

Meeting Minutes
Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2021
9:00 AM
GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Oscar D. "Jay" Ornelas	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	X
Gilberto Saldana Jr.	<i>Counties</i>	X
Jessica Christianson	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Sal Masoud	<i>Industries</i>	X
Javier Acosta	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
David "Dave" Hall	<i>Public</i>	X
Vacant	<i>River authorities</i>	
Rene Rodriguez	<i>Small business</i>	
Omar L. Martinez	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Vacant	<i>Water utilities</i>	

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
James Weaver	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Tim Frere	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Larissa Place	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Ben Wilde	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Sarah Douglas	General Land Office	X
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Anita Keese	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X

<u>Others Present:</u>	
James Bronikowski (TWDB)	Justin Lennon
Reem Zoun (TWDB)	Kelly Dillard, Walter P. Moore
Annette Gutierrez (RGCOC)	Michael Ramirez
Andrew Smith	Morgan White
Allison Wood, Huitt-Zollars	Rene Franks
Anita Machiavello	Rohit Goswami, WSP, USA
Art Reinhardt	Sara Eatman
Ben Wilde	Scott Hubley
G Martinez	Stephanie Castillo
Gisela Dagnino	Steve Gonzales
Gustavo Sosa	Tiffany Cartwright, Walter P. Moore
Guillermo Martinez	Tony Smith
Heather Harris	Wade Barnes
James Weaver	Jennifer Herrera, WSP, USA

1. Welcome and call to order

Chairman Omar Martinez welcomed the group and confirmed that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 9:01 am.

2. Recognition of guests and designated alternates

Chairman Martinez recognized guests and mentioned the flood planning group does not have designated alternates at this time.

3. Member updates

Chairman Martinez asked if the flood planning group members had any updates to share. There were no updates provided by the group.

4. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on November 5, 2020.

Dave Hall made a motion to accept the Minutes with the exception of revising item 14 to include the January 21, 2021, date and include the Secretary's name for signature once that position is chosen. Sal Mousad seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. TWDB- Updates and Presentation

Richard Bagans, Planner, Regional Flood Planning, Texas Water Development Board, provided updates and a presentation to the group.

6. Consider nominating and electing Vice Chair and Secretary

Dave Hall made a motion to nominate Jeff Bennett as the Vice-Chair. Omar Martinez seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

Sal Masoud made a motion to nominate Javier Acosta as the Secretary. Gilbert Saldana seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Consider nominating and electing member(s)-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee

Omar Martinez made a motion to nominate Dave Hall to the Executive Committee as an at-large member. Sal Masoud seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

Gilbert Saldana made a motion to self-nominate himself to also serve on the executive committee. Jay Ornelas seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Discussion on required member training on the Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act

Annette Gutierrez, Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG), informed the group that all should go through the training offered by the Texas Attorney General's Office. She also stated she would send the link to where the video could be viewed.

9. Update on URGFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill required member positions (River authorities, Water utilities)

Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, informed the group the nominations will be due February 22nd and the Executive Committee will be able to review and recommend their nominations no sooner than ten calendar days after the deadline for submitting nominations to the general membership.

10. Update on the status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with TWDB

Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, informed the group that RGCOG was submitting their grant application to the TWDB on January 21, 2021. Ms. Gutierrez also mentioned of the entire \$1,081,800 available for the region, \$60,000 can be used to cover administrative expenses.

11. Consider a means by which the URGFPG will develop and host a public website (required per §361.21(b))

Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, informed the group she would prefer to use the water planning group website for the flood planning group as well. Ms. Gutierrez stated she would bring back additional information at the next meeting for this initiative.

12. Discussion and consider taking action on group policies for handling public comments.

Chairman Martinez asked for Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, to provide the proposed group policies for handling public comments. Ms. Gutierrez provided the following information.

- If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to annette@riogcog.org and include "Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting" in the subject line of the email.
- If you wish to provide oral public comments at the meeting, please submit a request via email to annette@riogcog.org in advance of the meeting.
- Additional information may be obtained from: Rio Grande Council of Governments; 8037 Lockheed, Ste 100, El Paso, TX 79925 or via email at annetteg@riocog.org.

Sal Masoud made a motion to approve and Jay Ornelas seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

13. Consider a means by which the URGFPG will accept written public comment prior to and after meetings (required per §361.21(c)).

No action was taken.

14. Discussion of the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of URGFPG activities (required per §361.21(e)).

Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, informed the group through the gotomeeting software, she has been able to capture those who are in attendance. She can then create a list serve to inform interested parties of the group's activities. Secondly, she mentioned she could add additional information on the website so they can follow. She also said she can email the region's county clerks, judges and water entities.

15. Discussion and consider taking action on allowing the RGCOG to accept annual supplemental funds for the URGFPG from willing local entities.

Chairman Martinez informed the group that he would like to replicate the same membership due approach that is used by the Water Planning Group for the flood planning group. Dave Hall made a motion and Jeff Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

16. General public comments

There were no comments from the public.

17. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

After much discussion on what agenda items to include and what date to have the next meeting, the group decided to have the Executive Committee meet on March 4, 2021 at 9:30 AM, MST, to review the nominations for the vacancies and later have a general membership meeting at 10:30 AM, MST.

18. Adjournment

Dave Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 AM, MST. Sal Madoud seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.