

REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 5, 2026
1:00 P.M. (MST)
8037 Montana Ave, Suite 100, El Paso, TX 79925

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (✓)/Absent (X) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Javier Acosta, Chair	<i>Municipalities</i>	✓
David "Dave" Hall, Vice Chair	<i>Public</i>	✓
Gisela Dagnino, Secretary	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environmental Interests</i>	✓
Vacant	<i>Industries</i>	X
Omar L. Martinez	<i>Water Districts</i>	✓
Vacant	<i>Agricultural Interests</i>	X
Rene Rodriguez	<i>Small Business</i>	✓
Gilberto Saldaña Jr.	<i>Counties</i>	✓
Oscar Villalobos	<i>Flood Districts</i>	✓
Levi Bryand	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓
Rick Tate	<i>River Authorities</i>	X
Carlos Velarde	<i>Public</i>	✓
Teira Solis	<i>Generating Electric Utilities</i>	✓

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(✓)/Absent(X)/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
John-Clayton Campbell	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	✓
Elijah Casas	General Land Office/Region 14 Liaison	✓
Anita Machiavello	Texas Water Development Board	X
Vacant	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera	Region 15 Liaison	X
Dr. Apurba Borah	International Boundary Water Commission	X
Leticia Ausberger	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
JD Lawrence	Texas Department of Agriculture	✓
Judy Albus	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Nick Collins	Texas Water Development Board	✓
Luis Alday	AECOM	✓
Travis Brand	AECOM	✓
Antonio Santana	Texas Department of Transportation	X
Others Present:		

Aarón Burciaga, RGCOG
Dr. Santosh Palmate, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Extension – El Paso Center
Isadora Garcia, City of Alpine, TX

1. Welcome and call to order

Vice Chairman Dave Hall received confirmation that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. Public Comments

Vice Chairman Hall asked if there were any public comments from the public. There being none, he moved on to agenda item #3.

3. Review and approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 19, 2025.

Voting Member Gilbert Saldana made a motion to approve the Minutes from November 19, 2025. Chairman Acosta seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. TWDB Updates

Nick Collins provided TWDB updates regarding the Technical Memorandum, being due January 7, 2026. Nick Collins briefed the group on the Chair's led Conference Call that was held most recently on December 3, 2025, to discuss regional approaches to Task 5B. There was representation by the URGRFPG by Chairman Acosta, and Travis Brand, and Luis Alday, from AECOM. Lastly, Nick Collins briefed the group regarding a newsletter that was sent out provided by TWDB on 11.18.2025 regarding flood planning updates within the State of Texas, between August and November of 2025. Furthermore, Nick provided a presentation on TWDB Flood Management Evaluation (FME) for Rural Small Communities effort. On October 2, 2025 the TWDB Board heard Agenda Item #5, which authorizes TWDB to negotiate and execute contracts with 3rd party consultants to and select and perform flood management evaluation studies as selected by the regional flood planning groups to support the regional flood planning process. The Regional Flood Planning Groups will provide the order of timing of how they would like the FME(s) to be performed by the TWDB within the list. Due on March 26, 2026 is the ranked list of the FME(S) for the URGRFPG. Then due on April 24, 2026 is the scope of work and budget breakdown for all FME(s) on FME list. The budget is a \$59 million budget that is spread over 5 years, with each RFPG receiving \$3.9 million for their five-year cycle. There was further group discussion regarding the URGRFPG definition of rural, which is still being worked on and will be presented, discussed, with proper motion if need be, at the next URGRFPG meeting.

5. RIOCOG – Discuss and update URGRFPG on voting member group vacancies. RIOCOG provided introductions of voting member nominee(s), Dr. Santosh Palmate, from Texas A&M AgriLife Research Extension – El Paso Center, and Isadora Garcia, City of Alpine, TX. After discussion, updates, and reviewing bylaws, the URGRFPG Executive Committee needs to process the nominations, and recommend nominees

to the voting membership as a whole in order to properly become URGRFPG voting members. Prior to the next URGRFPG meeting, the Executive Committee will meet in order to process the nominations, and recommend nominees as a whole, in order to properly become URGRFPG voting members.

6. AECOM / RIOCOG – Travis Brand provided a presentation and further updates on the Technical Memorandum Task 4B. The technical memorandum was reviewed by the URGRFPG, that incorporated previous comments and recommendations provided by the URGRFPG voting members. After further discussion on updates, Vice Chairman Hall asked for a motion from the URGRFPG to accept the technical memorandum for the Task to meet the requirements for Task 4B. Voting Member Levi Bryand made a motion to approve. Voting Member Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
7. RIOCOG – Discussion on next General URGRFPG meeting date. RIOCOG will send out Doodle Poll(s) in order to schedule the next two URGRFPG meeting(s), within the last week of January, and second to last week of February.
8. Chair – ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Hall made a motion to adjourn. Voting member Levi Bryand seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

1/6/2025

Date



Gisela Dagnino, Secretary