

REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 7, 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
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, 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 1:04 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 March 16, 2026. Vice-Chairman Hall had some questions regarding mandated TCEQ Dam studies that were mentioned in the minutes and the possible implications on potential projects. Vice-Chairman Hall also inquired about the URGRFPG public comment that was submitted to the TWDB Board in March. The URGRFPG has yet to receive any proper feedback from TWDB leadership from the URGRFPG public comment submission. TWDB representatives acknowledged the important need of requested feedback from the URGRFPG public comment submission. Vice-Chairman Hall made a motion to approve the Minutes from March 16, 2026. Voting Member Levi Bryand seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. TWDB Updates

Nick Collins provided TWDB updates regarding the TWDB approval of 14 Second Amendment 2023 Regional Flood Plans for regions one and three through 15 on March 31, 2026. The information from these amendments will be integrated into an amended 2024 State Flood Plan; TWDB hopes it will be ready early next year. 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, the TWDB is currently reviewing the technical memorandums for all RFPG's and TWDB will provide informal comments this summer. TWDB Regional Flood Planning intends to host an upcoming Chairs Conference Call with a date soon to be determined, which will more than likely occur during middle of summer. Nick Collins inquired if Chairman Acosta would be interested and would like to volunteer in hosting the event. The most recent TWDB newsletter was sent out on March 25, 2026 and is also available online.

5. AECOM – Travis Brand provided general updates and updates on Task 2, Task 3, Task 4B, Task 4C, and final updates on Task 5B. Travis provided general updates

and important dates 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.

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.
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. Travis and AECOM team will review and make recommendations based on the TWDB's green and nature-based flood infrastructure study results, and will summarize regional needs and priorities, and will update goals based on impacts, practices, needs, and stakeholder input.
8. AECOM – Updates on Task 4B – Technical Memorandum. The Technical Memorandum was submitted to TWDB on January 7, 2026. The URGRFPG is awaiting comments from TWDB. It is not required to address these comments in a revised Technical Memorandum. Comments on the Technical Memorandum will be incorporated into the draft and final Regional Flood Plan. AECOM will detail how these comments will be addressed.
9. RIOCOG – 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 complete hydrologic modeling as well as preliminary hydraulic modeling complete. 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. RIOCOG – Travis Brand provided final updates on Task 5B – Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be Performed by TWDB. The 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. The April 24, 2026, deliverable was submitted and received by TWDB. Currently ongoing is follow up with Community Affirmation documents. Vice Chairman Hall inquired about Judge Tambunga's inquiry into his concern regarding liability for

the FME study. Nick Collins stated that TWDB is looking into this but is still awaiting internal legal counsel response and feedback.

11. 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 July.

12. Chair – ADJOURN

Chairman Acosta made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Acosta called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

08/07/2026

Date



Gisela Dagnino, Secretary