

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, April 17, 2025

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 10:00 am.

Susan Alford (Resigned)	R	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		A
Alysha Girard	P	Claudia Wright (Resigned)		R

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)

Alysha Girard opened the floor for public comments. No public comments.

3. Consent Agenda

3.1. Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2025 meeting

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

Alysha Girard opened the floor for approval of the Consent Agenda Items. February 20, 2025, meeting minutes and finance report were approved as presented. Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to approve the consent agenda items and Anthony Beach 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 update on the proposed prioritization and approach for developing the Existing Conditions Flood Risk quilt. Alysha Girard asked if GLO models will be collected and incorporated into the flood quilt. Ryan Londeen confirmed that the team is planning to include these as “community models”. They will likely override all other data sources where available.

The RFPG encouraged the Technical Consultant team to ensure that the resulting data be transparent on what data source was used in any given area. The Technical Consultant team confirmed that the data will be available through a public viewer and brought to public roadshows so the public can provide comments and see the data sources.

Sujeeth Draksharam asked for clarification on if crossing structures are included within 2D BLE models. Ryan Londeen responded that the structures are only approximated in the models; however, in most cases it is not very impactful on the results within the Lower Brazos Region. The accuracy of the updated land use, terrain, and rainfall is more impactful than the incorporation of these structures which is why the Technical Consultant team is recommending that 2D BLE be ranked above FEMA NFHL. In most urban areas, communities have models that will be leveraged, and these do capture road crossings and other critical infrastructure.

The RFPG agreed with the prioritization approach recommended by the Technical Consultant team. They encouraged

the team to look at each area on a case-by-case basis in case of inaccuracies in any of the data sources.

The Technical Consultant team presented an overview of Task 2B (Future Conditions Flood Risk Analysis). The team is currently downloading and analyzing the Fathom data provided by the TWDB the week of 4/14. Alysha Girard mentioned that we should fully vet the data and consult with other regions before making any final decisions. The Technical Consultant team agreed. Other approaches for estimating future flood risk will be considered alongside Fathom data.

Sujeeth Draksharam asked how much impact sea level rise has on the Lower Brazos Region. Nick Boardman replied that it likely impacts primarily impacts Brazoria County with some impact in Fort Bend County. Tim Finley requested that the Technical Consultant team explore this further to see the extent of the impact. The Technical Consultant team agreed. The GLO river basin modeling has a coastal component that will provide insight on the impact of sea level on flooding conditions within the Lower Brazos.

The Technical Consultant team provided an overview of the plan for Public Roadshows. Alysha Girard mentioned it may be beneficial to have a TWDB representatives present who can speak to funding at the roadshows. The RFPG requested clarification on how the virtual meetings would be facilitated. The RFPG expressed concern with the proposed schedule potentially conflicting with hurricane season and back-to-school time. The Technical Consultant team confirmed that they will look into potential scheduling conflicts and provide more detail on the virtual format.

Alysha Girard encouraged the RFPG to provide any Public Roadshow ideas to sponsor Pamela Hannemann to be passed on to the Technical Consultant team.

5. Discussion and possible action on the addition of a new voting member category of Large Municipalities (> 25,000 population) and change of current Municipal category to Small Municipalities category.

Chair requested a motion for the addition of a new voting category of Large Municipalities (>25,000 population) and change of the current Municipalities category to Small Municipalities category. Alysha Girard made the motion to approve the motion and Matt Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Report from:

6.1. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff

Tressa Olson provided the TWDB Report to the RFPG.

6.2. Regional Planning Sponsor

Pam Hannemann gave a brief report on current activities.

6.3. Lower Brazos RFPG Liaisons and Chair

The Chair gave a brief report.

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

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10:00AM. The LBRFP Executive Committee will hold a meeting on May 8, 2025, at 1:00PM.

8. Adjourn

Alysha Girard adjourned the meeting at 11:31 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the meeting held on May 15, 2025.

Matt Phillips, Secretary

Alysha Girard, Chair