

Meeting Minutes
Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
10:30 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>	X
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	
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

Others Present:	
Annette Gutierrez (RGCOC)	Heather Harris, Carollo Engineers
James Bronkowski (TWDB)	Karen Perez - Freese and Nichols
Rick Prieto - CONSOR	Kelly Dillard
Allison Wood - Huitt-Zollars	Rene Franks/Parkhill
Art Reinhardt (WSP)	Rick Prieto - CONSOR
Gustavo Sosa - Parkhill	Ross Gordon - CONSOR

1. Welcome and call to order

Chairman Omar Martinez welcomed the group and confirmed that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 10:33 am.

2. Recognition of guests and designated alternates

Chairman Martinez recognized voting, non-voting members, and guests.

3. Member updates

Chairman Martinez provided an update to the group. He participated in a meeting where all the regions' Chairs' met with Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) staff. They exchanged information with each other stating where they were in the planning cycle. He said some regions are farther along than others. He also said that no group has chosen a consultant yet as well as getting more representation from rural areas. He concluded by saying that they will be having more Chairs meetings throughout the year and he will update the group.

4. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on January 21, 2021.

Jay Ornelas made a motion to accept the Minutes except for revising item 14. The word listserv replaced the previous misspelled word. Secondly, item 15, added an "s" to the word due. Sal Mousad seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously. Dave Hall also noted the Minutes reflect there would be an update on the website but it is not listed on the current agenda.

5. Review and approve recommendations from the Executive Committee members for the required member positions for River Authorities and Water Utilities.

The Executive Committee recommended to the general membership Gisela Dagnino, P.E., to serve as the representative for Water Utilities. Dave Hall made a motion to have Gisela Dagnino, P.E., serve as the representative for Water Utilities. Gilbert Saldaña seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

6. TWDB- Updates and Presentation

Richard Bagans, Planner, TWDB Regional Flood Planning, provided updates to the general membership. Mr. Bagans mentioned TWDB is working with RGCOG in executing their grant agreement. It is in the final stages of edits and is being routed internally. It will then be sent to RGCOG for execution. He also mentioned TWDB's guidance document is forthcoming. This document, which is over 100 pages long, will provide explicit instructions on how each of the ten tasks will be accomplished. It will be available in the next week for public comment. He mentioned the document is technical and is geared more for the Technical Consultant. He also said members who are not as well versed in this arena may look to the Scope of Work to understand.

Richard also discussed how flood planning groups are selecting their liaisons to attend meetings for other regions. He mentioned the Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group (URGFPG) will be choosing a liaison for Region 15 and how they have already selected someone to serve as a liaison for the URGFPG. He said a liaison's main purpose is to listen and advocate.

7. Consider designating a Liaison from Region 15 – Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group to serve as a non-voting member as required per §361.11(f)(8) of the Texas Administrative Code.

As required, the URGFPG is required to select a member from the group to serve a liaison to Region 15. Sarah Douglas, who is a non-voting member, self-nominated herself as the Liaison to Region 15-

Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group. Sal Masoud made a motion to appoint Sarah Douglas to Region 15. Jay Ornelas seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Consideration of appropriate changes to the Region 14 Bylaws.

Dave Hall made a motion to remove the sentence, “no sooner than ten calendar days after the deadline for submitting nominations”, from Section 4 Selection of Members, 4.1 Filling Vacancies, second paragraph. The motion was seconded by Sal Masoud. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

9. Update Schedule Pre-Planning Meeting as required by TWDB

Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, informed the group that a Pre-Planning meeting geared toward the public is required of the TWDB. She mentioned the meeting can take place within a Flood Planning meeting as an agenda item. Richard Bagans has a short presentation available to present to the group. Chairman Martinez said he was fine with the meeting being placed as an agenda item and the rest of the group agreed as well.

10. Update on Request for Qualifications for Technical Consultant

Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, informed the group that proposals are due March 19th, 2021, at 5:00 pm, Mountain Time. She also explained that the Executive Committee will be scoring the proposals on April 6, 2021, at 9:30 am, Mountain Time. She also mentioned that she would be working with TWDB in determining TWDB’s timeline in securing the technical consultant.

11. General public comments

Rick Prieto with Consor Engineering, informed the group they will be submitting a proposal.

12. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

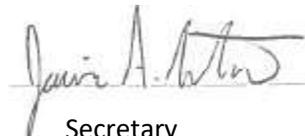
The group decided to set the next meeting on April 20, 2021, at 10:30 AM, Mountain Time, and an Executive Committee meeting at 9:30 am. The agenda items include the pre-planning meeting, extending the membership, and repost the River Authority vacancy, TWDB Scope of Work presentation, website update, and old business for discussion, and updates from both liaisons. Sarah Douglas also mentioned to the group if they want anything for her to discuss with the other group, please let her know.

13. Adjournment

Sal Masoud made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 am, Mountain Time. Jeff Bennet seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

3/16/21

Date


Secretary