

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, January 15, 2026

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 10:00 am.

Anthony Beach	P	Alysha Girard	P
Bruce Bodson	P	Matt Phillips Alt. Aaron Abel	P
Sujeeth Draksharam	P	Kristina Ramirez	P
Tim Finley	P	Jonathan Steiber	P
Russell Ford	P	Mark Vogler	P
Charlotte Gilpin	P	Brandon Wade	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 for the December 18, 2025 meeting

3.2. Report, Approval and Certification of the Finance Report Expenditures – No Finance Report

Anthony Beach opened the floor for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting as they were presented.

Sujeeth Draksharam made the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes presented and Aaron Abel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation by the TWDB consultant developing the Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Resilience Guidance Manual

Alysha Girard recommended including information on long-term funding and financial planning for the maintenance of nature-based solutions. She also mentioned many funding mechanisms do not currently account for future benefits, which ultimately makes pursuing funding for these types of projects more difficult. The presenter responded that the long-term goal of nature-based solutions is for them to be self-sustaining; however, they acknowledged that this requires significant upfront effort. Kristina Ramirez agreed. She mentioned that nature-based solutions may require specialized maintenance and encouraged this to be included within the manual.

Sujeeth Draksharam mentioned that the implementation of nature-based solutions is largely out of the RFPG's control. They can recommend nature-based solutions, but that is the extent of the RFPG's oversight.

Tim Finley mentioned that he has experienced success with nature-based solutions but acknowledged that they require significant up-front planning and space. He believes the manual will be a helpful tool for communities to become more aware of what nature-based solutions may entail.

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

Action Item: Finalize the method for selecting FMEs to be performed by both the RFPG (Task 4C) and TWDB (Task 5B).

The Technical Consultant Team presented on the proposed definition for “rural communities” for use in the Lower Brazos Regional Flood Plan. The RFPG discussed potential modifications to the proposed definition to better align with the intended use.

Alysha Girard made a motion to approve the proposed definition for “rural communities” as presented by the Technical Consultant Team with the following modification: Where an FME is sponsored by an entity that spans multiple counties, the rurality designation shall be made based on the location of the proposed study instead of considering the full extents of the sponsoring entity. The motion passed.

The Technical Consultant Team presented on the proposed list of FMEs to be performed by the RFPG (Task 4C) and to be performed by the TWDB (Task 5B). The RFPG instructed the Technical Team to reach out to sponsors and confirm their interest in the proposed studies. They provided approval for the team to continue down the list as needed if sponsors declined the offer.

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 Chair

Alysha Girard provided a brief Chair report.

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

The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 10:00AM.

Adjourn

Anthony Beach adjourned the meeting at 11:24 AM.

Approved by the Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG at the meeting held on March 19, 2026.

Matt Phillips, Secretary

Alysha Girard, Chair