

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, October 27, 2022

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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

1. Call Meeting to Order

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	P	Glenn Lord	P
Anthony Beach	P	Matt Phillips	P
Sujeeth Drakshram	P	Gary Spicer	A
Alysha Girard	P	Mark Vogler	P
Charlotte Gilpin	P	Jake Hollingsworth Alt. for 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 September 22, 2022 meeting

The September 22, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Anthony Beach made the motion to accept the minutes and Sujeeth Drakshram seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Input - Public comments on agenda items, flood planning issues, and the Draft Regional Flood Plan (limited to 3 minutes each)

Alysha Girard opened the floor for public comments. No comments were received by the group.

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

5.1. Public Comments received on the draft plan

Sujeeth Drakshram expressed concern over the City of Waco Property Acquisition FMS. He asked if this would already be covered by the FEMA buyout program. Additionally, he inquired if each individual structure would provide 1 square mile of benefits. Sam Hinojosa and Ryan Londeen clarified that the FMS is a linked strategy, so each individual structure would not need to meet the 1 square mile threshold; unlike FMPs which have more stringent restrictions. Sujeeth reiterated that he does not feel confident that this type of FMS is helpful regionally, but he did not want to object to approving the list.

Matt Phillips made a recommendation to move the non-recommended FMXs to recommended FMXs. Glenn Lord seconded. The motion was passed.

Sujeeth Drakshram made a motion to approve the list of additions to the FMX list. Glenn Lord seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Alysha motioned to remove the proposed FMXs from the list. Sujeeth Drakshram seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

5.2. Consideration of Task 12 FMEs

Sujeeth Drakshram asked how many structures were indicated as at flood risk for each study area presented in the Type 1 FMEs. Was this considered as part of the ranking? Ryan Londeen replied that the at-risk structure counts are included in the Task 4A analysis score used for ranking, so the list does reflect this need. Alysha clarified that since studying these areas won't actually put new infrastructure in the ground, none of the structures will be removed from flood-risk at this time. It is a valid concern to look at how the FMEs were ranked since there is limited budget and many needs throughout the region.

Charlotte asked for more clarification on why the TWDB is asking the RFPG to do Task 12. If the intent is to serve under-represented areas, then she would support Package 2. Ryan Londeen agreed that since under-represented areas are less likely to have sponsors step up and put FMXs on the recommended list,

Task 12 does aim to help these locations.

Sujeeth Drakshram expressed his interest in focusing efforts on flood alert systems, which he believes is more in line with the goals of the RFPG than regional studies. Could a comprehensive flood alert system for the Brazos River be considered for the Task 12 amendment process? Sam Hinojosa expressed that the NOAA does have some alert systems available to communities along the Brazos River currently. He agreed that helping communities get the data needed to place gages would be helpful; however, the challenge is getting communities on board to actually implement the gages. If the RFPG feels strongly about this, it could be considered as part of Task 12. Coordination with the USGS and USACE would likely be needed. Alternatively, this could be done on a more localized level within the regions being studied as part of Task 12. Sujeeth agreed, he emphasized that educating the public on how to access the information that is currently available would also be a good strategy, especially if done at a regional level to provide regional benefits. Out of the proposed uses of Task 12 presented, he also prefers Package 2. Alysha Girard expressed her belief that performing the studies shown in Package 2 would help lay the groundwork for knowing where to place flood alert gages. Matt Phillips agreed that emphasizing areas that are under-represented helps everyone, he also prefers Package 2. Alysha asked if performing the studies and determining potential placement of flood alert gages would set up communities to receive funding for flood alert systems? Sam Hinojosa confirmed that this would help the communities move towards funding of flood alert systems.

Alysha Girard asked if anyone in the RFPG preferred Package 1 or 3? The consensus of the RFPG was preference for Package 2. Sujeeth reiterated that his top preference is for a region-wide flood alert system.

Charlotte Gilpin made a motion to move forward with Package 2 as presented:

The Lower Brazos RFPG approves the following list of FMEs to be performed under Task 12 in the order listed according to the presented scopes of work. The RFPG will work through the approved list and then truncate it when approaching the budget or time limit:

- Comanche-Indian Creek DMP
- Lampasas Sulphur Creek DMP
- Copperas Creek DMP
- Nash Creek-Leon DMP

Claudia Wright seconded the motion. Sujeeth Drakshram amended the motion to include a focus on providing recommendations for flood alert systems as part of the deliverable as a region-wide effort. Matt Phillips seconded the amended motion. The motion was approved.

5.3. Regional Flood Planning Updates

The Technical Consultant Team provided a progress update on preparing the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan.

6. Presentation from the US Army Corps of Engineers on the Brazos River InFRM Watershed Hydrology Assessment

Helena Mosser, USACE Fort Worth District made the presentation to the planning group.

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

Ryke Moore provided the TWDB Report to the RFPG.

8. Report from the Regional Planning Sponsor

The Sponsor did not have a report.

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

No report on administrative expenses.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Report from Lower Brazos RFPG Chair

The Chair did not have a report.

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

No new business was brought forth for the next meeting

14. Confirmation of the next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2022.

15. Adjourn

Brandon Wade adjourned the meeting at 11:32 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the December 13, 2022 meeting.



[Matt Phillips \(Dec 16, 2022 14:32 CST\)](#)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



[BrandonWade \(Dec 16, 2022 12:21 CST\)](#)

Brandon Wade, Chairman


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Final Audit Report


2022-12-16


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