

REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 22, 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>	X
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>	X
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
Yesenia Castro	International Boundary Water Commission	X
Fernando Perez	Texas Division of Emergency Management	✓
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
Lizeth Perez	Texas Water Development Board	X

Monica Wedo	AECOM	✓
Oralia Sarinana	Hudspeth County	✓
Others Present:		
Aarón Burciaga, RIOCOG		
Alejandra Marco, AECOM		
Executive Director Annette Gutierrez, RIOCOG		

1. Welcome and call to order

Vice-Chairman Hall received confirmation that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Public Comments

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

3. Review and approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 7, 2026. Vice - Chairman Hall had a revision on the minutes being Agenda #3 changing the to that. Secretary Gisela Dagnino made a motion to approve the Minutes from May 7, 2026. Voting Member Levi Bryand 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 Nature-Based Solutions Manual prepared by TWDB, Freese and Nichols, and the Nature Conservancy is open for public comment. TWDB sent an email blast with the details. The public comment period closed at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 24, 2026. TWDB Regional Flood Planning staff hosted a courtesy information session on June 10, 2026 to provide a brief overview of the draft 26-27 Flood Infrastructure Fund Intended Use Plan. RFPG Chairs, Technical Consultants, Sponsors were invited to this virtual session where staff from the TWDB Program Administration and Reporting team discussed proposed changes from the previous intended use plan. Mr. Collins updated the group regarding Task 5B items from the March and April deliverables are currently now under TWDB review. TWDB will reach out with any requests for information and will also inform when those deliverables have been found to be administratively complete. Furthermore, TWDB sent out the Technical Memorandum comments to the regions and technical consultants will begin reviewing, etc. TWDB Regional Flood Planning intends to host an upcoming Chairs Conference Call with a date soon to be determined. Nick Collins updated the group regarding the most recent URGRFPG public comment. Reem Zoun and TWDB leadership responded back to the Region 14 TWDB board comment. The comment was sent to the Chair, Sponsor, and Technical Consultant.

5. AECOM – Travis Brand provided general updates, important events and other information. Travis provided an update regarding the submittal to TWDB of the Task 5B deliverable for the FME for Small Communities, the next TWDB deliverable is in 2027. AECOM will continue to perform scoped tasks and provide periodic updates for

the duration. Travis provided updates regarding TWDB Nature Based Solutions-Request for public comments. The AECOM team was involved as part of the review committee prior to the release for public comment. Furthermore, AECOM will submit public comments on behalf of Region 14 and offer conclusions.

6. AECOM – Travis Brand provided updates on Task 2 – Existing and Future Condition Flood Risk Analysis. Travis provided examples, updates and reported on the City of Alpine, City of Kermit, City of Ozona, and City of Pecos flood modeling methods. Phase 1 is primarily based on Fathom modeling. Phase 2 is primarily based on BLE modeling. The largest differences are seen in locations where flow is shallow and spread out. The inclusion of break lines and terrain refinement in the BLE model changes how floods potentially flow through and around the city. Both modeling methods are conceptual and will be used together to identify locations for future detailed studies such as FMEs. Voting member Jeff Bennett provided further insights into the City of Alpine and City of Marfa Flood Risk, being higher flood risk than what is being represented in the AECOM presentation. AECOM representative Luis Alday offered to travel to Alpine to meet with Jeff Bennett to understand the higher flood risk.
7. AECOM – Updates on Task 3 – Floodplain Management Practices, Needs Analysis, and Goals. Travis Brand provided insight that Task 3 is largely dependent on the results from Task 2 to identify impacts. AECOM reported reduction in the 1% annual chance floodplain and increase in the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. 0.2% Annual Chance (AC) flood exposure results are reported separately from 1% AC results and do not include cumulative flood hazard areas or property impacts from 1% AC flood hazard areas. The increase in impacts in the 0.2% AC events between cycle 1 and cycle 2 are the inclusion of the FEMA Rio Grande Natural Valley analysis (1% AC but not the 0.2%) and the Base Level Engineering (BLE) both showing increased impacts to dense urban areas. Cycle 2 included a new structure and population source and expanded the definition of critical facilities. Furthermore, Travis reported that AECOM is continuing to see structure and population impacts located in urban areas within El Paso County and other cities across the region. Additionally, roadway and stream crossing segments have been identified across the region.
8. AECOM – Updates on Task 4C – Performance of Flood Management Evaluations. The Technical Memorandum was submitted to TWDB on January 7, 2026. The URGRFPG was awaiting comments from TWDB. Region 14 - URGRFPG has received TWDB technical memorandum comments. It is not required to address these comments in a revised Technical Memorandum. AECOM will discuss with the URGRFPG on how to respond to these comments and incorporate them into the main chapter and the main document as we move forward incorporating them into the final Regional Flood plan. AECOM will detail how these comments will be addressed.
9. AECOM – Travis Brand provided updates and led further discussion regarding updates on Task 4C – Performance of Flood Management Evaluations. Travis provided examples, updates and reported on the Communities of Monahans, Fort Hancock, and Kermit. Monahans has completed the hydrologic modeling, as well as

the preliminary hydraulic modeling. Next step is meeting with communities to discuss comparisons to historical events. AECOM is in the process of dam modeling insights in Fort Hancock and finalizing results before moving onto hydraulic modeling. AECOM is also in the process of setting up the preliminary hydraulic model within the City of Kermit. The City of Kermit's hydrologic model will overlap significantly with Monahans, as the City of Kermit is upstream of Monahans.

10. AECOM – Travis Brand provided final updates on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be Performed by TWDB. March 26, 2026, deliverable was submitted and received by TWDB. Request for information was received April 17, 2026, and request for information response was submitted on April 24, 2026. April 24, 2026, deliverable was submitted and received by TWDB. Travis stated that there was potential for additional RFI or comments from TWDB.
11. AECOM – Travis provided summary and presentation of the 2023 Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan Amendment #3. Amendment #2 included additions to FMEs and changes to FMSs. The geodatabase submitted to TWDB did not include information necessary to make the Region 14 FMSs eligible for funding under the Flood Infrastructure Fund. Upon learning about this with the release of the draft Flood Infrastructure Fund Intended Use Plan for FY 26-27 and the draft rankings, discussion started about submitting what would be Amendment #3. In discussion with the URGRFPG, RIOCOG, TWDB, and AECOM, it was suggested to limit Amendment #3 to the geodatabase changes necessary to list the FMSs in the Flood Infrastructure Fund to reduce creation and review time. We requested, as part of the Draft FIF IUP FY26-27 public comments, that Amendment #3 FMSs be included as eligible for funding and are awaiting a response from TWDB.
12. RIOCOG - Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action on the approval for Region 14 to proceed with Amendment #3 to the Regional Flood Plan Amendment to update NRNC costs. RIOCOG Executive Director Gutierrez and Secretary Gisela Dagnino further clarified that AECOM will be working on Amendment #3 at their own expense and that no charges will be made to the URGRFPG program. Vice-Chairman Hall made a motion to approve Agenda Item #12. Secretary Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
13. AECOM – Travis provided summary and presentation of 2023 Regional Flood Plan Amendment #3 materials. Amendment #3 was requested by the Regional Flood Planning group to address further issues with previously submitted FMSs related to non-recurring non-capital (NRNC) costs. This amendment includes changes to the geodatabase and does not include changes to any chapters, tables, appendices, or maps.
14. RIOCOG - Consider, discuss, and take appropriate action to adopt and submit to TWDB the draft 2023 Regional Flood Plan Amendment #3 to update NRNC costs, approval for AECOM to address non-substantial comments to be approved by the

Executive Committee prior to submittal, and approval for AECOM and/or the Executive Committee to respond to subsequent non-substantial requests from TWDB related to the draft 2023 Regional Flood Plan Amendment #3. Vice-Chairman Hall made a motion to approve Agenda Item #14. Voting member Levi Bryant seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

15. RIOCOG - Discussion on next General URGRFPG meeting date. A doodle poll will be sent out in order to determine the best date for the next URGRFPG meeting in September.

16. Chair – ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Hall made a motion to adjourn. Voting member Jeff Bennett seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

08/20/2026

Date



Gisela Dagnino, Secretary