

REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 16, 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
John Blount	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	✓
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
Lizeth Perez	Texas Water Development Board	✓

Monica Wedo	AECOM	✓
Judge Joe Scuster	Pecos County	✓
Oralia Sarinana	Hudspeth County	✓
Others Present:		
Aarón Burciaga, RGCOG		
Alejandra Marco, AECOM		
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 1:03 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 February 17, 2026.
Secretary Gisela Dagnino made a motion to approve the Minutes from February 17, 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. Voting Member Levi Bryand made a motion to approve officers for URGRFPG calendar year 2026. Voting Member Carlos Velarde seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
5. TWDB Updates
Nick Collins provided TWDB updates regarding the ordered list of FME(s) for TWDB to perform under Task 5B is due on or before March 26, 2026. Prior to submission RFPG'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 a reminder email was sent out on January 20, 2026 in order to provide details on RFPG requirements for this task. The Scope of Work and Community Affirmation Forms for all FMEs on the FME list to be performed by the TWDB is due on April 24, 2026. Finally, TWDB contracted with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to create a model for calculating economic losses due to flood events on agricultural lands. The project is now complete, and the Agricultural Flood Loss Guidance Document and analysis tool have been published on TWDB website is now available.
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 depend 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. AECOM – Updates on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be performed by TWDB. Travis Brand provided updates, proposed timelines 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. If TWDB determines that an FME cannot be completed during this cycle, due to budget constraints, TCEQ studies, etc. The FME will be skipped and will move to the next FME on the list.
9. RIOCOG – Discuss and take action on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be Performed by TWDB. Adopt initial draft list of two identified FMEs in Hudspeth County, developing county-wide drainage study and stormwater master plan, and develop Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for Hudspeth County Dams. Voting Member Gilbert Saldana made a motion to approve the recommended list of flood management evaluations to be performed by TWDB. Secretary Gisela Dagnino seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. 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 the first week of May.
13. 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.

08/06/2026

Date



Gisela Dagnino, Secretary