

Meeting Minutes  
 Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting  
 Friday, October 15.2021

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (✓)/Absent (X) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Omar L. Martinez, Chair	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Oscar D. "Jay" Ornelas	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	✓
Gilberto Saldana Jr.	<i>Counties</i>	✓
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environmental interests</i>	✓
Sal Masoud	<i>Industries</i>	✓
Javier Acosta	<i>Municipalities</i>	✓
David "Dave" Hall	<i>Public</i>	✓
Rene Rodriguez	<i>Small business</i>	X
Gisela Dagnino	<i>Water utilities</i>	✓
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Levi Bryand	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓
Rick Tate	<i>River authorities</i>	X
Carlos Velarde	<i>Public</i>	✓
<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
James Weaver	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Sarah Douglas	General Land Office/Region 14 Liaison	X
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board	✓
Anita Keese	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	✓
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera	Region 15 Liaison	X
Delbert Humberson	International Boundary Water Commission	✓
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
Others Present:		
Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG	Gilbert Andujo, AECOM	
Matt Nelson, TWDB	Bryan Blaisdell, AECOM	
Reem Zoun, TWDB	Chris Wright, AECOM	
Morgan White, TWDB	Jeff Irvin - AECOM, PIC	
Ty Edwards, MPGCD	Alejandra Marco - AECOM	
Ashlyn Bain	Lily Cartwright - AECOM	
	Martin Bartlett, Barracuda Communications	

**1. Welcome and call to order**

Dave Hall chaired the meeting on behalf of Chairman Martinez who could not attend. He welcomed the group and received confirmation that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 12:06 am.

**2. Recognition of guests**

Dave Hall asked if there were any guests who would like to be recognized at this time. Gisela Dagnino informed the group that Enrique Ochoa will be serving as her proxy for these meetings if she cannot attend. Annette Gutierrez, Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) informed Gisela that an agenda item that will request for proxies will be forthcoming in a future meeting.

**3. Member updates**

Dave Hall asked if there were any updates from the members. There were no updates from the group and Mr. Hall moved onto the next agenda item.

**4. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on September 7 2021.**

Sal Masoud made a motion to accept the Minutes from September 7, 2021. Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Dave Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**5. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)- Updates and Presentation**

Richard Bagans provided the group with some updates. He mentioned the additional funding that was allocated by TWDB, is in draft contract form and will be available to the sponsors next week for their review. He also mentioned the Tech Memo's will still be due January with the exception of the geodatabase files that have been extended. Therefore, the group still has an opportunity to approve the Tech Memo deliverables at a late November meeting or early December, to allow the Consultants enough time to submit. Richard also reminded the group if they are going to vote on determining flood mitigation and floodplain management goals or to approve a process for identifying potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs, it will require a fourteen-day notice. Therefore, he recommended the group table agenda items eleven and twelve. He recommended discussion can still happen, but no vote. The group discussed the possibility of having their next meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and still being able to post with to meet the fourteen-day requirement. Finally, Richard also informed the group that TWDB can now approve the AECOM contract once the group votes on agenda item #7.

**6. Update from Sarah Douglas, Liaison for Region 15 Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group.**

There was no report from Sarah Douglas.

**7. Discussion and potential action regarding the updated task budget and expense budget to submitted to the Texas Water Development Board in a budget memo**

Annette Gutierrez presented the group with the budget memo that was submitted to the TWDB. The purpose of the memo was to request permission to revise the allocations per task as requested by AECOM to Rio Grande Council of Governments. Gisela Dagnino made a motion to accept the updated

task budget and expense budget that was submitted to TWDB in a budget memo. Jeff Bennett seconded the motion. Dave Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**8. Discussion and potential action regarding administrative expenses to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for reimbursement**

Annette Gutierrez requested to table this agenda item because RGCOG was not prepared to submit the documentation.

**9. AECOM GENERAL UPDATES**

AECOM provided updates on the Stakeholder Survey Outreach, Task 1, 2, 3, and 4. They also provided a summary on some of the "Threatened and Endangered Species".

**10. Consider, discuss and take action for Adoption of Specific, Minimum Floodplain Management or Land Use Standards based on recommendation from Subcommittee 1**

Based on clarification provided by Richard Bagans, the agenda item was tabled because it requires a 14-day public notice.

**11. Consider, discuss and take action for Adoption of Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals based on recommendation from Subcommittee 1**

Based on clarification provided by Richard Bagans, the agenda item was tabled because it requires a 14-day public notice.

**12. Consider, discuss and take action to confirm general FMEs and FMS evaluation method proposed during Subcommittee 3 meeting**

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to confirm the general FMEs and FMS evaluation method proposed during Subcommittee 3 meeting. Levi Bryand seconded the motion.

**13. Update from Subcommittee 2 meeting**

AECOM provided an update from Subcommittee 2 but no action was taken.

**14. Road Show Dates & Public Participation**

Martin Bartlett, Barracuda Communications, reminded the group of the Flood Planning Group's Open House that will be held at the El Paso TechH2O Center. He thanked El Paso Water for their support with this effort. He also informed the group the Open House will also be conducted in February of 2022 in Pecos and Presidio, then finally wrapping up one last public hearing in El Paso in early summer.

**15. Survey & Stakeholder Coordination**

Martin Bartlett, Barracuda Communications, stated there will be a shift in focus from the survey to the Open House that will be on October 27. Barracuda sent correspondence to all municipalities in Hudspeth and El Paso County. He also showed how much media coverage there was covering the flood planning group, the surveys and the Open House. He also mentioned the team has now received over one-hundred surveys. The planning group has now received survey responses from every county within its service area.

**16. Updated Roadmap, Schedule reminder/Goals for next Meeting**

Gilbert Andujo provided an updated roadmap for the group. He provided the following information:

Upcoming RFPG General Meetings (Tuesdays at 9am MST/10am CST)

- November 2
- November 30

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings

- Subcommittee 1 –Task 3A/3B -Evaluation and Recommendations on Floodplain Management/Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Measurement Goals: October 21
- Subcommittee 3 –Task 4B(a-b) -Identification and Evaluation of Potential Flood Management Evaluations and Flood Management Strategies (FMEs and FMSs): October 22
- Continue contacting community representatives and stakeholders to collect survey responses
- Continue publicizing the survey response opportunity
- Consolidate data collection results from survey and map viewer (extended survey closing date to October 15)
- Organize/hold El Paso Open House: October 27
- Continue existing and future condition flood risk analyses (Task 2)

Identify/outline potential minimum RFPG standards + flood mitigation, floodplain management goals, and recommendations based on Subcommittee 1 feedback and community survey responses (Task 3)

Identify/outline flood mitigation needs by subregion for Needs Analysis (Task 4A)

Identify/outline potential flood solutions (FMEs, FMSs, FMPs) (Task 4B)

Dave Hall asked if AECOM could provide the planning group a draft memo by November 30. Gilbert Andujo from AECOM stated they could try but if is not possible the group will receive it in early December. Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG reminded the group they could go to [www.urpfpg.org](http://www.urpfpg.org), under meeting notices or calendar. Bryan Baisdell and Chris Wright proposed several dates to the group. Bryan stated that all subcommittees should meet for a final time prior to November 15<sup>th</sup>. Once the subcommittees have met and taken action on what items to recommend, the agenda for the November 30, 2021, general membership meeting will be posted.

The two also stated the draft Tech Memo will be distributed by December 3, 2021, for the group to review. The general membership will then meet either December 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> to vote on the memo. If the group identifies that more work needs to be done for the memo, the group can reconvene the first week of January. Once approved, AECOM will submit the Tech Memo by January 7, 2021.

#### **17. Discussion of Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

#### **18. General public comments**

There were no public comments.

**19. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

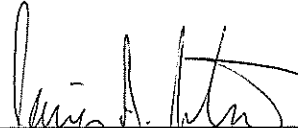
This item was previously discussed by the group.

**20. Adjourn**

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to adjourn and seconded by Jeff Bennett. The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm. Dave Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.

Nov 2, 2021

Date



Javier Acosta  
Secretary