

REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
1:30 PM (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>	✓
Zhuping Sheng	<i>Agricultural interests</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>	✓
Rene Rodriguez	<i>Small business</i>	X
Gisela Dagnino	<i>Water utilities</i>	✓
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
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	✓
Elijah Casas	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	✓
Larissa Place	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Judy Albus for Ben Wilde	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	✓
Others Present:		
Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG	Alderman David Cantu, City of San Elizario	
Reem Zoun, TWDB – in person	Liz Cassin, American Flood Coalition	
James Bronikowski, TWDB	Chase Krozner, American Flood Coalition	
Gilbert Andujo, AECOM	Carlos Gallinar, City of Socorro	
Bryan Blaisdell, AECOM	Alejandra Valadez, City of Socorro	
Chris Wright, AECOM	Marvin Gomez	
Jeff Irvin, AECOM, PIC	Isela Canava	

Alejandra Marco, AECOM	Carolyn E. Donnelly
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 1:34.

2. Public Comments

Chairman Martinez asked if there were any public comments from the public. There were none.

3. Local Flood Projects

Chairman Martinez announced three items. The first was a grant/loan of 10 million dollars that was awarded to the City of Socorro by the Texas Water Development Board through the Flood Infrastructure Fund program. City Development Director, Alejandra Valadez, explained the funding will go to address the Sparks/Arroyo storm drainage project, as well as for channel improvements, and a basin for the onion field area.

Chairman Martinez also announced that Hudspeth County received approval from Congressman Tony Gonzales through his appropriations request for FY 23. For Hudspeth County, the funding would be used to establish a county floodplain management program to address the flood risks associated with rapid urbanization, provide detailed engineering planning and construction funds for addressing current flood risks identified in a 2019 Colonia Area Plan. He thanked AECOM for all of their assistance for Hudspeth County's request.

Also, through Congresswoman Escobar's office, through their appropriations request, EPCWID#1's project was selected to concrete line 1 mile of the Franklin Canal.

Finally, Chairman Martinez mentioned that through the Far West Texas Water Planning Group and Flood Planning Group, these groups are assisting smaller communities to apply for funding. He mentioned many of these communities are limited in their building capacity. Dave Hall asked Reem Zoun, Flood Planning Director, to consider additional funding for communities to tap into technical assistance from other organizations who can assist in preparing applications.

4. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on April 21, 2022.

Dave Hall made a motion to accept the Minutes from the Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group meeting held on April 21, 2022. Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

5. 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 of \$231,824.42, from AECOM for the period of January 1, 2022 through March 4, 2022, to the Texas Water

Development Board. Dr. Zhuping Sheng seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.

6. Updates from Richard Bagans, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

Richard reminded the group that TWDB has submitted their second set of informal comments for the Tech Memo, to the regions. He stated the comments are merely suggestions on how to the regions can make the plans better. He also said that on May 24, TWDB held a Technical Consultants Call. During their discussions, it was suggested the group meet one more time in late June to discuss any pending final items prior to submitting the draft plan. Richard also said there would also be a Chair's Call on May 26, where the regions will be discussing what is occurring in their groups. He reminded everyone, the Chairs Call is held quarterly.

He also informed the group that TWDB has executed the contract amendment with RGCOG for the \$666,400, to pay for the additional tasks. He said depending on what the group decides, TWDB will assist RGCOG in submitting a budget memo to identify the revised amounts dedicated to the additional tasks.

Finally, he reminded the group, when scheduling upcoming planning group meetings, the group must have a public meeting where public comments will be accepted on the draft plan. The notice requirement for this meeting is 30 days prior and public comments must be accepted up to 30 days after it is presented. The plan must be located in three physical locations. The group can vote to submit the draft plan before August 1st, 2022. However, it is suggested the public comment meeting should happen either in August or September to allow for any of these comments to be incorporated into the final Plan. These next two months will be the most content-heavy months where the Technical Consultant will be releasing the Chapters for the group to review.

Chairman Martinez asked TWDB is already looking at starting up the flood planning process. Richard said it will start up quickly after the State Plan is approved.

7. Presentation from American Flood Coalition

Liz Cassin, Senior Outreach Associate, started the presentation. She thanked the flood planning group for allowing the American Flood Coalition (AFC) to present. She then turned over the presentation to Chase Kronzer, Texas Director for the American Flood Coalition. Mr. Krozner informed the group that the AFC is a 501 (C) 3 nonprofit organization and nonpartisan coalition advancing solutions to flooding and sea level rises. The organization has over 280 members nationwide. They are active in 21 states, including Texas. He mentioned the AFC has identified four pillars for coastal and inland solutions. These solutions include the economy, communities, rebuilding, and the military. Mr. Krozner also said that AFC's offers its members education guides, tools for effective communication, networks of leaders on flooding, competitive local resilience pilots, and offers a platform for advocacy and education. Most importantly, he mentioned on the AFC's website is the flood funding finder. This tool breaks down federal grant and technical assistance programs best suited for flooding and se

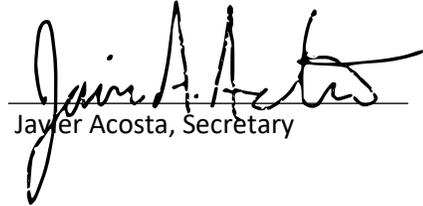
level rise initiatives. He encouraged everyone to review their information and be prepared to apply for funding that is going to be made available through the infrastructure bill. Finally, he informed the group that any city, county or water district can join the AFC and become a member at no cost. Chairman Martinez inquired if the flood planning group can become a member and Mr. Krozner said he would investigate if that is possible.

8. Request to re-allocate funds within Tasks 11 and 12 for AECOM
Dave Hall made a motion to allow RGCOG to reallocate funds from Task 12 to 11. The revised amounts will be \$292,996 for Task 11 and \$176,596, for Task 12. Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.
9. The AECOM team provided the general RFP Updates to the group.
10. Discussion and action to vote on Task 8 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations
Gisela Dagnino made a motion to allow subcommittee 4 to meet on June 16, 2022, for Task 8. Levi Bryand seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.
11. Discussion and action to vote on Potential Changes to FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs
Dave Hall made a motion to approve the changes presented to FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs. Dr. Zhuping Sheng seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.
12. Discussion and action to vote on Task 5 – Recommendation of FMEs and FMSs and Associated FMPs
Jeff Bennett made a motion to take action on Task 5. Levi Bryand seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.
13. Discussion and action to vote for the adoption of Revision 2 of the overarching flood mitigation and floodplain management goals for Region 14 Regional Flood Plan per §361.36
Dr. Zhuping Sheng made a motion to approve the adoption of Revision 2 of the overarching flood mitigation and floodplain management goals for Region 14 Regional Flood Plan per §361.36. Jeff Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved.
14. Next Potential General RFPG Meeting Date
Annette Gutierrez stated she would send out a poll to determine what is the most optimal date for the next flood planning meeting between July 19-21. Dave Hall asked for Annette to query the group about meeting sometime between June 20-22 to discuss Chapters 1, 2, and 3, and look at July 13-14, for Chapters 5,6,7,8, and 9.
15. Adjourn

Dave Hall made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Bennett seconded the motion. Chairman Martinez called for a vote and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:07 pm.

9/15/22

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Javier Acosta", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized.

Javier Acosta, Secretary