

REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 17, 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>Industries</i>	✓
David "Dave" Hall, Vice Chair	<i>Public</i>	✓
Gisela Dagnino, Secretary	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environmental Interests</i>	✓
Isadora Garcia	<i>Municipalities</i>	✓
Omar L. Martinez	<i>Water Districts</i>	X
Dr. Santosh Palmate	<i>Agricultural Interests</i>	✓
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	X
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	X
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
Heather Rose	Texas Water Development Board	✓

Monica Wedo	AECOM	✓
Others Present:		
Aarón Burciaga, RGCOG		
Executive Director Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG		

1. Welcome and call to order
Chairman Acosta received confirmation that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. Public Comments
Chairman Acosta 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 January 27, 2026.
Vice Chairman Dave Hall made a motion to approve the Minutes from January 27, 2026. Voting Member Levi Bryand seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. RIOCOG
Discussion and request of motion and approval of new Officers for URGRFPG. Javier Acosta/Chair, Dave Hall/Vice Chair, Gisela Dagnino/Secretary. This agenda item was tabled and postponed until a proper 30-day notice has been officially sent out by the Secretary of the URGRFPG.

5. TWDB Updates
Nick Collins provided TWDB updates regarding the Technical Memorandum, that was due January 7, 2026. Nick Collins briefed the group regarding the Technical Memorandum, administrative and completeness reviews are complete and TWDB staff will notify regions with a notice to proceed to Task 5A. TWDB staff will provide in-formal comments in Summer of 2026. Furthermore, Nick provided a reminder of an email sent out by TWDB Regional Flood Planning Staff on February 10, sent out to RFGP members, consultants and sponsors with a frequently asked questions document that was developed to provide further information on the FME for small community's effort. The small communities FAQ document is available on the 2nd cycle flood planning TWDB website. TWDB staff will host a courtesy information session on February 27, at 2:30 CST p.m. to a brief overview of the draft 2026-2027 FIFIUP – Flood Infrastructure Fund Intended Use Plan. RFGP Chairs, technical consultants and sponsors are invited to the virtual session, in which staff from the TWDB program administration and reporting team also known as PAR will discuss any major proposed changes from the previous intended use plan. Nick also mentioned that the ordered list of FME(s) for TWDB to perform under Task 5B is due on or before March 26, 2026. Prior to submission RFGP's should approve the FME list, as well as the metrics used to determine small and rural communities with limited resources for the FMEs to be performed by TWDB. The next Chair's Conference Call has not been scheduled yet, but Nick promised to keep Vice Chairman Hall on date of next meeting.

6. AECOM – Travis Brand provided general updates on Task 3C – Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals. Travis updated the group on Task 4C – Performance of FMEs - Flood Management Evaluations. The ordered list of FMEs is due to TWDB on March 26, 2026. On April 24th the submission of remaining FMEs and community affirmations is due to TWDB. Travis updated the group on the TWDB approval of Task 2B Future Condition Methodology memo and Task 4B Technical Memorandum, TWDB administrative approval of the Region 14 URGRFPG Technical Memorandum.
7. AECOM – Travis Brand provided updates on Task 3C – Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals, including recommended revisions to the existing goals. He also reported on Task 4B – the Technical Memorandum, and Task 4C – the Performance of Flood Management Evaluations. Travis emphasized that progress on these goals depends heavily on collaboration with local communities. Much of the discussion centered on the types of goals being considered, with examples such as the need for flood emergency action plans, stormwater master plans, increased participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and establishing minimum stormwater infrastructure design standards across the region.
8. RIOCOG – Discuss and take action on Task 3C – Flood mitigation and floodplain management goals. Travis Brand provided updates on Task 3C – Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals, and recommended updates to existing goals, and recommended new goals. Secretary Gisela Dagnino commented that she would like to see the goals on a more doable and realistic timeframe. Vice Chairman Hall and Chairman Acosta also echoed the sentiment to have a more accurate and realistic timeline. After much further discussion, Nick recommended there was no action needed to be taken at this time for this item, due to there just being recommendations and laying the ground for the goals to be formulated.
9. AECOM – Travis Brand provided updates on Task 4B – Technical Memorandum. Travis updated the group on the TWDB approval of Task 4B Technical Memorandum. TWDB administrative approval of the Region 14 URGRFPG Technical Memorandum administrative completeness and notice to proceed for Task 5A. TWDB staff will perform a more detailed technical review of the Technical Memorandum which will result in informal comments for the URGRFPG to consider during the remainder of the planning cycle.
10. AECOM – Updates on Task 4C – Performance of Flood Management Evaluations. Travis Brand provided updates and led further discussion on Task 4C – Performance of Flood Management Evaluations. The URGRFPG directed AECOM to begin conducting FMEs in Monahans, Fort Stockton, and Kermit. Travis reviewed the BLE model, the development of the HEC-HMS model, and the stream and watershed delineation process. This item was ultimately an informational item.

11. AECOM – Updates on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be performed by TWDB. Travis Brand provided updates, proposed timeline and led further discussion regarding the prioritization of FMEs for small and rural communities that lack resources and staff, with higher concentration and consideration of FMEs most likely to result in potentially feasible FMPs and FMSs. The ordered list of the first two identified FMEs, scope of work, community affirmation forms, etc. is due on March 26, 2026. The budget cap on total estimated FME-costs per RFPG per planning cycle is \$3.9M. The remaining scope of work for all FMEs within the FME list is due on April 24, 2026. This agenda item also included the motion of the URGRFPG rural definition. The URGRFPG chose to keep and continue adopting the TWDB rural definition. Voting member Levi Bryand entertained a motion. Voting member Gilbert Saldana seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
12. RIOCOG – Discuss and take action as needed on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be performed by TWDB – Adopt Rural Definition. This item was discussed, included and action was taken in agenda item #11 above.
13. RIOCOG – Discuss and take action as needed on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be performed by TWDB – Prioritization Guidance. Travis Brand provided updates and led further discussion on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be performed by TWDB – Prioritization Guidance. After much further discussion identifying ranking criteria, discussion identifying rural areas for prioritization guidance, and reviewing the draft top 5 FMEs, and top ranking list of FMEs, the consensus was to approve and adopt the ranking criteria. Vice Chairman Hall made a motion to approve. Voting Member Levi Bryand seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
14. RIOCOG – Discuss and take action as needed to suggest public comments for February or March TWDB meetings. Travis Brand provided updates and led further discussion regarding the suggestion of public comments for the March TWDB meeting. After much discussion RIOCOG Executive Director Annette Gutierrez suggested a possible initial public comment of “As a region we’re concerned with TWDB having this evaluation process, it seems like TWDB is not adhering to it. One of our communities was affected by this, being El Paso County. We hope that for future submissions, that is oversight is corrected.” El Paso County may want to register independently for public comment. Voting member Gilbert Saldana would like to propose a public comment, but does not know if an independent comment would be submitted on behalf of El Paso County, or may submit jointly with El Paso Water. Vice-Chairman Hall suggested to address as inclusive of the entire area, with specific examples. RIOCOG Executive Director Annette Gutierrez suggested “that if the flood planning group is in support of this approach, we are asking the TWDB to ensure equity and fairness with their evaluation processes that they set forth.” Vice Chairman Hall motioned to adopt the narrative that was provided by RIOCOG Executive Director Annette Gutierrez, that covers the whole region, with examples specific to certain

entities. Voting member Gilbert Saldana approved the motion. Voting member Rene Rodriguez seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

15. RIOCOG – Discuss and take action as needed in regard to coordination with local and state representatives. After much deliberation and discussion regarding this topic and from input provided directly from TWDB – Nick Collins. There seems to be more weight acknowledged by TWDB if the flood planning group submits public comment as a whole, rather than just a local or state representative. Therefore, the group decided to table this matter.

16. Chair – ADJOURN

Chairman Acosta 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 2:20 p.m.

5/6/2026

Date



Gisela Dagnino, Secretary