

Meeting Minutes
 Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Thursday, 8.05.2021
 9:04 AM
 GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / 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>	X
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
Sal Masoud	<i>Industries</i>	X
Javier Acosta	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
David "Dave" Hall	<i>Public</i>	X
Rene Rodriguez	<i>Small business</i>	
Gisela Dagnino	<i>Water utilities</i>	X
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Levi Bryand	<i>Water Utilities</i>	X
Rick Tate	<i>River authorities</i>	
Carlos Velarde	<i>Public</i>	X
<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
James Weaver	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Tim Frere	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Larissa Place	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Ben Wilde	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Sarah Douglas	General Land Office/Region 14 Liaison	X
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board	X
Anita Keese	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera	Region 15 Liaison	X
Delbert Humberson	International Boundary Water Commission	

<u>Others Present:</u>	
Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG	Chris Wright, AECOM
Matt Nelson, TWDB	Jeff Irvin - AECOM, PIC
James Bronikowski, TWDB	Marina Monsisvais, Barracuda Communications
Gilbert Andujo, AECOM	Martin Bartlett, Barracuda Communications
Bryan Blaisdell, AECOM	

1. **Welcome and call to order**

Chairman Omar Martinez welcomed the group and confirmed that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 9:04 am.

2. Recognition of guests and designated alternates

Chairman Martinez recognized voting and non-voting members.

3. Member updates

Chairman Omar Martinez asked the members if there were any updates to make. Dave Hall mentioned to the flood group that the Pre-Planning meeting was held in Marfa, Texas on July 15, 2021. He said the public mentioned flood maps were out of date and there was a discussion of LIDAR data. He also said the local community wanted opportunities to provide input to update these maps. Chairman Martinez also said the communities are hard pressed to get the data they need to get the funding for flood mitigation projects. He also mentioned in Marfa there was a loss of life due to a recent flooding that swept away a man in his vehicle while crossing a low road. Annette Gutierrez mentioned she would be composing Minutes from the meeting.

4. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on May 20, 2021.

Dave Hall made a motion to accept the Minutes from May 20, 2021. Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

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

Richard Bagans, Planner, TWDB Regional Flood Planning, provided an update to the group. He informed the group the Legislature appropriated an additional 10 million dollars to the flood planning effort that may become available after September 1, 2021. TWDB sent a survey to all the regions asking their thoughts about the additional funding and have received them back and now are in the process of determining how to allocate the funds to the regions. Contract amendments will be issued once they are available. He also mentioned there were errors in TWDB's building datasets that were identified by Bryan Blaisdell from AECOM, which are now being corrected and there is another dataset based on LIDAR that is set to come out soon, so please be on the lookout for it in Mid-August. Gisela Dagnino asked about the additional funding if it is to go towards the current tasks or if new contracts will need to be issued. Richard said the additional funds will go to Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) through an amendment but was not sure if the funds will be utilized by AECOM or if another contractor will be utilized. Dave Hall also asked how much funding was available to AECOM currently because he was trying to determine what tasks they should be working on. Annette Gutierrez told the group she would send out AECOM's Task Budget for everyone to review. Richard Bagans also mentioned to the group the funding may go towards additional flood management evaluations.

6. 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.

Sarah Douglas summarized Region 15's meeting to the group. She mentioned Commissioner David Garza asked how all we would reach communities that are not involved in order to include their input. Kristina from HALFF explained that they would share their contact list to find those not included. Commissioner Garza stressed a strong emphasis on outreach. They also discussed between the Flood Planning Group and the GLO's flood studies, which covers their area.

There was no report from Vanessa Rosales-Herrera from the Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group because she was not on the call. Annette Gutierrez mentioned she is not with the City of Eagle Pass anymore and it now with Texas Department of Transportation. Ms. Rosales-Herrera did inform Annette that she wanted to continue serving on the flood planning group.

7. AECOM-Progress to Task 1 – Planning Area Description & 8. AECOM-Progress to Task 10 – Public Participation as it relates to Task 1 of the Region 14 URGRFPG Regional Flood Plan

Gilbert Andujo led the discussion. He discussed both agenda items seven and eight. He introduced the AECOM team. He then turned the presentation over to Chris Wright, Deputy Project Manager. Chris Wright outlined the presentation. He covered the following:

- General Overview of the AECOM Team
- Tasks as they relate to the Scope of Work
- Maps with relevant data that they will be using in the study
- Deeper Dive with Tasks 1 & 2
- Stakeholder community survey, which will be going out in the next couple of weeks
- General Schedule
- Wrap up with meetings they will be having to include setting up subcommittees

8. Discussion of Old Business

Chairman Martinez asked Annette Gutierrez if there was any old business to discuss. Ms. Gutierrez informed the group the flood planning website will be going live on August 6, 2021. She also stated she would be sending an email to inform them of the web address.

9. General public comments

There were no comments made.

10. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting


The group decided Annette Gutierrez would take a doodle poll to determine when the next meeting will be.

11. Adjourn

Sal Masoud made a motion to adjourn. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

9/7/2021

Date


Javier Acosta, Secretary