

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

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

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, March 23, 2023

Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams

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

1. Call Meeting to Order and Attendance

Alysha Girard presided over the meeting in Waco, TX. Ms. Girard called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

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

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

2. Public Input - Public comments on agenda items or flood planning issues (limited to 3 minutes each)

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

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.

3. Consent Agenda

3.1. Approval of Minutes from the January 26, 2023 meeting

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

Alysha Girard opened the floor for approval of the consent Agenda Items. The consent agenda items were approved as presented. Brandon Wade made the motion to approve the consent agenda items and Anthony Beach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

4.1. Update on Tasks 12 and 13

Sam Hinojosa provided an overview of the RFPG's previous discussions and decisions regarding the restriction on recommending FMPs with drainage areas less than 1 square mile. He discussed additional FMPs provided by communities after the Final Regional Flood Plan was submitted.

Chair Alysha Girard commented expressed concern that some communities intentionally did not submit their FMPs since they would not have been recommended under the 1 square mile restriction, so it may be unfair to change this so late in the process. Brandon Wade, Sujeeth Draksharam, and Glenn Lord expressed concern over changing decisions that RFPG established early in the planning cycle. Smaller projects could be reconsidered in the next cycle.

Jenna Blohm provided an overview of the progress to date on the development of a Flood Early Warning System for the Lower Brazos Region. Sam Vernon (City of Bryan) and Jacob Torres presented over the City of Bryan's Flood Early Warning System (B-FEWS).

Ryan Londeen and Hector Olmos provided an update on the Regional Watershed Studies. Sujeeth Draksharam asked if lowering the total flow within Sulphur Creek would provide benefits to the tributaries. Ryan Londeen replied that the confluences of the tributaries and mainstem would likely be benefited by this type of effort. The Consultant Team will further investigate how lowering Sulphur Creek would affect the flooding throughout the Lampasas area.

Sujeeth Draksharam requested that the quantified number of structures at risk be provided to the RFPG. Ryan confirmed that this will be provided for the specific mitigation alternatives at the April 2023 meeting. Chair Alysha

Girard emphasized that the primary intent of these efforts is to get entities better information so that they can determine what solutions may work for their communities.

Sam Hinojosa provided an overview of the budget spent to date and proposed additional work that could be performed within the Task 12 and 13 budgets. Suggested additional FMEs and also converting some FMEs to FMPs. Sujeeth Draksharam asked for clarification on how much budget is being set aside for work on the FEWS investigation. Sam Hinojosa replied that the Technical Consultant Team will bring a breakdown of the budget to the April 2023 meeting. The RFPG approved the Technical Consultant Team to move forward with a mixture of additional FMEs and FMEs to FMPs. Chair Alysha Girard encouraged the team to check in with the communities before pushing anything forward.

Sam Hinojosa provided an overview of the proposed TWDB ranking. Alysha Girard mentioned that she believes the ranking for funding will be like this. Charlotte Gilpin asked if all our FMPs have data for each of the criteria, or if there are in gaps in data that are influencing the ranking. Sam Hinojosa replied that all the requested information was supplied. However, the FMPs for the Lower Brazos Region are primarily in rural areas that do not have high structural or population counts. Sam Hinojosa mentioned that Halff will be submitting comments on the ranking criteria.

Chair Alysha Girard pointed out that there was a metric that the TWDB did not use – Regional Distribution. She believes this would help the ranking more accurately represent regionality. She expressed that without a regionality factor, the restriction on recommendation of FMPs with drainage area of less than 1 square mile could harm the Lower Brazos Region.

The RFPG members asked the TWDB for more clarification on the restriction of recommending FMPs with drainage areas less than 1 square mile. Reem Zoun replied that the 1 square mile restriction was intended to screen out “driveway projects” from the plan. The TWDB gave the regions flexibility in the restriction so that they could represent their region’s characteristics. However, the guidance stands as written in Exhibit C and other documentation. Chair Alysha Girard suggested that the Lower Brazos Region may need to generate some hard rules to help define the “other reasons” to recommend FMPs with drainage areas less than 1 square mile.

Charlotte Gilpin asked if there has been any data aggregated by the TWDB on what metrics the other regions used to determine recommendation for FMPs with drainage areas less than 1 square mile. Reem Zoun replied that the TWDB has not looked into what reasoning the regions used to recommend FMPs with drainage areas less than 1 square mile. The TWDB will investigate this and supply the Lower Brazos RFPG with their findings. Charlotte Gilpin commented that this the criteria for recommending FMPs should be uniform across the regions if the FMPs are going to be ranked directly against each other with no adjustment for different criteria. Sujeeth Draksharam expressed that he believes the BCA should be the primary factor for ranking and allotment of future funding.

5. Report from:

5.1. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff

Ryke Moore provided the TWDB Report to the RFPG.

5.2. Regional Planning Sponsor – No report

5.3. Lower Brazos RFPG Liaisons and Chair

No report from Liaisons, Chair briefly reported on the recent TWDB Chair’s Conference Call.

6. Confirm next meeting date and discuss new business to be considered at next meeting

Next meeting will be the 4th Thursday of April 2023.

7. Adjourn

Alysha Girard adjourned the meeting at 11:52 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the meeting held on April 27, 2023.



Matt Phillips (May 3, 2023 10:40 CDT)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



Alysha Girard, Chair

Minutes March 23 Group Meeting

Final Audit Report

2023-05-03

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