

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, June 19, 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.

Anthony Beach	P	Alysha Girard	P
Bruce Bodson	P	Matt Phillips	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Jonathan Steiber	P
Tim Finley	P	Mark Vogler	P
Russell Ford	A	Brandon Wade	A
Charlotte Gilpin	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 May 15, 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. The May 15, 2025, meeting minutes and finance report were approved as presented. Anthony Beach made the motion to approve the consent agenda items and Sujeeth Draksharam seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Report, discussion, and possible action on a recommendation from the Executive Committee on the selection of a candidate for the Large Municipalities interests representative new voting member of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group.

The Lower Brazos RFPG accepted the Executive Committee's recommendation of the selection of Kristina Ramirez to represent Large Municipalities as a voting members of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group.

Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion and Anthony Beach seconded this motion to approve Kristina Ramirez to represent Large Municipalities interests as a voting member of the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The Technical Consultant team provided an update on the schedule and tasks currently underway. Alysha Girard let the group know that the sponsor, TWDB, and technical consultant team will be hosting a new member orientation at next month's meeting to provide them context on regional flood planning and where the group is currently in the planning cycle.

The Technical Consultant team provided an overview of Task 3B – Needs Analysis. The RFPG discussed some

additional metrics that should be considered within the analysis including loss of life and impact of flooding on agriculture. The RFPG instructed the Technical Consultant Team to only include data driven categories. Some categories, including CRS scores, NFIP participation, and Hazard Mitigation Plan availability can be deceiving due to community resources driving their participation in these programs. The RFPG also encouraged the Technical Consultant Team to carefully assess the weighting of the metrics. The Technical Team committed to reviewing these items and bringing back an updated analysis for the RFPG's consideration.

The Technical Consultant Team introduced Task 3C – Flood Planning Goals, reminding the group of the goals from last cycle. The RFPG has little power to incentive the region to make progress on these goals as that is largely dependent on funding and community action. However, the group can directly provide support through the performance of FMEs (Task 4C and 5B). Alysha Girard mentioned that the key item is that FMX recommendation is dependent on the item meeting one of the goals. The RFPG should keep the goals broad so that FMXs are not unintentionally filtered out. The Technical Consultant Team agreed. They will assist communities in aligning their needs with the goals to ensure they meet the TWDB criteria. The RFPG encouraged the Technical Consultant Team to not change the goals too significantly. There has not been much time for progress due to the first cycle being on a condensed timeline.

The Technical Consultant Team provided an overview of *Task 4A – Identification and Evaluation of FMXs* with a focus on the FMX classification process. The main difference from last cycle is an “age-out” process to clean out old FMXs that were not directly submitted by a community. Ryan recommended keeping the 1-square minimum FMX size rule since any projects smaller than this will not be competitive for funding anyway. Communities are only considered sponsors if they have provided confirmation of their support in writing (typically email). The intent of active sponsorship is to ensure there are not any items recommended in the plan that entities do not like or do not have an interest in. The Technical Consultant Team has a master contact list that is continuously updated to facilitate proactive outreach. The website update will also include a comprehensive, interactive list of FMXs for entities to review. The RFPG discussed public outreach and potential methods to allow communities, RFPG members, and the general public to track if their entity is actively participating in flood planning. The Technical Consultant Team will look into how this information could be conveyed without posting personal contacts.

The Technical Consultant Team provided an overview of *Task 4C – Performance of FMEs* with a focus on gage interested on when to start this task. This task can be started now, but the Technical Team recommended holding off until later in the year until more information is gathered. Data from Task 3B will be available in the fall of 2025 which will help provide insight on areas of the region that have high flood risk or missing flood risk data. The TWDB is also performing a similar task (Task 5B) where it will perform FMEs. So, it's important the FMEs chosen for this task complement what the TWDB is going to do. Additional guidance, timeline, and budget information for Task 5B will be provided by the TWDB in the fall. There is also a hydrology study being completed by the USACE (InFRM WHA) that could potentially be used for updating hydraulics and mapping for larger creeks and rivers in our region. The RFPG asked the Technical Consultant Team to bring Task 4C back for consideration once this data is available. Additionally, the RFPG requested that the Technical Consultant Team reviews hydrology results from InFRM to evaluate how impactful it is.

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

No sponsor report.

6.3. Lower Brazos RFPG Liaisons and Chair

Alysha gave a brief Chair's report.

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

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 10:00AM. The LBRFG will also hold a New Member Orientation meeting immediately following the July 17 regular meeting.

8. Adjourn

Alysha Girard adjourned the meeting at 11:34 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the meeting held on July 17, 2025.



Matt Phillips (Jul 21, 2025 09:19 CDT)

Matt Phillips, Secretary



Alysha L. Girard (Jul 17, 2025 16:20 CDT)

Alysha Girard, Chair

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Final Audit Report

2025-07-21

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