

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, June 23, 2022

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Meeting agenda, materials, and audio recordings are available online at www.lowerbrazosflood.org

1. Call Meeting to Order

Presiding Chair Alysha Girard presided over the meeting in Waco, TX. Ms. Girard 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	A
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 May 26, 2022 meeting

The May 26, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Matt Phillips 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*)

Alysha Girard 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. Comments on Draft Chapters

Ryan Londeen provided an update on the state of all submitted chapters and upcoming chapters.

Members of the RFPG requested the Executive Summary be kept concise. Sujeeth Draksharam asked if we are still gathering FMXs for the list. Alysha Girard clarified that the list is essentially closed; however, items may be moved around within the list per public comment. Ryan Londeen agreed and stated that these final changes will likely be brought for approval in October.

5.2. Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations

Scott Rushing presented over the purpose and intent of Task 8 as well as updated made to the recommendations based on RFPG comments.

Mark Vogler asked for an example of the dams being targeted in recommendation 8.1.3; who would not have state funding but would need help maintaining their dam? Alysha Girard responded that there are about 2000 dams built originally under the federal program with agencies that do not have taxing authorities. Due to urbanization, some of the dams have increased hazard levels, but the owners do not have the funding for the increased maintenance responsibilities. Mark responded that this eased his concerns. David Spicer added that there are around 20 dams in his county that meet the criteria for high hazard classification but were originally TMPA dams. These private dam owners do not fully understand what is required for maintenance, much less have the necessary funding.

Alysha emphasized the importance of recommendation 8.2.1. She extended this sentiment to encompass the need for the Regional Flood Planning Process to be simplified. Scott agreed. He mentioned that this is incorporated into recommendations over the State Flood Planning Process.

Alysha mentioned that the edits to recommendation 8.2.2 relieved her concerns. Sujeeth Draksharam mentioned that he believes the state should be *required* to comply to local regulations. The State will not comply unless they are required to. Mark Vogler agreed that this sounds ideal, but it is not likely that the legislature would approve a

requirement; they may approve a *consideration*. Matt Phillips suggested that justification be required if the State does not choose to conform to local regulations. Alysha Girard agreed that consideration with justification is a good approach. If the State continuously chooses to not conform, this could create documentation supporting why this may be changed to required. Charlotte Gilpen recommended the phrasing “*shall consider*”. Anthony Beech agreed. He also emphasized that there are sometimes conflicts between federal, state, and local guidelines that may prohibit entities from complying. All members of the RFPG agreed that they would be comfortable with “*shall consider*”.

Brandon Wade, Mark Vogler, and Alysha Girard agreed with striking recommendation 8.2.6.

Alysha emphasized the importance of recommendation 8.2.7. Sujeeth Draksharam agreed that the FEMA BCA toolkit does not have an input for agricultural benefits, but this is because it should be derived differently than the standard procedures used for municipalities.

Alysha expressed concern that high-hazard dam does not mean that there is a high risk for failure, and the phrasing of recommendation 8.2.8 should reflect that. Matt Phillips emphasized that most dams are inspected more frequently than the 5-year requirements. The differentiation of high-hazard and high risk for failure would be key to not overwhelm dam managers with inspections. Mark Vogler agreed. He added that the TCEQ tends to send representatives if a dam is flagged as being at high risk for failure. All members of the RFPG agreed with the proposed rewording.

Mark Vogler asked for clarification on recommendation 8.3.9. Scott Rushing explained that the proposed recommendation is a way to normalize and organize the data provided to the TWDB.

Alysha Girard expressed the importance of recommendations 8.3.3, 8.3.4, and 8.3.5.

Scott Rushing and Alysha Girard explained the addition of recommendation 8.3.16. Sujeeth Draksharam agreed that this would help mitigate his concerns with the large data swings caused by new information such as Atlas 14. Mark Vogler agreed that he would like information updates more frequently as well. However, there is some concern that updating models, mapping, and criteria manuals every 10-years would be difficult for regulatory entities. Alysha clarified that with the more frequent updates, it is likely that data swings would not be as large, so updates would not always be necessary.

5.3. Updates on Regional Flood Plan

Hector Olmos presented over the results of Task 6. Sujeeth Draksharam asked if the existing conditions evaluation should have an associated year provided. Hector agreed that this could be added.

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 May 2022 was approved as presented. Brandon Wade 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)

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 reported on the status of these adjacent regional flood planning groups and regional water planning groups.

11. Report from Lower Brazos RFPG Chair

Alysha encouraged group members to continue their timely review and provide comments on the draft chapters

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, July 21, 2022, at 10:00 am. Noted change of the July meeting to the 3rd Thursday of the month.

14. Adjourn

Alysha Girard adjourned the meeting at 11:07 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the July 21, 2022 meeting.



[Matt Phillips \(Jul 26, 2022 10:18 CDT\)](#)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



[BrandonWade \(Jul 26, 2022 09:34 CDT\)](#)

Brandon Wade, Chairman










Minutes June 23 Group Meeting

Final Audit Report

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