

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2020**  
**9:00 AM**  
**GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting**

**Roll Call:**

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Oscar D. "Jay" Ornelas	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	
Gilberto Saldana Jr.	<i>Counties</i>	x
Jessica Christianson	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	x
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environmental interests</i>	x
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Sal Masoud	<i>Industries</i>	X (arrived at 9:20am)
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 (arrived at 9:50am)
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	x
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

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **8**

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 11: **6**

**Other Meeting Attendees: \*\***

Matt Nelson, TWDB (Meeting Facilitator)

Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member

Reem Zoun, TWDB

James Bronikowski, TWDB

Morgan White, TWDB

Annette Mass, TWDB

Hayley Gillespie, TWDB

Ron Ellis, TWDB

Jennifer White, TWDB

Chad Ballard

Phil Bullock  
Ramesh Chintala  
Stephanie Castillo  
Gisela Dagnino  
Kelly Dillard  
Rene Franks  
Alem Gebriel  
Annette Gutierrez  
Scott Hubley

Anita Keese  
Amin Kiaghadi  
Justin Lennon  
Gabby Ramos  
Art Reinhardt  
Paul Robinson  
Gustavo Sosa  
Rodrigo Vizcaino  
Jeff Henson

\*\*Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the GoToWebinar meeting.

*All meeting materials are available for the public at:*  
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

**1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order**

Matt Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance and a quorum was established prior to calling the meeting to order.

**2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information and Instructions**

Matt Nelson and Director Kathleen Jackson welcomed members to the meeting. Matt Nelson provided meeting facilitation information and instructions.

**3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Member Introductions**

Each present voting and non-voting member of the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG introduced themselves.

**4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Regional Flood Planning Overview Presentation**

Matt Nelson and Reem Zoun presented an overview of the regional flood planning process.

**5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion of group bylaws and consider adopting group bylaws**

Matt Nelson presented the model bylaws provided by the TWDB for the RFPG to consider adopting and opened discussion on adopting group bylaws.

The members discussed and made edits to the model bylaws regarding the following topics: replacing “Model RFPG” with “Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG” throughout the document, voting membership attendance, selecting initial officers, the selection of regular officers starting in 2022, regular meeting frequency, and amending the bylaws.

The members discussed total voting membership and forming subcommittees. No changes were made regarding these topics.

A motion was made by Omar Martinez to adopt the bylaws, as amended.

The motion was seconded by Dave Hall.

The vote to adopt the group bylaws passed by a vote of 7 Ayes and 0 Nays.

**6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider nominating and electing regional flood planning group Chair or Interim Chair**

Matt Nelson described the Chair/Interim Chair election process and opened the floor to nominations for the Chair or Interim Chair position.

A nomination of Omar Martinez as the Chair was made by Dave Hall.

Omar Martinez discussed his willingness to serve as Chair and familiarity with the flood planning region and other members.

Dave Hall made a motion to select Omar Martinez as the Chair by acclamation.

The motion was seconded by Jessica Christianson.

The nomination of Omar Martinez as the Chair was approved by unanimous consent.

The group then took a 5-minute recess.

**7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the regional flood planning group**

Matt Nelson listed the entities that had expressed interest in serving as the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG's planning group sponsor. These interested entities included:

Rio Grande Council of Governments (COG)

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

Matt Nelson asked if anyone there was anyone in the audience that represented a political subdivision that was interested in acting as the planning group sponsor. No additional interested entities came forward to express interest.

Omar Martinez opened discussion on selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG.

The members discussed selecting Rio Grande COG as the planning group sponsor.

A motion was made by Jeff Bennett to select Rio Grande COG as the designated planning group sponsor for Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG.

Sal Masoud seconded the motion.

The vote to select Rio Grande COG as the planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG passed by unanimous consent.

**8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider additional, region-specific public notice requirements, if any, that might be necessary to ensure adequate public notice in the region per 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(3).**

Matt Nelson described existing notice requirements and opened discussion on identifying additional, region-specific public notice requirements.

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

No points nor comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

No action was taken. Omar Martinez closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider authorizing the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG**

Omar Martinez opened discussion on authorizing the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and to enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG.

No points nor comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by Dave Hall to authorize the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG.

The motion was seconded by Gilberto Saldana.

The vote to authorize the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG passed by unanimous consent.

**10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion of necessary additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region**

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments.

Rodrigo Vizcaino with HDR questioned if the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) would have membership representation.

Omar Martinez opened discussion additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region.

The members discussed IBWC having representation and discussed concerns with adding too many members.

No actions were taken. Omar Martinez closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.

**11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider initiating RFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill vacant required voting member positions**

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

Omar Martinez opened the floor to discussion on initiating RFPG solicitation processes for individuals to fill the vacant required voting member position. The current vacant, required voting positions for Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG are:

Currently Vacant: *River authorities, Water utilities*

Members discussed potential IBWC representation within river authorities.

Gilbert Saldana made a motion to initiate the solicitation process for individuals to fill the vacant required voting member position.

The motion was seconded by Jeff Bennett.

The vote to initiate the RFPG solicitation process passed by unanimous consent.

**12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Receive general public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)**

Omar Martinez opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

**13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

Omar Martinez opened discussion to consider the date and agenda items for the next meeting.

After discussion, Omar Martinez stated that the next meeting will be the week of December 17, 2020. The group decided to disseminate a survey to establish the best time for scheduling the next meeting. Potential agenda items include selecting remaining officers and members of the executive committee, status update on flood maps available in the region, and speakers engaged with stormwater in the region and the IBWC.

#### **14. Adjourn**

Sal Masoud made a motion to adjourn.

The motion was seconded by Jeff Bennett.

The vote to adjourn passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM by Omar Martinez.

*Approved by the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFGP at a meeting held during the week of December 17, 2020 on a date and location to be determined.*

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FIRST AND LAST NAME, SECRETARY

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Omar Martinez, CHAIR