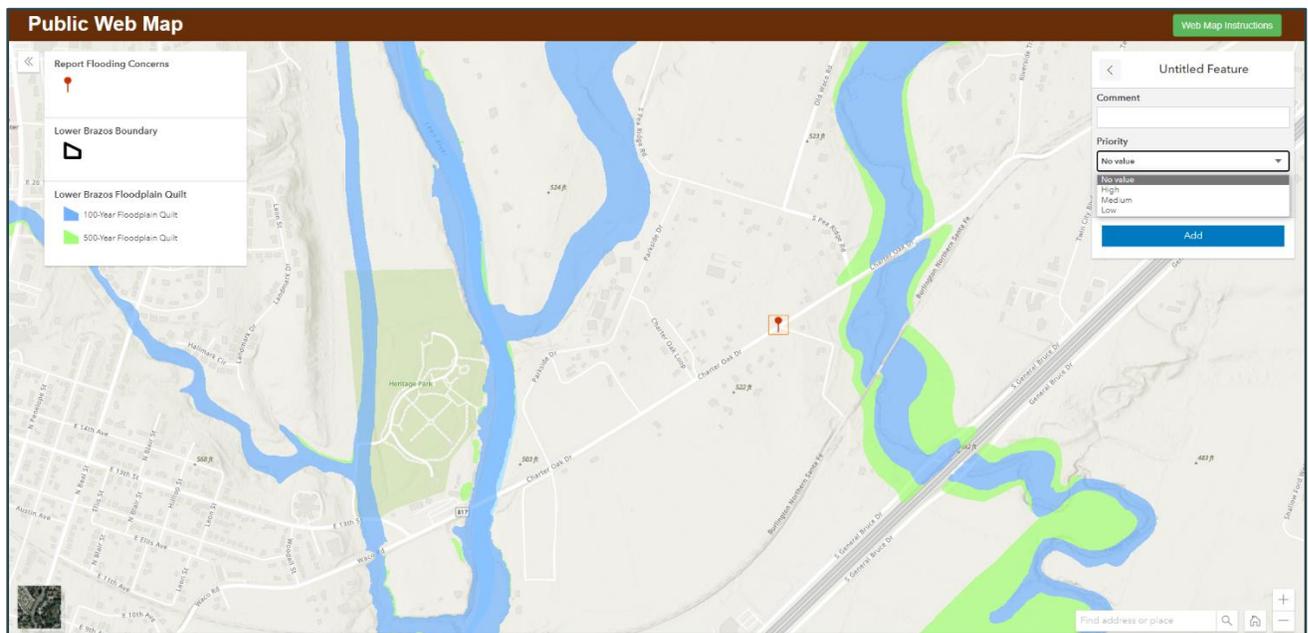


Figure 10-2. Interactive Web Map

The survey was initially sent out by the Brazos River Authority to the identified stakeholders through email on June 30, 2021, with a due date extension from August 13 to August 31, 2021. However, the survey was still accessible to stakeholders throughout the Regional Flood Planning process. Information was continually collected, but only submittals provided by the due date were ensured to be incorporated into the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan. Records were kept of submittals received past August 31st to be considered during the amendment period or future planning cycles as applicable.

Follow-Up Communications

Several forms of follow-up communication were utilized to boost response rates and ensure all stakeholders had the opportunity to provide their feedback. The initial notification was provided through an email blast, and several email reminders were sent in the following weeks. Posts to the website and all social media accounts were also used to promote the survey.

However, the largest follow-up effort was achieved through phone calls. From July 20th to July 30th a first round of over 350 calls were made to the stakeholders. Every stakeholder that had not yet opened the survey, or responded to the survey request in some manor, was identified. Stakeholders that had previously established relationships with members of the Technical Consultant Team were reached out to on a case-by-case basis. All other identified contacts were given a phone call to ensure the stakeholder received the email containing the survey, understood the importance and purpose of the survey, and was provided with any help needed to navigate or respond to the questionnaire. The

distribution of the dates the calls were performed can be seen in **Figure 10-3**.

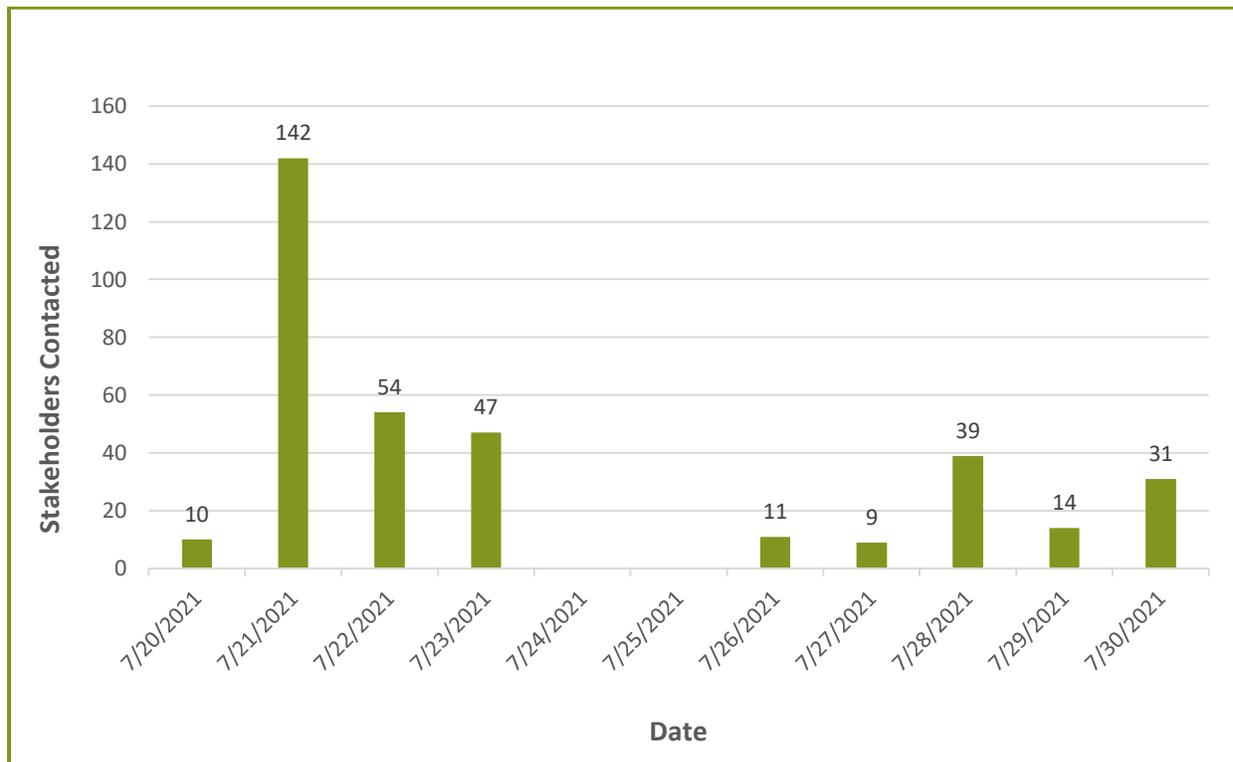


Figure 10-3. First Round of Stakeholder Phone Calls

After this initial outreach to all stakeholders that received the survey, a more targeted approach was taken. Stakeholders representing counties or entities with populations greater than 25,000 were targeted for another round of phone calls. These targeted entities were determined to be more likely to have the information requested by the survey easily accessible as well as likely having a larger impact on the characterization of the region as a whole. 128 stakeholders were contacted during this round. Ongoing outreach was performed throughout August, and into September, to follow-up with stakeholders who had previously showed interest in the regional flood planning efforts or were otherwise deemed as “promising” candidates to fill out the questionnaire or provide the team with pertinent information.

Responses

The extensive outreach efforts performed gleaned 64 responses to the survey. **Figure 10-4** shows the outreach extents and **Figure 10-5** shows the distribution of responses throughout the Lower Brazos region. Although this only amounted to an 11% response rate, the region was able to be characterized through the coverage provided. Additionally, the density of responses in the southern portion of the basin indicated to the Regional Flood Planning Group the higher interest and needs associated with the geographical location. **Figure 10-6** and **Figure 10-7** provide context on the number of counties and municipalities that are represented in the responses. Other respondents to the survey include representatives for management districts, river authorities, and councils of governments.

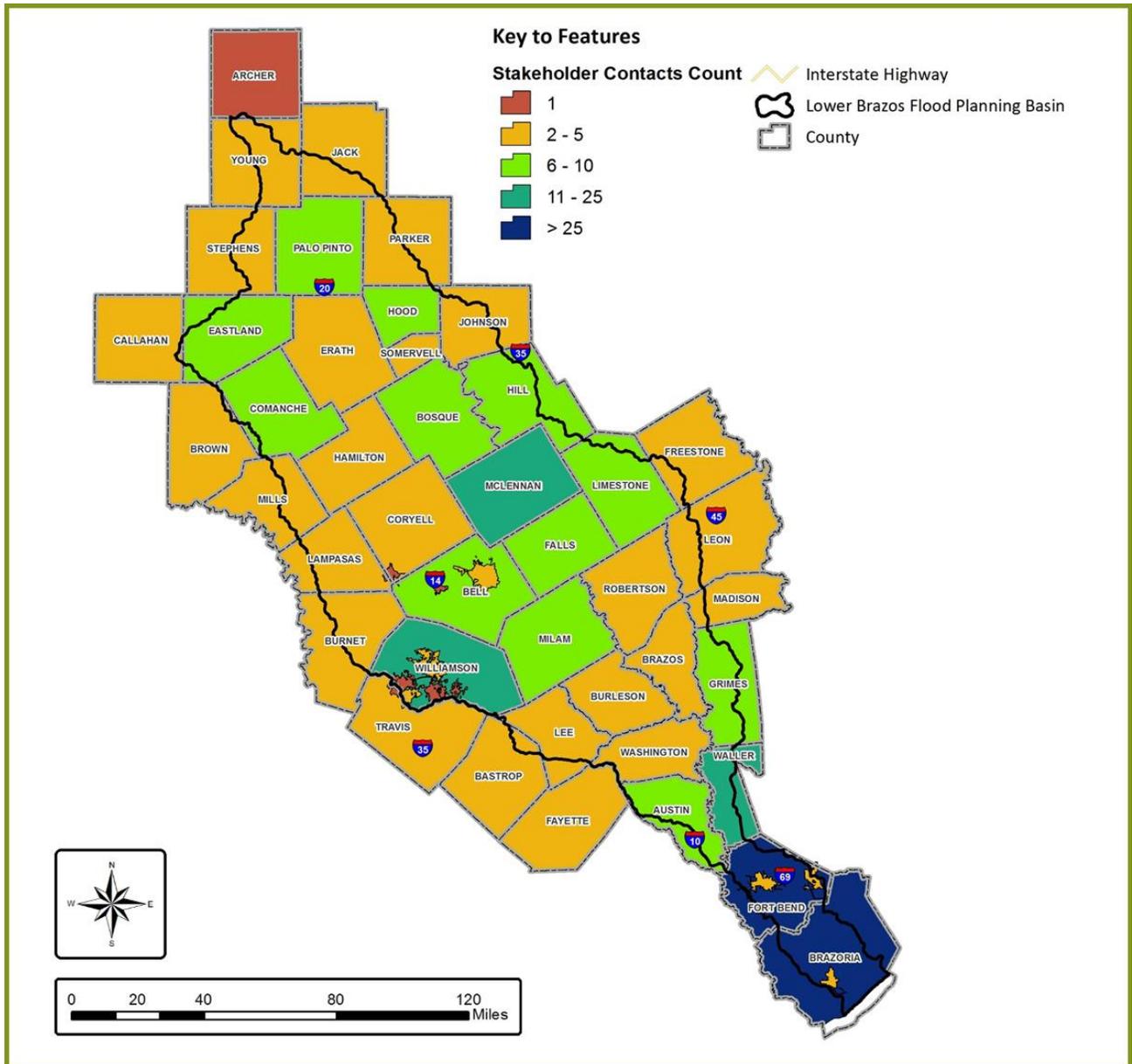


Figure 10-4. Outreach Calls



Figure 10-5. Survey Response Distribution

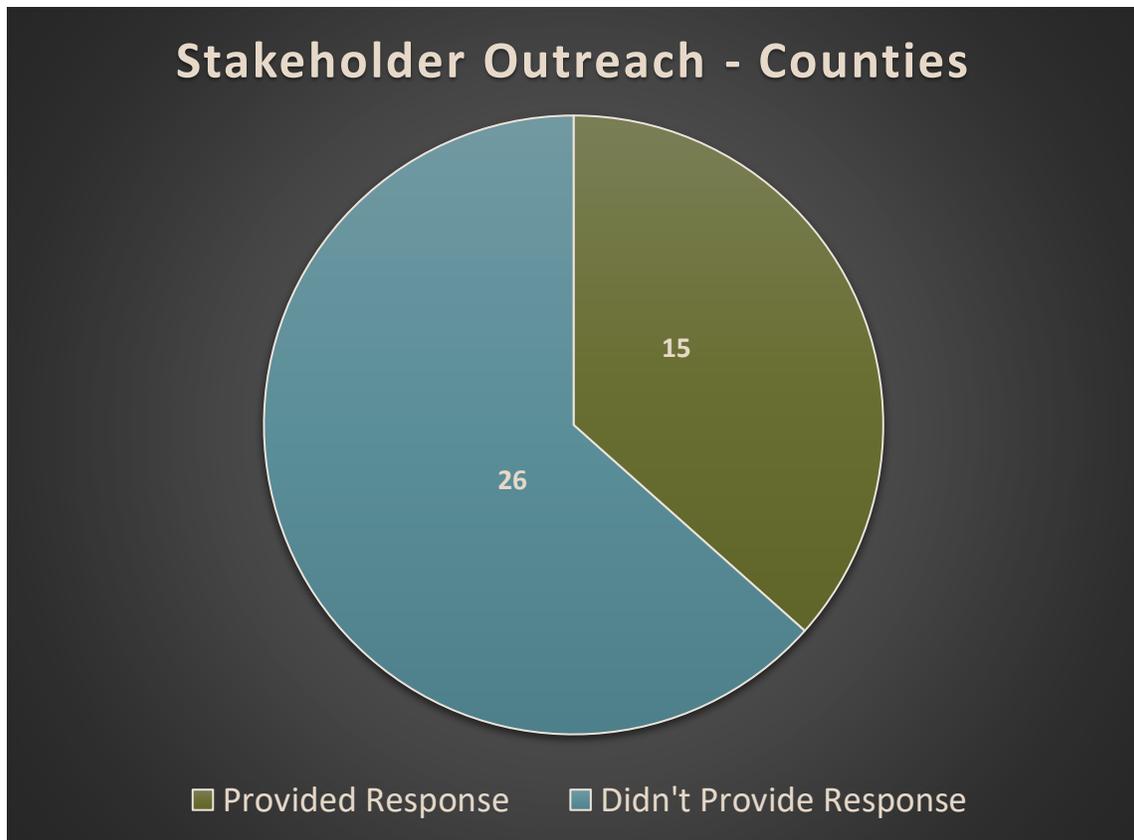


Figure 10-6. County Response Rate to Stakeholder Outreach

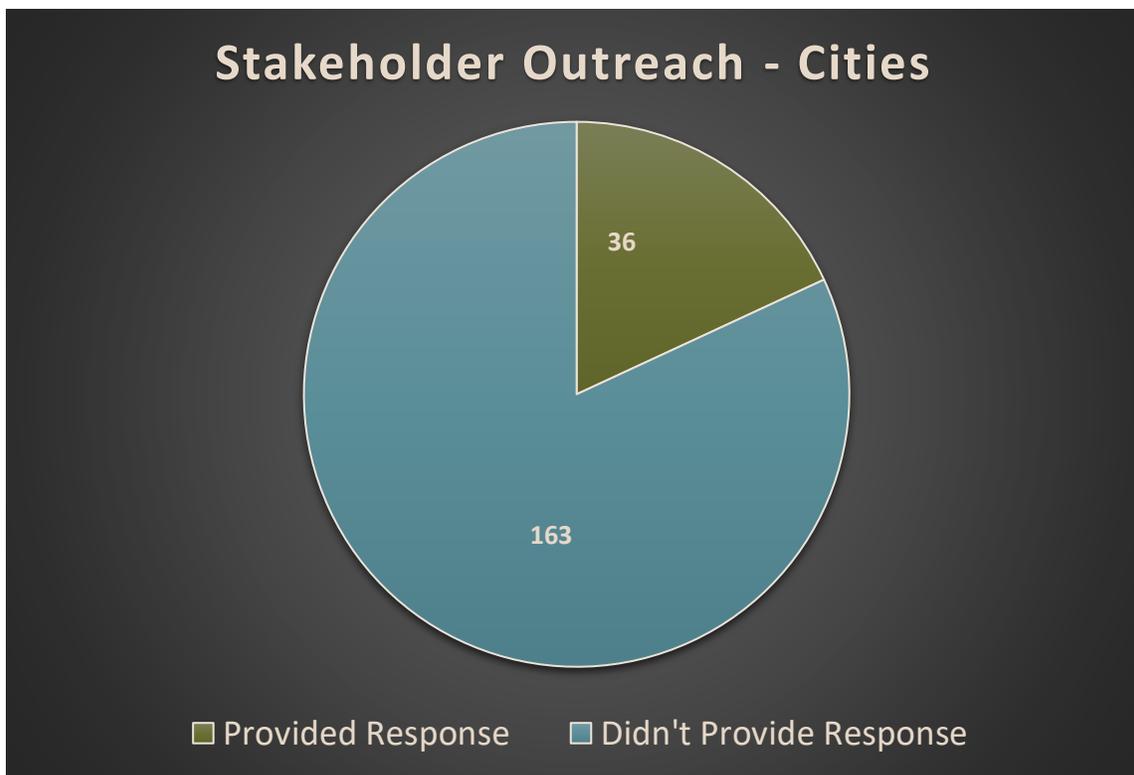


Figure 10-7. City Response Rate to Stakeholder Outreach

10.3.2 Additional Data Collection Efforts

Although the stakeholder survey generated some feedback, additional data needs were identified throughout the flood planning process and targeted outreach was performed to fill in these gaps. Specifically, when developing the list of flood mitigation and management projects, strategies, and evaluations, extensive data was needed to perform the required evaluations. Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs) in particular, needed to have associated models to adequately examine them. Due to many of the FMPs being collected through publicly available documentation found during research, the associated models were not previously provided by most of the entities. A targeted outreach effort was performed to try and obtain hydrologic and hydraulic models for potentially feasible FMPs.

Emails were sent to the associated stakeholders for the identified sponsors of the collected FMPs. Nine entities were contacted in November of 2021 and again in February of 2022 to request modeling associated with the FMPs collected for their community. Out of these, three entities provided the additional information requested to develop their flood mitigation and management needs and ensure they were included within the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan.

10.4 Lower Brazos RFPG Meetings

10.4.1 Pre-Planning RFPG Meetings

Preplanning meetings were held on June 2, 2021 and June 24, 2021 with the intention of providing background on formation of Regional Flood Planning Group and the planning process. During the meetings, the RFPG also gathered suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered in development of the regional flood plan. The roles and responsibilities of the RFPG and Technical Consultants were conveyed to the public and are listed in **Table 10-1. Responsibilities**

Table 10-1. Responsibilities

RFPG Responsibilities	Technical Consultant Responsibilities
Support public and stakeholder engagement	Ensure compliance with TWDB requirements and schedule
Identify key communities and entities	Guide and facilitate the planning process
Prepare for and participate in meetings and workshops	Facilitate public and entity engagement
Review and provide feedback on consultant deliverables	Gather data/information
Approve submittal of Chapters, Technical Memo, and Draft Regional Plan	Conduct planning and technical analysis
Adopt and submit the Regional Flood Plan	Prepare Chapters, Technical Memo, Draft Report, and Final Report based on RFPG input

During the Preplanning Meetings, the Technical Consultant Team provided an overview of the regional flood planning expectations. In general, the plan is not expected to solve flooding but lead to the reduction of flooding in the future. The planning effort is dependent upon the data and information provided by communities and entities and no new floodplain modeling is expected. For the effort to be successful, regional participation was critical. The need for further studies or flood management evaluations to determine true flood risk throughout the region was discussed by the Technical Consultant Team. Additionally, preliminary plans for stakeholder engagement through a survey were

proposed and talked through.

10.4.2 Monthly RFPG Meetings

The Lower Brazos RFPG held monthly meetings to obtain updates from the Technical Consultant Team, discuss potential processes and methodologies, and provide approval of components of the Draft Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan. These meetings were open to the public and conducted in compliance with both Senate Bill 8 and the Texas Open Meetings Act. The meetings were held at the Brazos River Authority’s Central Office located in Waco, Texas; and simultaneously hosted through Microsoft Teams for a hybrid option. The Lower Brazos RFPG decided to hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month at 10:00 am, unless conflicting with members’ schedules or holidays. **Table 10-2** summarizes the RFPG meeting date and key discussions or approvals that took place at each monthly meeting. Meeting minutes, documents, and recordings can be accessed under the ‘Meeting Archive’ tab on the Lower Brazos RFPG website.

Table 10-2. Summary of Lower Brazos RFPG Meetings

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Voting Items
June 24, 2021	Timeline and tasks planned for public outreach and data collection. Discussion of flooding concerns with each interest category.	N/A
July 22, 2021	Introduction and overview of Tasks 1, 2, and 3. Update on public outreach and data collection efforts.	N/A
August 26, 2021	Updates on the development of Tasks 1 and 2A. Discussion on Task 2B approach as it relates to the development of future conditions. Discussion of potential public meeting locations and dates. Discussion of draft goals and standards as related to Task 3.	N/A
September 23, 2021	Discussion of adoption vs recommendation in the development of Task 3A standards. Discussion of draft Task 3B goals. Update on Task 2B as relating to previous discussion. Introduction to Task 4B.	N/A
October 28, 2021	Discussion of evaluation process, sources, and benefit areas as related to Task 4B. Updates on Tasks 1, 2, and 10.	Approval of Task 3A Standards and 3B Goals.
November 16, 2021	Updates on Tasks 1, 2, 3, 4A, and 4C.	Approval of Task 4B Identification and Evaluation Process.
December 14, 2021	Discussion on public outreach meeting locations and dates. Discussion on existing conditions analyses as related to Task 2A. Agreement with Task 2B approach provided.	Approval of Technical Memorandum for submittal.

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Voting Items
January 27, 2021	Introduction and overview of Task 5. Discussion of meeting materials, dates, attendees, and locations for public meetings. Updates on Task 2A and emergency need definition as related to Task 4B. Discussion of Water Supply and Flood Control interactions as related to Task 6.	N/A
February 24, 2021	Discussion of Technical Memorandum Addendum and related Task 2. Discussion of emergency need definition as related to Task 4B. Updates and introductions of Tasks 1, 6, 7, 8, and 10.	Approval of Technical Memorandum Addendum for submittal.
March 24, 2021	Discussion of Task 3 report. Discussion of Task 5 evaluation and recommendation process. Updates on Tasks 6, 7, 8, and 10.	N/A
April 28, 2021	Public Roadshow Meetings recap, and review of Task 2 report. Discussion of Task 5 evaluation and recommendation process. Presentation and discussion of preliminary Task 4A results.	N/A
May 26, 2021	Update on Task 4A, 8, and 9. Discussion of Flood Control and Water Supply interaction as related to Task 6.	Approval of Task 5 FME, FMS, and FMP Recommendations.
June 23, 2021	Comments on chapters 1 through 10 of the RFP. Discussion on Task 8 recommendations.	N/A
July 14, 2021	Draft Regional Flood Plan	Approval of the Draft Regional Flood Plan.

10.5 Coordination with Other Planning Regions

10.5.1 Summary of Coordination Efforts

Technical Consultant Calls

Throughout the Regional Flood Planning process, there was ongoing communication between all regions. This coordination helped guide many aspects of the planning efforts. The TWDB facilitated some interaction through Technical Consultant Calls. Four calls were hosted by the TWDB throughout the planning process to provide additional guidance and allow time for questions and discussion between the regions and the board.

Before both the Technical Memorandum and Technical Memorandum Addendum submittals, a call was held to answer some commonly asked questions and facilitate discussion between regions. Although the TWDB staff guided the call agendas and answered many of the questions, there was also significant coordination between the regions on utilized approaches and datasets that helped identify solutions to problems that had been encountered throughout the State.

Two additional calls were held before the submittal of the Draft Regional Flood Plans. These calls helped identify the TWDB's expectations for the upcoming submittal and identify some issues that were present

in the Technical Memorandum submittals throughout the State. The discussion facilitated by these calls allowed for an opportunity for regions to coordinate and discuss shared problems and solutions.

Meeting Agenda

During the monthly Lower Brazos RFPG meetings, group members who held positions in other flood planning regions provided updates on the progress of those regions. These updates helped facilitate discussions concerning timelines and different approaches being used across the regions. In addition, it provided an opportunity for the group members to express any concerns over inequities experienced between different regions, allowing for the Technical Consultant Team to consider different methodologies or further coordination with other regions.

Other Coordination

In addition to the previously mentioned official avenues of coordination, many regions had ongoing communication to facilitate the flood planning process. With the regional flood planning effort being in its inaugural cycle, there was prevailing discussion over how to best execute the scope of work provided by the TWDB. Coordination was key to ensure the Regional Flood Plans provided, could be combined into a cohesive State Flood Plan.

One particular cause for communication was the overlap between neighboring regions. Some entities, strategies, and evaluations spanned into more than one region. To ensure they were treated equitably between the regions, and the information they provided was considered where appropriate, coordination was required. Several flood mitigation and management needs initially identified for potential inclusion in the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan were determined to have greater impact on neighboring regions. As discussed in **Chapter 4**, these were provided to the applicable neighboring regions.

10.6 Public Roadshow

The Lower Brazos RFPG held five public roadshow meetings throughout the basin during late March and early April 2022. The purpose of these meetings was to inform the public on the current progress of regional flood planning for the Lower Brazos and to gather feedback on the information included in the Draft Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan.

10.6.1 Meeting Locations and Format

The Lower Brazos Basin was divided into four subregions for the public roadshow: (1) Upper Basin, (2) Upper to Mid Basin, (3) Mid to Lower Basin, and (4) Lower Basin. Within each subregion, one public meeting was held with the exception of the Upper to Mid Basin area, where two public meetings were scheduled in this subregion with the initial one held following the March RFPG meeting at the Brazos River Authority's Central Office in Waco (reference **Figure 10-8** below). Each of the remaining meeting sites in the subregions were selected because they were sites previously used by the Brazos River Authority for their customer meetings. Also, the criteria for selecting the meeting sites included not overlapping with the outreach efforts of the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Combined River Base Flood Study for the Western Region, being available for use without a fee, and having a space large enough to accommodate approximately 50 attendees along with having the necessary presentation equipment.

Public Roadshow Meetings – Location & Schedule

Upper Basin

- Granbury, March 29, 2022, 4:00-6:00 PM
Hood County Annex Building
1410 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76048

Upper to Mid Basin

- Waco, March 24, 2022, 1:00-3:00 PM
Brazos River Authority – Central Office
4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, TX 76710
- Georgetown, March 30, 2022, 4:00-6:00 PM
Williamson County Engineer's Office
3151 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown, TX 78626

Mid to Lower Basin

- College Station, April 5, 2022, 4:00-6:00 PM
Carter Creek WWTP – Training Room
2200 North Forest Parkway, College Station, TX 77845

Lower Basin

- Rosenberg, April 7, 2022, 4:00-6:00 PM
Rosenberg Civic Center
3825 Highway 36 South, Rosenberg, TX 77471

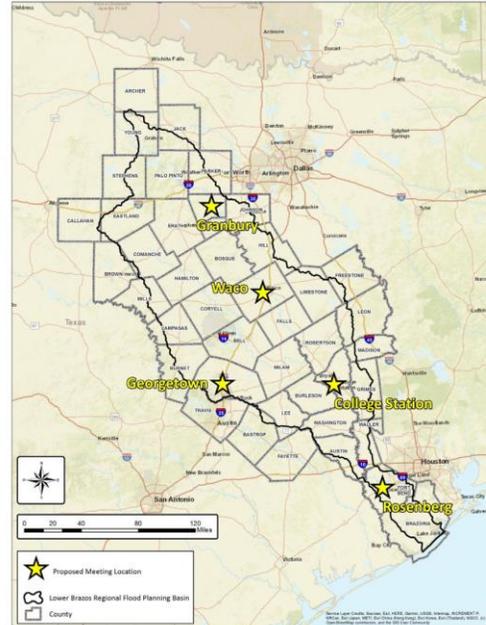


Figure 10-8. Public Roadshow Meetings

The public roadshow meetings were designed to have an Open House format to allow the public to ‘come and go’ depending on their schedule. Each of the five meetings had the same information presented at the beginning of the meeting, which included a welcome provided by the RFGP Chair, Vice-Chair or RFGP Voting Member. The presentation included an overview of the Lower Brazos RFGP, TWDB planning process, and overall timeline for the completion of the First State Flood Plan. An interactive workshop was held following the initial presentation to allow the meeting attendees an opportunity to visit with the Technical Consultant Team and TWDB staff and provide feedback at each of the following meeting stations:

- Station 1: TWDB State and Regional Flood Planning Process
- Station 2: Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan Goals and Practices
- Station 3: Draft Flood Risk Maps for the Lower Brazos Region (laptop computer provided at this station)
- Station 4: Draft FMEs, FMPs and FMSs identified for the Lower Brazos Region

Q&A from the initial presentation was addressed at each of the four meeting stations. Also, a half-page handout that listed the Lower Brazos RFGP website and email address was provided to the attendees at the sign-in table at each meeting location (reference copy of meeting handout in **Appendix B**). Copies of the presentation slides were posted on the Lower Brazos RFGP website in advance of each public meeting. In addition, phone calls were made prior to each of the meetings to key stakeholders to encourage their attendance.

10.6.1 Meeting Recap

Waco Meeting

The roadshow was kicked off with the first open house meeting held following the Lower Brazos RFGP meeting from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on March 24, 2022, at Brazos River Authority’s Central Office in Waco.

Eleven members of the public attended the open house, representing Bell, Coryell, Falls and McLennan Counties, as well as Cities of Harker Heights, Hillsboro and Robinson. TWDB Project Manager, Lower Brazos RFPG Chair and other RFPG Voting Members, Brazos River Authority, and the Technical Consultant Team also attended the meeting. The primary feedback from the attendees focused on the availability of future flood infrastructure funding and specific flood mitigation projects (FMPs) listed in the draft plan. Reference a copy of the meeting flyer and presentation slides in **Appendix B**.

Granbury Meeting

The second open house meeting was held in the Upper Basin in the City of Granbury at the Hood County Annex Building on March 29, 2022, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This meeting had eleven members of the public in attendance, representing Hood County and the City of Granbury. TWDB Project Manager, Lower Brazos RFPG Chair, Brazos River Authority and the Technical Consultant Team also attended the meeting. The primary feedback included adding a freeboard recommendation to the Lower Brazos RFPG goals and standards as guidance for engineering designers. Reference a copy of the meeting flyer and presentation slides in **Appendix B**.

Georgetown Meeting

The third open house meeting was held in the Upper to Mid Basin area in the City of Georgetown at the Williamson County Engineer's Office on March 30, 2022, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Only two members of the public attended the meeting, both from Williamson County. Unfortunately, an Atlas 14 public meeting regarding drainage was held the prior day. TWDB Project Manager and Regional Flood Planning Manager, Lower Brazos RFPG Chair and other RFPG Voting Members, Brazos River Authority and the Technical Consultant Team also attended the meeting. The primary feedback from Williamson County was the interest for consistent regional floodplain regulations. Reference a copy of the meeting flyer and presentation slides in **Appendix B**.

College Station Meeting

The fourth open house meeting was held in the Mid to Lower Basin in the City of College Station at the Carter Creek Wastewater Facility Training Room on April 5, 2022, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This meeting had our largest turnout of 40 members of the public in attendance, representing the Lake Limestone Property Association, Navasota River residents, SLC Water Supply Corporation, Fort Bend County Drainage District, Texas A&M University and the Cities of Bryan and College Station. TWDB Project Manager and Director of Flood Planning, Lower Brazos RFPG Vice-Chair, Brazos River Authority and the Technical Consultant Team also attended the meeting. The primary feedback from the attendees focused on the concern of future projects impacting releases from Lake Limestone. The attendees also recommended including an FMS to fund drainage maintenance throughout the basin to address localized flooding issues. Reference a copy of the meeting flyer and presentation slides in **Appendix B**.

Rosenberg Meeting

The final open house meeting was held in the Lower Basin in the City of Rosenberg at the Rosenberg Civic Center on April 7, 2022, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This meeting had a large turnout of 30 members of the public in attendance, representing Fort Bend County, Fort Bend County Drainage District, Angleton Drainage District, Velasco Drainage District, Fort Bend EDC, Fort Bend County MUD No. 25, Fort Bend County Levee Improvement Districts (#2, 6, 10, 11, 14, 19), Bayou Park, and the City of Sugar Land. TWDB Project Manager, Lower Brazos Voting Members, Brazos River Authority and the Technical Consultant Team also attended the meeting. The common theme of the feedback received from the attendees focused on extensive erosion issues along the banks of the Brazos River. Reference a copy of the meeting flyer and presentation slides in **Appendix B**.

10.7 Public Hearing and Lower Brazos RFPG Response to Public Comments on the Draft Regional Flood Plan

The Lower Brazos RFPG plans to hold a public hearing on September 22, 2022, to receive comments from the public on the Draft 2023 Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan. The public comment process will include a 60-day period centered around the public hearing date to allow the public to review and comment on the Draft Lower Brazos RFP. During the 60-day comment period, the draft regional flood plan will be available for the public to view on the Lower Brazos RFPG website. A hard copy of the draft plan will also be available for the public to review in person starting on August 20, 2022, at the following publicly accessible locations within the region for at least 30 days prior to and also 30 days after the public hearing date:

[insert Location #1]*

[insert Location #2]*

[insert Location #3]*

A copy of the sign-in sheet, verbal/written comments received during the public hearing and public comment process, and the corresponding response from the Lower Brazos RFPG will be provided in **Appendix C** for reference. Comments received from the public on the draft regional flood plan will be closed out during the Lower Brazos RFPG meeting on October 27, 2022. Afterwards, the public comments will be addressed, incorporated into the final regional flood plan, and adopted by the Lower Brazos RFPG prior to submitting to TWDB by no later than January 10, 2023.

10.8 Lower Brazos RFPG Response to TWDB Comments Received on the Draft Regional Flood Plan

The Lower Brazos RFPG will submit the Draft Regional Flood Plan to TWDB by no later than August 1, 2022, to initiate TWDB staff review. Following the public hearing on September 22, 2022, TWDB will provide review comments to be addressed by the Lower Brazos RFPG and Technical Consultant Team. A copy of the review comments received from TWDB staff and the corresponding response from the Lower Brazos RFPG will be provided in **Appendix D** for reference. Comments received from TWDB staff on the draft regional flood plan will be addressed, incorporated into the final regional flood plan, and adopted by the Lower Brazos RFPG prior to submitting to TWDB by no later than January 10, 2023.

10.9 Plan Adoption

The Lower Brazos RFPG will formally adopt the final 2023 Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan on December 22, 2022 and direct the Brazos River Authority and Technical Consultant Team to submit the final regional plan to the TWDB on or before January 10, 2023.

Appendix A – Sample of Meeting Materials

LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING

**THURSDAY
JUNE 23, 2022
10:00 A.M.**

Please make plans to attend our meeting virtually or in person. We're currently seeking public input on the draft chapters of the regional flood plan that describe the flood management strategies, evaluations, and mitigation projects, as well as impacts of regional flood plan for the basin.

Visit lowerbrazosflood.org for details on the virtual meeting and draft documents for public review and comments.

**In person meeting location:
Brazos River Authority
4600 Cobbs Drive
Waco, TX 76710**



Appendix B – Sample of Public Roadshow Materials



**LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL
FLOOD PLANNING GROUP**

**PUBLIC
OPEN HOUSE
WACO**

Please join us at the Waco open house meeting to learn about the State's Flood Planning Program and the current draft of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan.

We need your feedback to make sure the proposed flood mitigation projects and strategies represent your community for future funding opportunities.

Visit lowerbrazosflood.org for additional meeting details.

Thursday, March 24, 2022

1:00 - 3:00 PM

**Brazos River Authority - Central Office
4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas 76710**

LOWER BRAZOS FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

OPEN HOUSE MEETING

The primary role of the Lower Brazos Flood Planning Group is to develop a regional flood plan for the Region 8 Lower Brazos Flood Planning Region that identifies flood risks, establishes flood mitigation and floodplain management goals, and recommends evaluations, strategies, and projects to reduce flood risks.



Lower Brazos RFG Project Website

lowerbrazosflood.org

Lower Brazos RFG Project Email

LBflood@brazos.org

LOWER BRAZOS FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

OPEN HOUSE MEETING

The Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan has 10 major tasks including:

- Gathering and analyzing existing data
- Identifying existing and future flood risks
- Reviewing floodplain management practices
- Evaluating flood management strategies
- Recommendation of studies and projects to be included in the regional flood plan
- Review of current flood response efforts
- Present policy recommendations
- Identify project funding opportunities
- Ensure continual public participation throughout the process as the regional flood plan is adopted.

REGION 8

LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLAN

Public Open House Meeting No. 1

Brazos River Authority – Central Office (Waco)
March 24, 2022



Opening Remarks

Scott Rushing, P.E., CFM
Project Manager, Halff Associates

Welcome

**Brandon Wade, P.E.
Lower Brazos RFPG Chair**

Presentation Outline

- Open House Meeting Overview
- TWDB State Flood Planning Highlights
- Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group
- Project Scope of Work Summary
- Data Collection Request
- Project Schedule
- Interactive Stations

Open House Meeting Overview

Purpose:

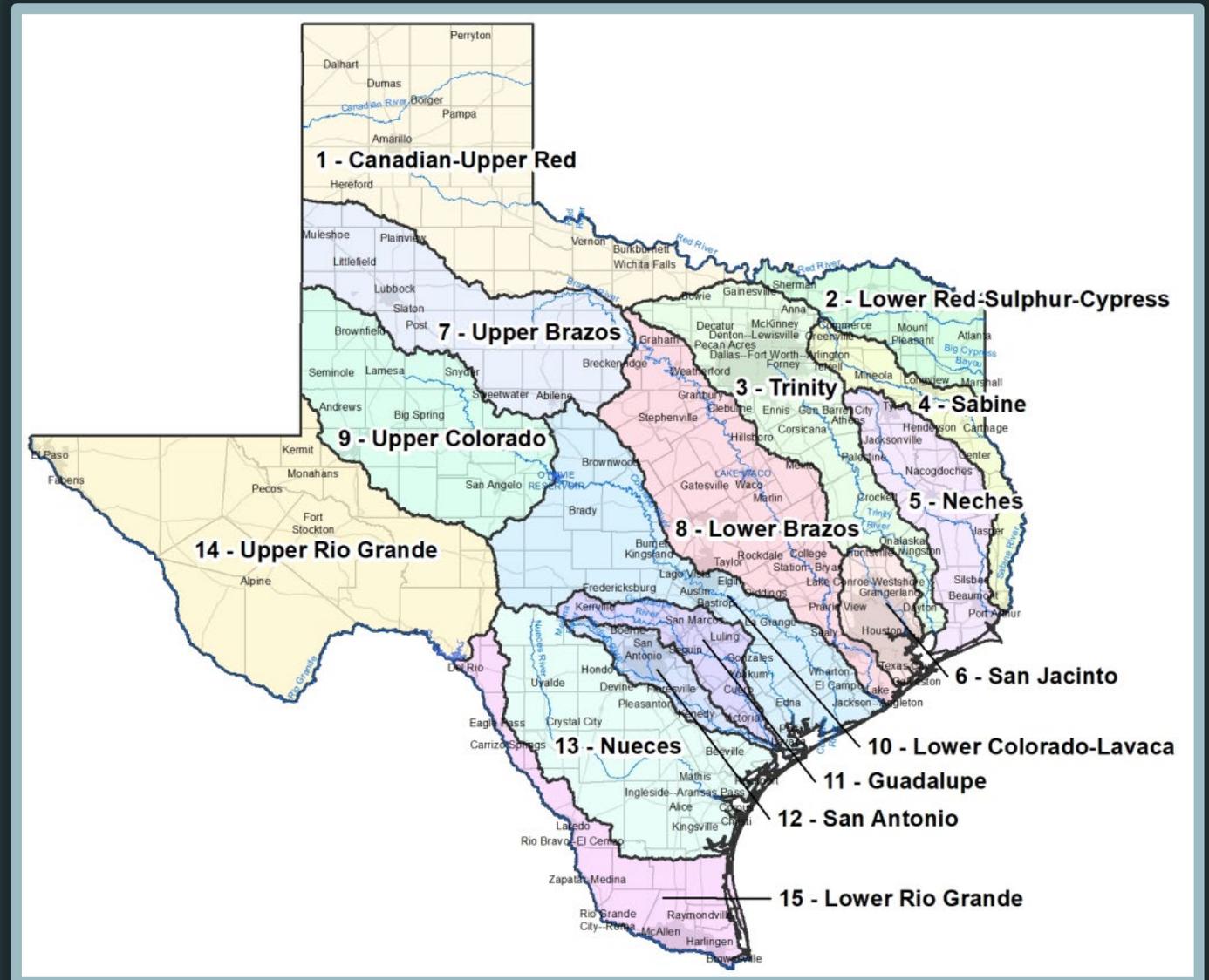
- Educate the public on the planning process, provide update on progress, and gather feedback.
- Understand the flood risk needs in the region.
- Increase participation in planning process from stakeholders and the public.

Relevance:

- We need your input to make sure the flood-related concerns, challenges and goals are accurately captured for the entire region.
- Your applicable flood risk needs will be included in the plan and may be eligible for future funding.

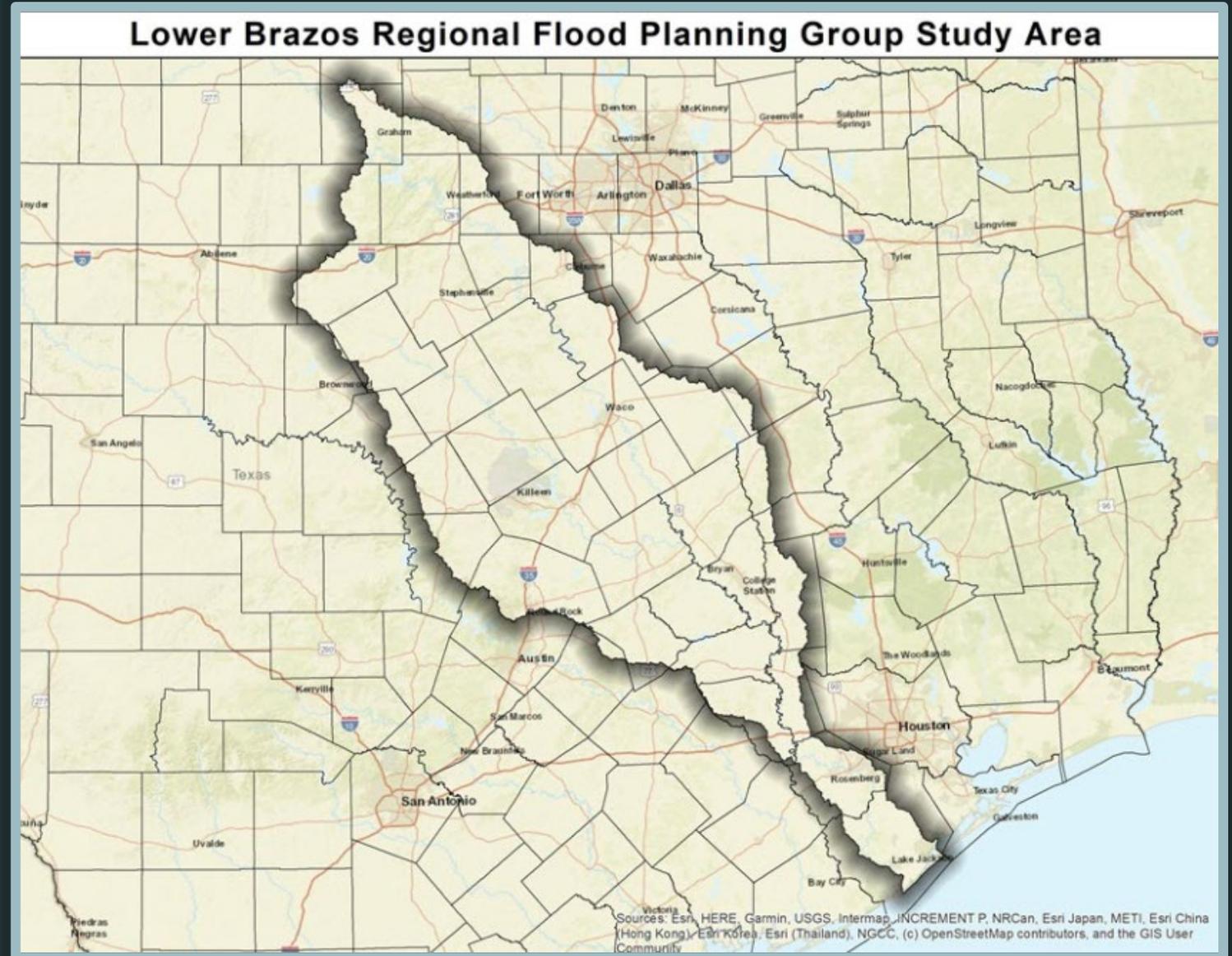
State Flood Plan Overview

- In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill SB8
- SB8 provides a process for statewide flood planning
- Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) charged with implementing SB8
- Fifteen (15) regional flood planning groups created by TWDB



Regional Flood Plan Overview

- Each regional flood planning group (RFPG) will develop regional flood plan
- Bottom-up approach to flood planning
- Updated regional plans required every 5 years
- **Projects must be included in plan to be considered for TWDB funding assistance**



Lower Brazos Region



MAJOR STREAMS

- Brazos River
- North Bosque River
- Leon River
- San Gabriel River
- Lampasas River
- Little River
- Navasota River
- Yegua Creek
- Oyster Creek

RESERVOIRS

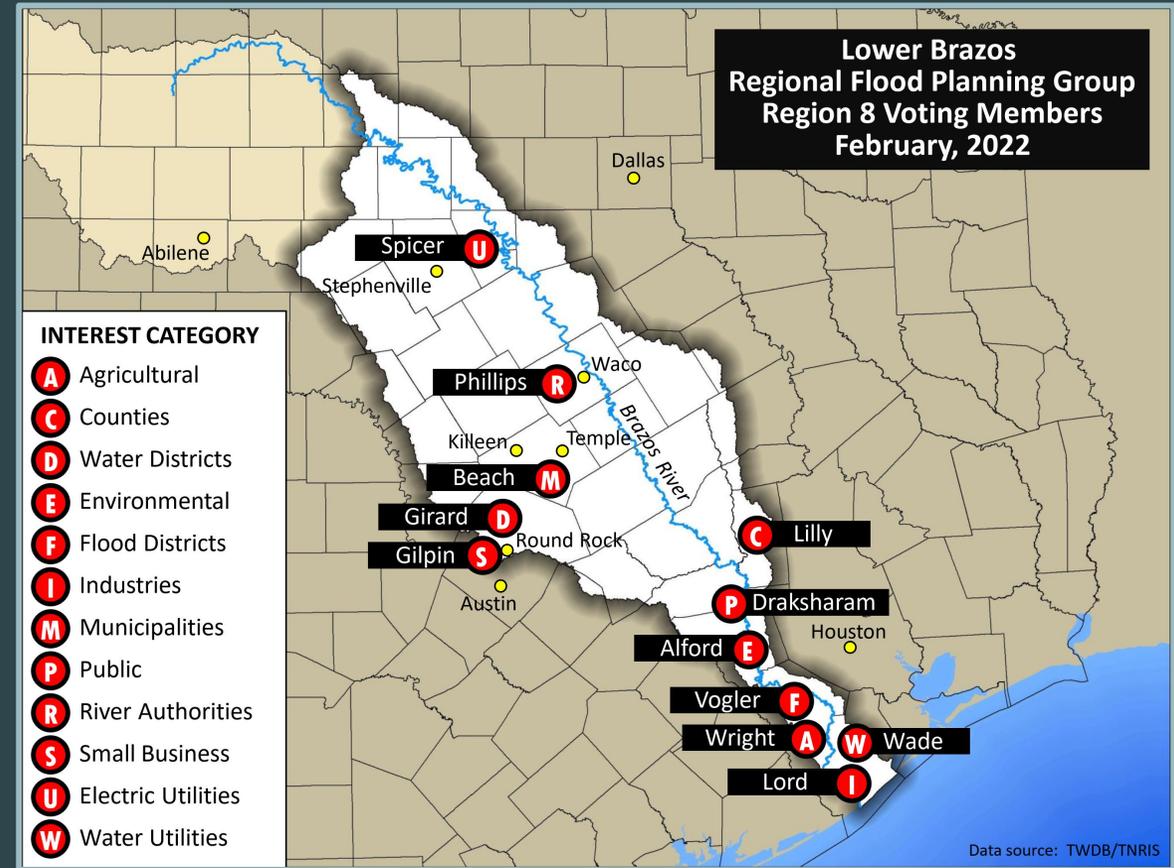
- 9 flood control reservoirs
- 3 water supply reservoirs

BASIN DETAILS

- Extents: 23,450 square miles
- 2020 Population: 3 million
- Number of counties: 43
- Number of communities: 193

Lower Brazos RFPG Members (Voting)

Name	Interest Category
Claudia Wright	Agricultural Interests
David Lilly	Counties
Gary Spicer	Electric Generating Utilities
Susan Alford	Environmental Interests
Mark Vogler	Flood Districts
Glenn Lord	Industries
Anthony Beach	Municipalities
Sujeeth Drakshram	Public
Matt Phillips, <i>Secretary</i>	River Authorities
Charlotte Gilpin	Small Business
Alysha Girard, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Water Districts
Brandon Wade, <i>Chair</i>	Water Utilities



Lower Brazos RFPG Members (Non-Voting)

Name	Position/Title	Entity
David Young	Hydrologist	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Natalie Johnson	Unit Chief Recovery and Mitigation	Texas Division of Emergency Management
Michele Bobo	Field Representative	Texas Department of Agriculture
Steve Bednarz	Flood Control Program Administrator/Engineer	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
<i>*Vacant Position</i>	NA	General Land Office
Ryke Moore	Regional Flood Planner	Texas Water Development Board
Richard Monreal	Waco Water Station Manger	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Charles Erickson	Lead Hydraulic Engineer	US Army Corp of Engineers
Larry Voice	Senior Engineer	Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 6
Mike Turco	General Manager	Fort Bend Subsidence District
Matt Hanks	County Engineer	Brazoria County

Technical Consultant Team



Experts in
**FLOOD
CONTROL**
*70+ years of
Flood Control Experience*



Roles and Responsibilities

RFPG Member Responsibilities

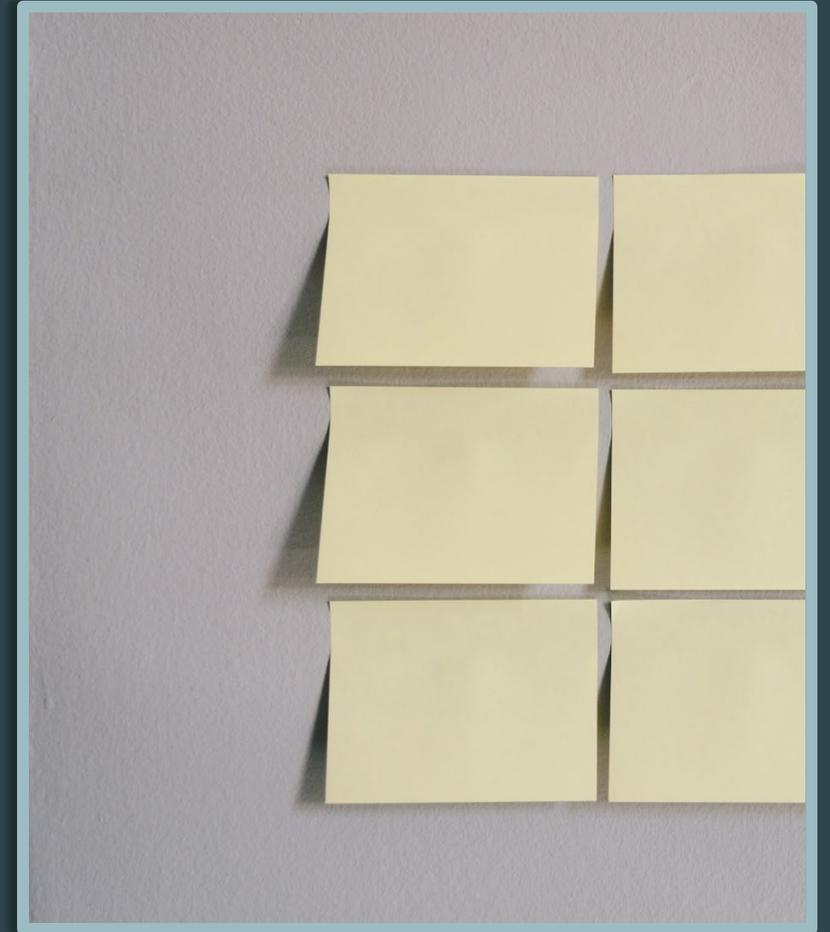
- Support public and stakeholder engagement
- Identify key stakeholders
- Prepare for and participate in meetings and workshops
- Review and provide feedback on consultant deliverables
- Approve submittal of Chapters, Technical Memo, and Draft Regional Plan
- Adopt and submit the Regional Flood Plan

Technical Team Responsibilities

- Ensure compliance with TWDB requirements and schedule
- Guide and facilitate the planning process
- Facilitate public and stakeholder engagement
- Gather data/information
- Conduct planning and technical analysis
- Prepare Chapters, Technical Memo, Draft Report, and Final Report based on RFPG input

Regional Flood Plan – High Level Scope

- Gather and analyze data
- Identify existing and future flood risks
- Evaluate flood management practices and determine goals
- Recommend evaluations, strategies, and project to reduce flood risks
- Develop a regional flood plan to help mitigate and provide solutions to flooding in the future



Data Collection Collaboration

TWDB Provided Data



The screenshot shows the Texas Water Development Board's GIS Resources page. The header includes the organization's name and navigation links for GIS Resources, GDB Template, Floodplain Quiz, What's New, TWDB, Flood Planning, and Contacts. A search bar is present, followed by the title "GIS Resources" and the subtitle "Texas Flood Planning". A disclaimer states: "The following GIS resources have been gathered to assist the Texas Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPGs). Many of the referenced layers are intended for cartographic purposes. Before using layers for engineering or modeling, check the intended use on the original site." Below this, there is a grid of ten icons representing different data categories: Critical Infrastructure, Flood Infrastructure, Flood Risk, Hydrology, Jurisdiction Boundaries, Parks, Population, Property, Terrain, and Transportation.

Other Data Sources



A collection of logos for various data sources. The logos include: TXGLO (Texas Geographic Information Office), FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), National Weather Service, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, US Army Corps of Engineers, Texas Division of Emergency Management, USGS (United States Geological Survey), NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Department of Transportation, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

Data Collection

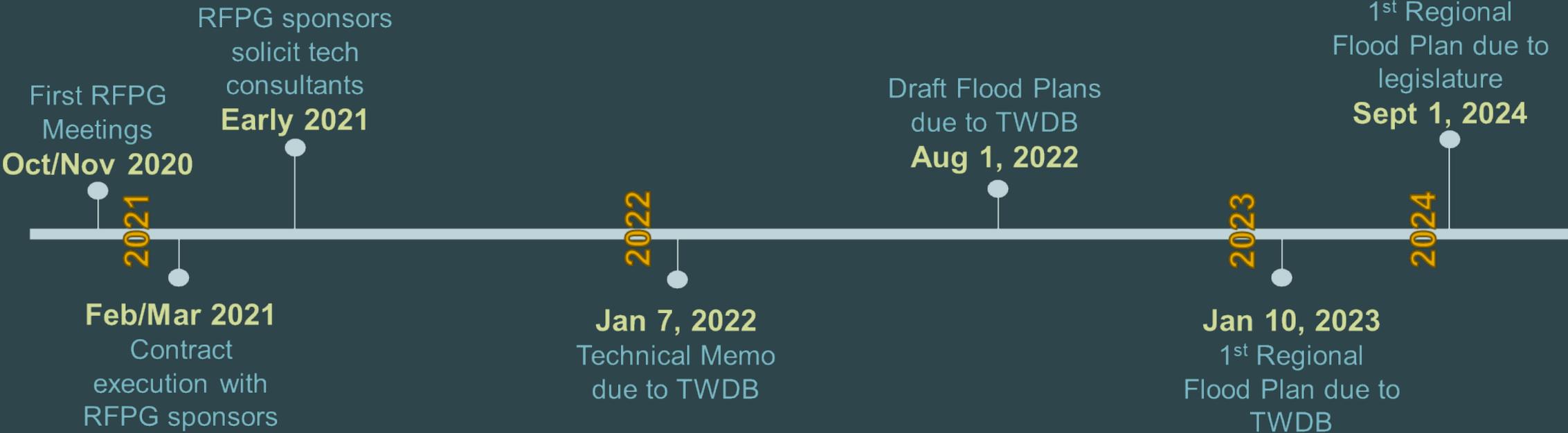
STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

- Sent out to 550 stakeholders to gather community information
 - Floodplain Management / Ordinances
 - Flood History
 - Floodplain Maps and Studies
 - Risk Reduction Alternatives
 - Flood Finance
 - Natural Resources & Condition Changes
 - Hazard Mitigation & Emergency Planning
 - Existing Infrastructure
- Open June 30, 2021 – August 31, 2021

KEY INFORMATION STILL NEEDED

- Proposed flood mitigation projects, evaluations, or strategies **with supporting hydraulic & hydrologic models**
- Details on ongoing mitigation efforts
- Upload data to respective questions within Stakeholder Survey
 - Prioritize relevant questions that are key to your community
- Or upload data files to **www.lowerbrazosflood.org**

Overall Flood Planning Timeline



Looking Ahead to August 2022

MARCH 2022

- Lower Brazos RFPG Meeting (3/24)
- Waco Open House Meeting (3/24)
- Granbury Open House Meeting (3/29)
- Georgetown Open House Meeting (3/30)

APRIL 2022

- College Station Open House Meeting (4/5)
- Rosenberg Open House Meeting (4/7)
- Draft Ch 2 – Flood Risk Analyses (4/21)
- Draft Ch 4 – Assessment and Identification of Flood Mitigation Needs (4/21)
- Lower Brazos RFPG Meeting (4/28)
- Deadline for public to submit studies, projects, or strategies (4/30)

MAY 2022

- Lower Brazos RFPG Meeting (5/26)

JUNE 2022

- Lower Brazos RFPG Meeting (6/23)

JULY 2022

- Draft Regional Flood Plan available for public comment (7/21)
- Lower Brazos RFPG Meeting (7/28)

AUGUST 2022

- Draft Regional Flood Plan due to TWDB (8/1)

Interactive Stations

- TWDB State Flood Plan
- Regional Flood Risk (Existing/Future)
- Lower Brazos RFBG Practices & Goals
- Flood Management Evaluations, Strategies & Projects

Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group Email Address & Website

Project Email Address:

LBFlood@brazos.org

Project Website:

www.lowerbrazosflood.org