

AGENDA
REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP
GENERAL MEETING
May 20, 2021
9:00 AM (MDT)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/330912309>

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United States: +1 (786) 535-3211

Access Code: 330-912-309

DISCUSS WITH ACTION AS APPROPRIATE ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Welcome and call to order
2. Recognition of guests
3. Member updates
4. RGCOG. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on April 15, 2021
[April 15, 2021, Minutes](#)
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Taskbar containing icons for Windows Explorer, Microsoft Edge, File Explorer, Google Chrome, and various application shortcuts. System tray on the right shows the date and time: 9:07 AM, 5/20/2021.

meetings because of technology. Jay Ornelas suggested the group could utilize Sul Ross University as a possible venue.

- 8. **Consideration of appropriate changes to the Region 14 Bylaws.**
Annette Gutierrez asked for the general membership to consider amending the bylaws to 4.1 Filling Vacancies and reduce the deadline for submission of nominations between thirty and forty-five calendar days from the date that public notice was posted to fifteen days. Dave Hall made a motion to reduce the time from thirty and forty-five days to fifteen days. Rene Rodriguez seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 9. **Take action to consider adding additional members from interest categories**
Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, informed the group there is an opportunity for them to increase their membership base. She mentioned in the previous meeting the group expressed interest in adding another position for Water Utilities. Rene Rodriguez mentioned his only concern is that the membership does not become lop-sided. Dave Hall made a motion to increase the membership for Water Utilities and the Public. Rene Rodriguez seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 10. **Take action to consider adding the International Water Boundary Commission as a non-voting member.** Dave Hall made a motion to add the International Water Boundary Commission (IBWC) as a non-voting member as a non-voting member representing the International Water Boundary Commission. Jay Ornelas seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously. Chairman Martinez informed the group that IBWC internally decided to appoint Delbert Humberson as their representative.

- 11. **Consider posting the River Authority vacancy.**
Gisela Dagnino made a motion to post the River Authority vacancy. Rene Rodriguez seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 12. **Update from Liaisons from both Region 15 – Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group, Vanessa Rosales-Herrera, and Region 14-Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group, Sarah Douglas.** Vanessa Rosales-Herrera, who serves as the Liaison to Region 14 from Region 15, mentioned her region is in the same timeline as ours where they just recently approved their technical consultant. Dave Hall asked if our group should be also coordinating with other surrounding planning besides Region 15. Richard Bagans explained we are only required to liaise with Region 15

inform these groups because of their expertise. Mr. Bagans reminded the group they will still need to conduct a second pre-planning meeting as requires, so they could look at having the meeting in a different location. Annette was tasked by the group to look at possible locations to include Alpine, Ft. Stockton, or somewhere further east in late May or early June.

Gisela Dagnino asked Annette Gutierrez how soon could the RGCOG secure a contract with AECOM because she is concerned about getting the public on board soon. Annette explained it will be at the May board meeting but the date is not solidified yet. Dave Hall raised concern about the need to secure the contract soon since they are due dates coming up from TWDB based on the conceptual schedule. Richard Bagans mentioned the dates identified are target dates and they are flexible except for the technical memo and the Final Plan. Annette Gutierrez said she would aim for a May 7th board meeting.

Rene Rodriguez mentioned the community of Socorro has had difficulty participating in virtual meetings because of technology. Jay Ornelas suggested the group could utilize Sul Ross University as a possible venue.

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Dave Hall asked if the group wants to ensure there is public participation from the entire region, can TWDB make presentations at different locations, such as Alpine? Mr. Bagans said that initiative will be determined by the planning sponsor and the group but TWDB will assist in determining who is the best person to speak on this item. He said it is appropriate and suggested moving the meetings to different locations but it is contingent on what is most feasible. Post pandemic there will be opportunities to have a hybrid meeting allowing for in-person and virtual.

Dave Hall raised concern that the group should do as much as they can to inform the public of this process to ensure they are aware and engaged soon. However, TWDB staff is the best suited to inform these groups because of their expertise. Mr. Bagans reminded the group they will still need to conduct a second pre-planning meeting as requires, so they could look at having the meeting in a different location. Annette was tasked by the group to look at possible locations to include Alpine, Ft. Stockton, or somewhere further east in late May or early June.

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10. Take action to consider adding the International Water Boundary Commission as a non-voting

Annette Gutierrez informed the group that she was able to secure a quote from the Rio Grande Council of Governments' web developer. She mentioned the quote is for \$5,500. When including the indirect cost rate the total cost for this effort is \$7,219.90. Ms. Gutierrez explained the contributions that will be made from El Paso County Water Improvement District #1 and El Paso Water Utilities will cover these costs, based on her understanding that the website creation was unallowable. Chairman Martinez reminded the group that contributions like the ones made by these two entities will allow the Rio Grande Council of Governments to administer the program. Gisela asked how often would they make the contributions. Chairman Martinez mentioned if this group is to follow the Water Planning Group, the dues would be yearly. Ms. Dagnino also mentioned that part of AECOM's proposal included public relations activities from Barracuda Public Relations firm. Chairman Martinez agreed they would be doing this function but also mentioned it would be good for the RGCOG to have some of their equipment if needed. Ms. Gutierrez also mentioned to the group she would work with the Chair to see what kind of dues structure can be created for the future. Richard Bagans informed the group that this cost is an allowable expense. Annette Gutierrez then informed the group that she will not be asking El Paso Water Utilities for the previously mentioned funding. Gisela Dagnino asked Annette to still send an invoice to them to assist in starting the fund.

14. Discussion of Old Business

Dave Hall requested that AECOM should be made aware of the suggested dates from TWDB for the tasks mentioned in the Scope of Work. Dave reminded the group Tasks 1-3 should be completed by July of 2021. Gisela Dagnino informed the group that El Paso Water Utilities has worked with AECOM previously and said they always stay on task on finish the work on time.

15. General public comments

There were no public comments.

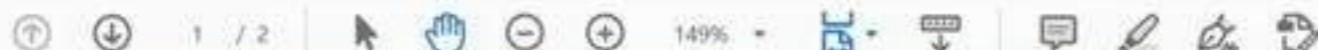
16. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

The group decided to set the next meeting on May 20, 2021, at 9:00 AM, Mountain Time, and an Executive Committee meeting on May 18, 2021, at 9:00 am. The agenda items include voting on the

vacancies for the positions mentioned, pre-planning, discuss any old business, receive updates from both liaisons and have AECOM present to the group.

17. Adjourn

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 am, Mountain Time. Javier Acosta



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[AECOM Organizational Chart](#)
9. Chair Discussion of Old Business



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May 10, 2021

Annette Gutierrez
Executive Director
Rio Grande Council of Governments
8037 Lockheed, Suite 100
El Paso, Texas 79925

Re: Nomination to the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group

Dear Ms. Gutierrez,

Thank you for reaching out to me concerning an open position to the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group. I would like to reiterate my interests in membership to the group and would like to offer my time and service. As previously provided, I carry a nomination from Ector Commissioner Mr. Greg Simmons with a supplemental letter of recommendation from Mr. Brooks Landgraf, State Representative.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group. I hope my educational and professional experiences can be beneficial to the group while working for the betterment of West Texas through water resources management and planning.

With the utmost appreciation,

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