

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, January 26, 2023

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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

1. Call Meeting to Order

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	P	Glenn Lord	P
Anthony Beach	P	Matt Phillips	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Mark Vogler	P
Alysha Girard	P	Brandon Wade	P
Charlotte Gilpin	P	Claudia Wright	P
David Lilly	P		

Quorum Present: **Yes**. Quorum is 7 of 12 voting members.

3. Approval of Minutes from the December 13, 2022 meeting

The December 13, 2022 meeting minutes were accepted as presented. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to accept the minutes and Glenn Lord 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)

Brandon Wade opened the floor for public comments. No comments were received by the group.

5. Report, discussion, and possible action on a recommendation from the Executive Committee on the selection of a candidate for the Electric Generating Utilities interest representative vacancy.

Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion for the RFPG accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to appoint Carl Burch to represent Electric Generating Utilities interests as a voting member of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group. Anthony Beach seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action on nomination and election of RFPG Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and two (2) members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee.

Motion was made by Susan Alford for the selection of Alysha Girard as the RFPG's Chair. Motion was seconded by Claudia Wright. No objections were made to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Alysha Girard for the selection of Anthony Beach as the RFPG's Vice Chair. Motion was seconded by Sujeeth Draksharam. No objections were made to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Glenn Lord for Matt Phillips to continue to serve in his role as the RFPG's Secretary. Motion was seconded by Anthony Beach. No objections were made to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Alysha Girard for Brandon Wade to serve as a Member at Large and for Sujeeth Draksharam to continue serving as a Member at Large for the RFPG. Motion was seconded by Anthony Beach. No objections were made to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

7.1. Updates on Task 1 to 11 and Report Submittal

Sam Hinojosa reported that the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan had been submitted to the TWDB and that it had been received. The TWDB will review the submittal and provide any comments. Hinojosa reported that all the comments from the draft submittal had been addressed by the consultant team.

7.2. Update on Tasks 12 and 13

Ryan Londeen provided a progress update on the development of the Regional Watershed Studies. The Comanche-Indian Creek and Lampasas Sulphur Creek HUC studies are underway. The other two studies would start at a later date pending remaining funds.

Sujeeth Drakshram asked why the 5-year storm is being evaluated. Ryan Londeen explained that it provides additional context on flooding conditions during low flow events. Benefits provided in high frequency storm events also tend to strengthen BCRs.

Alysha Girard asked what types of products will be available to the relevant jurisdictions resulting from these studies. Sam Hinojosa replied that the mapping resulting from the analysis will be incorporated into the Lower Brazos flood quilt which is a publicly available dataset. However, the mapping will not be a regulatory product. Ryan Londeen added that the models created will also be made available to the public.

Ryan Londeen presented a scope of work for investigating a Lower Brazos Flood Warning System. He also presented on some of the results from the original Lower Brazos survey of the entities in the region who has provided responses on the use or desire for flood warning systems.

Sujeeth Drakshram asked if a mobile application or web-based interface is going to be recommended or created as part of this effort. Ryan Londeen replied that the team will be looking at creating a database of readily available information to make available to the public. Additionally, the team will correspond with other agencies on proposed flood warning systems that will become available to the public to ensure effort is not being duplicated.

Sujeeth Drakshram asked if evacuation routes would be considered when looking at where flood alert systems are needed, or if there is information on this resulting from the Lower Brazos survey. Sam Hinojosa and Ryan Londeen replied that there was not a question directly applicable to this in the Lower Brazos survey, but that evacuation routes can be considered within the analysis.

Alysha Girard recommended corresponding with TDEM for more context on state-wide regional alert system planning.

Sam Hinojosa provided an overview of requests received for the inclusion of additional FMPs into the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan from FIF Cat 1 studies. Brandon Wade explained that in the State Water Planning process, additional requests are added into the plans when received. Alysha Girard expressed concern any requests during the amendment process could be costly, especially if the necessary data is not provided to incorporate into the amended plan.

Ryke Moore explained that the FIF Cat 1 studies are being managed by the TWDB and any recommended FMPs should be ready to incorporate into the Regional Flood Plan amendment. However, any FMPs will still need to be vetted by the technical consultant team and approved by the Regional Flood Planning Group.

Matt Phillips expressed that the flood planning process should be locally driven, so additional FMPs should be considered and included pending they meet the necessary requirements. Sujeeth Drakshram proposed voting once for all the potential requested FMPs resulting from FIF studies. Sam Hinojosa stated that FMPs resulting from FIF studies should meet all TWDB requirements as long as they were developed per TWDB guidance. It should not be a huge lift to add them to the Regional Flood Plan. Hinojosa stated that any submitted FMPs from FIF Category 1 studies would be considered and brought to the RFPG in the March meeting. Any others submitted after the March meeting would not be brought forward for consideration.

7.3. Budget and Schedule discussion and possible Amendment

Sam Hinojosa explained that the Technical Consultant Team is requesting to move any remaining Task 1-11 funds to Task 12-13 to assist in the amendment process. The funds to be moved were in the amount of \$46,057.43.

8. ACTION ITEM: Approve amendment to move any remaining Task 11 funds to Task 13.

Motion was made by Sujeeth Drakshram to move any remaining funds from Task 1-11 to Task 12-13 and second by Anthony Beach. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ryke Moore provided the TWDB Report to the RFPG.

10. Report from the Regional Planning Sponsor

Pamela Hannemann provided the Sponsor Report to the RFPG.

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

The Chair requested a motion for approval of the Finance Report expenditures through December 31, 2022, as presented. Motion was made by Sujeeth Draksharam and second by Anthony Beach. Motion passed unanimously.

12. 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.

13. Report from Liaisons (Region 6, Coastal, Region 7, Brazos G and Region H)

Liaisons did not have any reports to the RFPG.

14. Report from Lower Brazos RFPG Chair

The Chair did not have a report.

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

No new business was brought forth for the next meeting

16. ACTION ITEM: Establish and adopt regular meeting schedule for this calendar year

The Lower Brazos RFPG adopts the regular meeting schedule of the 4th Thursday of the month at 10:00am for this calendar year. The RFPG made the decision to forgo a monthly meeting for February. The next meeting will be held on March 23, 2023. Motion was made by Sujeeth Draksharam to adopt the this meeting schedule and motion was seconded by Claudia Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

17. Adjourn

Brandon Wade adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the March 23, 2023 meeting.



[Matt Phillips \(Mar 24, 2023 10:46 CDT\)](#)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



Alysha Girard, Chair










Minutes January 26 Group Meeting

Final Audit Report

2023-03-24

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