

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING Brazos River Authority, 4600 Cobbs Dr. Waco, TX 76710

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, May 4, 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

Anthony Beach presided over the meeting in Waco, TX. Mr. Beach called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Anthony Beach	P	Charlotte Gilpin	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P		

Quorum Present: **Yes**.

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

Anthony Beach opened the floor for public comments. No comments were received by the group.

3. Discussion on the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group (LBRFPG) allowing additional exceptions to the 1 square mile rule beyond those specifically listed by the TWDB

All Technical Committee members expressed that they originally wanted to enforce the restriction on recommending FMPs with contributing areas less than 1 square mile. However, after seeing the proposed TWDB project ranking and hearing that most the other regions are recommending FMPs with contributing areas less than 1 square mile they believe the restriction needs to be revisited.

All Technical Committee members expressed concern over being inequitable with criteria across regions or to entities within the Lower Brazos Region by changing criteria abruptly.

4. Discussion on what additional specific criteria should be recommended to ensure the original intent of “regional” is met

Sam Hinojosa provided potential criteria that could be used to filter projects with drainage areas less than 1 square mile. Technical Committee members determined that projects should meet the established RFPG goals as well as additional guidance principles established in order to ensure projects are in accordance with TWDB guidance and provide regional benefits.

The Technical Committee reviewed the TWDB guidance on how to recommend projects with drainage areas less than 1 square mile and Sam Hinojosa provided some potential metrics that could be used to align submitted projects with the guidance.

Charlotte Gilpin stated that she believes the TWDB needs to define what benefits to transportation routes are. This can vary extremely across entities. Sujeeth Draksharam suggested considering repetitive loss structures when looking at benefits provided to structures.

The Technical Committee agreed on the following criteria to recommend to the larger Lower Brazos RFPG: FMPs with benefit areas of less than 1 square mile will be recommended by the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group if the submitting community is willing to provide all the necessary data required by the TWDB, the FMP aligns with the goals set by the RFPG, and at least one of the criteria below is met:

- The FMP provides flood mitigation benefits to a critical facility as defined by the TWDB, FEMA, or the State of

Texas.

- The FMP removes an established TxDOT evacuation route from flood risk.
- The FMP removes a low water crossing that is a singular ingress or egress point from flood risk.
- The FMP falls within a high flood risk HUC as defined by the analysis completed under Task 4A.
- The FMP provides flood mitigation benefits to a repetitive loss structure.

5. Discussion on criteria to ensure these exceptions are applied consistently in the regional flood plan

None.

6. Discussion on the timing of when the LBRFPG should consider allowing projects meeting the recommended criteria into the regional flood plan

The Technical Committee expressed concern that the Consultant Team would not have time to process additional FMPs before the submittal date for the Amended Regional Flood Plan. Sam Hinojosa replied that as long as the communities supply all the required data, it is not a huge lift to incorporate additional FMPs into the plan. The Technical Committee agreed that adding in as many FMPs as possible is beneficial for the Lower Brazos Region, additionally communities can continue to submit their FMPs for consideration during subsequent amendment processes under the new criteria.

The Technical Committee agreed that all FMPs received to date should be evaluated and recommended if they meet the criteria set forth, or if they have contributing areas of greater than 1 square mile. Additionally, the 3 FMPs previously moved to the non-recommended list due to having contributing areas of less than 1 square mile should be re-evaluated using the criteria discussed.

7. Discussion and consideration of any other information that would be beneficial for the full RFPG to consider regarding the 1 square mile rule

None.

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

No meeting needed prior to the next full RFPG meeting on May 25th at 10 AM.

9. Adjourn

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the May 25, 2023, meeting.

Matt Phillips, Secretary

Alysha Girard, Chair