

Meeting Minutes
Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, 9.7.2021

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Omar L. Martinez, Chair	<i>Water districts</i>	✓
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>	✓
Gisela Dagnino	<i>Water utilities</i>	✓
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Levi Bryand	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓
Rick Tate	<i>River authorities</i>	
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	✓
Sarah Douglas	General Land Office/Region 14 Liaison	✓
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board	✓
Anita Keese	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	✓
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera	Region 15 Liaison	✓
Delbert Humberson	International Boundary Water Commission	✓
Tim Frere	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Larissa Place	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Ben Wilde	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	

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

Chairman Omar Martinez welcomed the group and confirmed that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 9:09 am.

2. Recognition of guests

Chairman Martinez recognized voting, non-voting members, AECOM members and the public.

3. Member updates

Chairman Omar Martinez mentioned El Paso County experienced severe rain and flooding recently and also said that El Paso Water Utilities experienced a sewer line beak and the sewage is being diverted into the American Canal. Jeff Bennett asked how soon it should be resolved. Chairman Martinez did not have an estimated timeline for completion.

4. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on August 5, 2021.

Sal Masoud made a motion to accept the Minutes from August 5, 2021. Rene Rodriguez seconded he motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

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

Richard Bagans informed the group that the Governor’s emergency declaration expired and the Texas Open Meetings Act is in effect. He explained the requirements. The flood planning groups met virtually to discuss what options were available to them. He also mentioned the state legislature appropriated additional funding to this initiative. TWDB sent a survey in July to determine how the allocation should be distributed. They have reviewed and compiled the requests and are taking these items to the board in late September. More news will be shared around that time. He also said Task 2 is being extended to allow the data collection modeling future conditions request from all regions a longer time period needed to run the model only once. All other deliverables are due January 7th. Last, later this month there will be a payment request webinar for the flood planning groups. Dave Hall asked if the extension for all three deliverables received a two-month extension. Richard Bagans mentioned all others are due January 7th; including the Tech Memo.

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 reported the group received a presentation from Half Associates and discussed flood plain maps.

7. AECOM General RFP Updates

AECOM presented the following items:

Task 1 (Planning Area Description)

- Overview of recent El Paso flooding
 - Local floodplain regulation and development codes
 - Agricultural and natural resources
 - Socioeconomic characteristics
 - Previously identified flood mitigation projects (existing local/regional flood plans)

–Task 2

- Evaluating best available floodplain data
 - Exposure/vulnerability analysis

–Subcommittee Meetings

–Road Show Meetings

–Public Outreach Survey & Stakeholder Coordination

8. AECOM Road Show Planning

Jeff Bennett made a motion to have the El Paso Roadshow in October and in February have the others in Pecos and Presidio. Martin Bartlett mentioned the El Paso meeting will more than likely be the week of October 18th or the 25th. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

9. AECOM Subcommittee Meeting Planning Subcommittee 1-Tasks 3A/3B

Dave Hall made a motion to appoint the members below to Subcommittee 1. Gilbert Saldana seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

- Omar Martinez-Voting Member
- Javier Acosta-Voting Member
- Gilbert Saldana-Voting Member
- Carlos Velarde-Voting Member
- Dave Hall-Voting Member
- Levi Bryand-Voting Member
- Gisela Dagnino-Voting Member
- Rick Tate-Voting Member

Subcommittee 2-Tasks 4B (c)

Sal Masoud made a motion to appoint the members below to Subcommittee 2. Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

- Omar Martinez-Voting Member
- Javier Acosta-Voting Member
- Jeff Bennett-Voting Member
- Gilbert Saldana-Voting Member

- Carlos Velarde-Voting Member
- Dave Hall-Voting Member
- Levi Bryand-Voting Member
- Gisela Dagnino-Voting Member
- Jay Ornelas-Voting Member

Sal Masoud made a motion to rescind the group approved by the group. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

Sal Masoud made a motion to appoint the members below to Subcommittee 2. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

- Omar Martinez-Voting Member
- Javier Acosta-Voting Member
- Jeff Bennett-Voting Member
- Gilbert Saldana-Voting Member
- Carlos Velarde-Voting Member
- Dave Hall-Voting Member
- Levi Bryand-Voting Member
- Gisela Dagnino-Voting Member
- Jay Ornelas-Voting Member
- Delbert Humberson-Non-Voting

Subcommittee 3-Task 4B (a-b)

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to appoint the members below to Subcommittee 3. Jay Ornelas seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

- Delbert Humberson-Non-Voting Member
- Omar Martinez-Voting Member
- Sal Masoud-Voting Member
- Jeff Bennett-Voting Member
- Levi Bryand-Voting Member
- Gisela Dagnino-Voting Member

Subcommittee 4-Task 8

Gilbert Saldana made a motion to appoint the members below to Subcommittee 4. Jeff Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

- Gilbert Saldana-Voting Member
- Anita Keese-Non-Voting Member
- Omar Martinez-Voting Member
- Sal Masoud-Voting Member
- Levi Bryand-Voting Member
- Gisela Dagnino-Voting Member
- Delbert Humberson-Non-Voting Member

10. AECOM Survey & Stakeholder Coordination

AECOM covered the coordination information in the general updates.

11. Discussion of Old Business

Chairman Martinez asked Annette Gutierrez to review the website with the group. She presented where the members can access the information.

12. General public comments

There were no public comments from the general public.

13. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting


October 5th will be the next meeting date and if any member wants to attend physically, they may do so at the El Paso County Water Improvement District; if not they can attend virtually. The Fathom dataset was asked aqua strategies is preparing it. A draft memo will be available to the group for review. It will be included in Chapter 1. Adding subcommittee section.

14. Chair Adjourn

Jeff Bennett made a motion to adjourn at 11:09 am. Gilbert Saldana seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

1/31/22

Date



Javier Acosta
Secretary