

Meeting Minutes

REGION 8 - LOWER BRAZOS REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Brazos River Authority, Lt. Gen. Phillip J. Ford Central Office,
4600 Cobbs Dr. Waco, TX 76710

10:00 a.m. – Thursday, February 20, 2025

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

1. Call Meeting to Order and Attendance

Announcement: Susan Alford submitted her resignation to the planning group on February 12, 2025 due to undergoing a prolonged recovery due to a car accident in December 2024.

Anthony Beach presided over the meeting in Waco, TX. Mr. Beach called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Susan Alford	A	David Lilly		A
Anthony Beach	P	Tim Finley		P
Carl Burch	A	Matt Phillips		P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Mark Vogler		P
Charlotte Gilpin	P	Brandon Wade		P
Alysha Girard	P	Claudia Wright Alt. David Scott		P

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

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 public comments.

3. Consent Agenda

3.1. Approval of Minutes from the December 12, 2024 meeting

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

Anthony Beach opened the floor for approval of the Consent Agenda Items. The December 12, 2024, meeting minutes and finance report were approved as presented. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to approve the consent agenda items and Brandon Wade seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and possible action on the report from the technical consultant.

The Technical Consultant Team provided an overview of a technical call hosted by the TWDB including updates on data received, upcoming data availability, interim deliverable deadline changes, and the impact of these deadline shifts on the schedule for task completion.

The Technical Consultant Team provided an update on the community questionnaire including who it was sent to, when it was distributed, and upcoming additional outreach efforts. The community questionnaire deadline was adjusted from March 26th to April 25th to reflect the shifts in interim deadlines. Charlotte Gilpin requested that the public outreach materials are also sent to RFPG members so they can support personal outreach and be aware of the information being presented to communities. The Technical Consultant Team confirmed that they will ensure RFPG members are included on future outreach.

The Technical Consultant Team introduced Task 2A Existing Conditions Flood Risk Analyses and presented what data is available to develop the existing conditions flood risk layer, the TWDB recommendation for data priority, and Half's recommendation for data prioritization.

Anthony Beech asked for clarification on how the final layer is selected for a given area. Ryan Londeen replied that the layers are prioritized based on what provides the most accurate information; the TWDB has provided a recommended prioritization, but the RFPG ultimately decides on priorities for their region. Anthony Beech mentioned that FEMA typically prioritizes the latest data as the best data. Ryan Londeen agreed that this is FEMA's process, but the RFPG does not have to follow the same process since the flood quilt is not a regulatory product.

Sujeeth Draksharam asked why it is important to map 10-year, pluvial flood risk. Ryan Londeen replied that this is required by the TWDB within their scope of work. The data will help characterize frequent flooding and identify regions prone to flooding from sources other than rivers, channels, and creeks. Sujeeth Draksharam agreed that it is important to include a comprehensive assessment of flooding. He expressed concern on including extreme detail, such as storm sewer, due to creating inconsistency in the level of detail mapped throughout the region. Ryan Londeen agreed that consistency is something that should be considered; however, there will be variations across the region regardless of how this is approached. The Technical Consultant Team plans to use the best mapping data available, not develop new modeling and mapping directly. The Technical Consultant Team will not be modeling storm sewer networks. Alysha Girard stated that all information incorporated into the flood quilt should inform regional flood risk.

Alysha Girard expressed her support for the prioritization approach recommended by the Technical Consultant Team.

Anthony Beech mentioned that Fathom data should likely be prioritized over FEMA Zone A data. Sujeeth Draksharam agreed. Ryan Londeen mentioned that it is unlikely that FEMA Zone A would be utilized anywhere since BLE provides complete coverage of the Lower Brazos Region. The Technical Consultant Team will look at revising the proposed prioritization approach to reflect this.

The RFPG and Technical Consultant team discussed the difference in approaches for large and small rivers. The Technical Consultant Team explained that large rivers typically have more complex hydrologic conditions which are not fully captured through regression equations used by BLE. FEMA Zone AE studies for these large rivers typically utilize flood frequency analyses and other hydrologic methods tailored for large river watersheds.

The RFPG and Technical Consultant Team agreed to further discuss the prioritization after they have had time to consider the information. The Technical Consultant Team will work with the TWDB to get buy in on the variation from the TWDB prioritization and develop detailed documentation supporting the alternative prioritization and potential exceptions. Each area within the region will be considered individually to select the best data.

The Technical Consultant Team provided an overview of what will be discussed at the next RFPG meeting.

5. Discussion and possible action on adoption of the proposed Amendment of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan Report.

Chair requested a motion for the Lower Brazos RFPG to adopt the proposed Amendment of the 2023 Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan Report – Amendment No. 2. Alysha Girard made the motion to approve the consent agenda items and Sujeeth Draksharam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action of approval for the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group to authorize the Regional Flood Planning Group sponsor to execute an amendment to the contract with the TWDB to extend the interim submittal deadlines for 2028 Regional Flood Plans

Chair requested a motion for the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group to authorize the Regional Flood Planning Group sponsor to execute an amendment to the contract with the TWDB and execute a sub-contract

amendment with Halff to extend the interim submittal deadlines for 2028 Regional Flood Plans. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to approve the consent agenda items and Mark Vogler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Report from:

7.1. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff

Tressa Olson provided the TWDB Report to the RFPG.

7.2. Regional Planning Sponsor

No Sponsor report.

7.3. Lower Brazos RFPG Liaisons and Chair

The Chair gave a brief report.

8. Discussion and possible action on Election of Officers, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and 2 At-Large Members of the Executive Committee

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and 2 at-large Members of the Executive Committee. Brandon Wade made the motion for Chair- Alysha Girard, Vice- Chair- Anthony Beach, at-Large Member – Sujeeth Draksharam, and at-Large Member – Charlotte Gilpin. Mark Vogler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action on meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year

Motion was made to adopt the schedule of monthly meetings with the latitude for the Chair to cancel if a meeting is not needed at that time. The motion was made by Sujeeth Draksharam and seconded by Charlotte Gilpin.

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

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

11. Adjourn

Anthony Beach adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the meeting held on March 20, 2025.



[Matt Phillips \(Apr 17, 2025 16:38 CDT\)](#)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



[Alysha Girard \(Apr 17, 2025 14:47 CDT\)](#)

Alysha Girard, Chair

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Final Audit Report

2025-04-17

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