

Meeting Minutes
Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2021
9:00 AM MST/10:00 CST
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>	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

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **7**

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

James Bronikowski (TWDB)	James Weaver
Morgan White (TWDB)	Jennifer Herrera
Reem Zoun (TWDB)	Justin Lennon
Annette Gutierrez (RGCOG)	Kelly Dillard
Allison Wood	Michael Ramirez
Andrew Smith	Rene Franks
Anita Machiavello	Rohit Goswami
Art Reinhardt	Sarah Douglas, G
Ben Wilde	Sara Eatman
G Martinez	Scott Hubley
Gisela Dagnino	Stephanie Castillo
Guillermo Martinez	Steve Gonzales
Gustavo Sosa	Tiffany Cartwright
Heather Harris	Tony Smith
	Wade Barnes

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

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Omar Martinez 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: Recognition of guests and designated alternates

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 Updates

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

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on November 5, 2020.

Dave Hall made a motion to accept the Minutes from November 5, 2021. Sal Massoud seconded the motion.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Updates

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

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider nominating and electing Vice Chair and Secretary

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 and Omar Martinez seconded the motion. Sal Massoud made a motion and Gilbert Saldaña seconded the motion.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider nominating and electing member(s)-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee

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 any 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.

Dave Hall made a motion and Omar Martinez seconded the motion. Sal Massoud made a motion and Gilbert Saldaña seconded the motion.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discussion on required member training on the Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act. Matt Nelson described existing notice requirements and opened discussion on

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update on URGFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill required member positions (River authorities, Water utilities) 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.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update on the status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with TWDB 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 a means by which the URGFPG will develop and host a public website (required per §361.21(b))**

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*

- 12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Discussion and consider taking action on group policies for handling public comments Omar Martinez opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.**

- 13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider a means by which the URGFPG will accept written public comment prior to and after meetings (required per §361.21(c)).**

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. AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Discussion of the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of URGFPG activities (required per §361.21(e)).**

- 15. AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion and consider taking action on allowing the RGCOG to accept annual supplemental funds for the URGFPG from willing local entities.**

- 16. AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: General public comments**

- 17. AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

- 18. AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Adjourn**

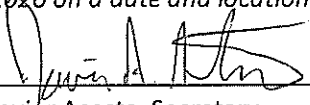
Sal Masoud made a motion to adjourn.

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.



Javier Acosta, Secretary

March 16, 2021

Date