

REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP  
 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
 Monday, February 28, 2022  
 9:00 A.M. (MDT)  
 8037 Lockheed, Suite 100 TX 79925

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (✓)/Absent ( X ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Omar L. Martinez, Chair	<i>Water districts</i>	✓, physically present
Vacant	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	
Vacant	<i>Generating Electric Utilities</i>	
Gilberto Saldaña 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>	✓, physically present
Rene Rodriguez	<i>Small business</i>	✓
Gisela Dagnino	<i>Water Utilities</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(✓)/Absent(X)/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
James Weaver	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	✓
Vacant	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	X
Delbert Humberson	International Boundary Water Commission	X
Judy Lucio	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Larissa Place	Texas Department of Agriculture	✓
Judy Albus for Ben Wilde	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	✓
Others Present:		
Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG	Alejandra Marco, AECOM	
Gilbert Andujo, AECOM	Jeff Irvin - AECOM, PIC	
Bryan Blaisdell, AECOM	Dr. Apurba Boarh, IBWC	
Chris Wright, AECOM	Patricia Garcia-Barracuda PR	

**1. Welcome and call to order**

Chairman Omar Martinez welcomed the group and received confirmation that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 9:02 am.

**2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. Review and approve the Minutes for the meeting held on February 2, 2022, & December 16, 2022**

Annette Gutierrez explained that only February 2, 2022, Minutes needed to be approved and the December 16, 2021 Minutes had already been approved. Dave Hall made a motion to accept the Minutes from February 2, 2022. Sal Masoud seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**4. Review and approve the Minutes for the 4th Subcommittee 3 meeting held on January 12, 2022**

Sal Masoud made a motion to accept the Minutes from Subcommittee 3 meeting held on January 12, 2022. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**5. Review and approve the Minutes for the 5th Subcommittee 2 meeting held on January 27, 2022**

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to accept the Minutes from Subcommittee 2 meeting held on January 27, 2022. Jeff Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**6. Liaison for Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group**

Annette Gutierrez informed the group that Sarah Douglas is no longer working for the General Land Office and submitted her resignation from the Flood Planning Group and as the Liaison for Region 15. Dave Hall made a motion to nominate Jeff Bennett to serve as the Liaison for Region 15. Omar Martinez seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**7. Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2022 (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)**

Annette Gutierrez informed the group that in addition to the positions noted in the agenda, two at-large positions also need to be voted on. However, since it was not posted, Ms. Gutierrez will post these items on the next agenda. Dave Hall made a motion to nominate the current Officers for Calendar Year 2022. Levi Bryand seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez 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**

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to accept the administrative expenses presented. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**9. Take action on vacancies for Agriculture and Generating Utilities**

Jeff Bennett made a motion to accept Kenton Martin as the member representing Electric Generating Utilities and Dr. Zhuping Sheng as the member representing Agriculture. Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**10. Updates from Richard Bagans**

Richard Bagans informed the group that the Tech Memorandum has deliverables that are due March 7<sup>th</sup>. He said the deliverables are GIS based. He also mentioned for the Tech Memorandum that was submitted in January, it is going under content review by the Board and informal comments should be provided to the group and the consultants in late April. He also said the contract amendments for additional funding for the tasks that were included is currently in DocuSign, where several TWDB staff need to sign. Once this is completed, it will be sent to RGCOG for execution. He said the RGCOG can then amend its subcontract with AECOM. He also said that payment requests have been slower to complete but the Board is working with RGCOG to get expenses paid. He mentioned the Board will be having a conference call with the technical consultants later this afternoon and there will be a Chairs conference call on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Richard also praised AECOM for seeking clarification and presenting questions to the Board.

**11. Pecos/Presidio Open House Meeting Updates**

Patricia Garcia from Barracuda PR, informed the group that a total of five people signed up for the Pecos meeting at Odessa the College Center. The average attendee stayed for 1 to 1.5 hours. This allowed for ample time for engagement in conversation, input and completing the comment cards. Most of the respondents were concerned about safety issues related to flooding and those that had been affected by flooding in the last 5 years said they sustained \$10,000 to \$20,000 of flood-related damage to their business or property. She also reported on the media coverage for the event.

In Presidio, eight people signed in for the Presidio public meeting. The average attendee stayed for 1 hour to 1.5 hours. As in the previous meeting, this provided ample time for engagement in conversation, input and completing comment cards. Five comment cards were completed and received. While most attendees indicated they had not been directly affected by flood damage, they did indicate that their commute had been interrupted by flooding. Of those who did indicate flood damage, the financial costs were \$10,000 or below. There was also media coverage provided for this event.

**12. Discussion of in-progress Technical Memorandum (March 7) deliverables as presented by AECOM with authorization of Consultant to submit completed draft deliverables to the TWDB**

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to give the authorization of the consultant to submit the completed draft deliverables to Texas Water Development Board. Rene Rodriguez seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**13. Discussion related to Subcommittee 3 (FMEs/FMSs)**

Chris Wright provided an overview of what was discussed in the last Subcommittee 3 meeting.

**14. Discussion related to Task 8 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations**


Jeff Irvin covered this agenda item. He explained what items are included in Task 8. These items included 1) Legislative recommendations, 2) Other regulatory/ admin recommendations 3) Any other recommendations, and 4) Recommendations regarding potential, new revenue-raising opportunities. He also discussed the approach AECOM wants to take that includes an initial workshop.

**15. Set next meeting date**

Annette Gutierrez informed the group the next meeting will be between March 14-18, 2022, based on the group’s availability.

**16. Adjourn**

Gisela Dagnino made a motion to adjourn. Sal Masoud seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved. The meeting concluded at 11:11.

  
Secretary, Javier Acosta

  
Date