

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 13. Nueces Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**September 27, 2021 – 1pm**  
**Meeting Held in Tilden, TX**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

LJ Francis Called the meeting to order at 1:07pm.

A roll call was conducted.

Voting Members

Debra Barrett	<i>Agricultural</i>	present
Shanna K. Owens	<i>Counties</i>	present
Lauren Hutch Williams	<i>Environmental</i>	present
Larry Thomas	<i>Flood Districts</i>	absent
Jeffrey Pollack	<i>Industries</i>	absent
LJ Francis	<i>Municipalities</i>	present
Adnan Rajib	<i>Public</i>	absent
Sky Lewey	<i>River Authorities</i>	present
Andrew Rooke	<i>Small business</i>	present
J.R. Ramirez	<i>Water Districts</i>	present
Larry Dovalina	<i>Water Utilities</i>	absent

Non-voting members

Jim Tolan	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Department</i>	absent
Tim Frere	<i>Texas Division of Emergency Management</i>	absent
Nelda Barrera	<i>Texas Department of Agricultural</i>	absent
Kendria Ray	<i>Texas State Soil &amp; Water Conservation</i>	absent
Morgan White	<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	absent
Joel Anderson	<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	present
Travis Pruski	<i>Nueces River Authority</i>	present
Kristi Shaw	<i>HDR</i>	present
Bryan Martin	<i>HDR</i>	present
Dave Mauk	<i>Liaison from San Antonio RFPG</i>	
Patrick McGinn	<i>Liaison to Region 12 &amp; 15 RFPG</i>	present

A quorum was noted.

Guests

Judge Saenz – Duval County

Judge Teal – McMullen County

## **2. Prayer**

LJ Francis conducted the prayer.

## **3. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **4. Approval of minutes from the July 26th, 2021 Full RFPG Meeting.**

LJ Francis asked for approval of the minutes.

Shanna Owens made the motion to approve the minutes.

Andy Rook seconded the motion.

The Motion passed unanimously.

## **5. TWDB updates/presentation**

Morgan White from TWDB participated via web. She reported that the new TWDB planner will be introduced next month. Ms. White explained that the TWDB website was updated to detail with how much of the 10 million additional dollars provided for regional flood planning was given to Region 13 as well as how the money was allocated. LJ Francis asked about an email that stated the RFPG needs to certify the administrative expenses for the Nueces River Authority. Ms. White stated yes that it is in the rules that the RFPG must certify sponsor's expenses.

## **6. Discussion and possible action regarding a status update and assumptions on existing and future condition flood risk analyses. (Task 2A & 2B)**

Bryan Martin of HDR provided an update along with the terminology used. He stated that population growth is used to plan flood risk. HDR updated the information on dams using current data and information provided by TCEQ Dam Safety Group. There is now a list of dams that would not hydraulically pass a designed event due to the inadequate hydraulic design criteria used at the time of construction. Currently there are 116 regulated dams and 355 non-regulated. Hydraulically inadequate is defined as a dam that will not pass the current TCEQ safety requirements. Poor condition means that potentially that there are issues with the structure of the dam.

Flood Hazard Analyses

Hazard determines location and magnitude of flooding.

Exposure is who and what. (buildings, bridges, roads)

Vulnerability is looking at how vulnerable communities are – mostly about infrastructure. (hospitals, schools, police).

LJ Francis liked that the Story book will show stakeholders where there is going to be a problem and where they need to spend money on flood planning.

#### **7. Discussion and possible action regarding a review of the comprehensive region map showing flood-prone and flood risk areas and receive input.**

This item was grouped with Item #6 above.

#### **8. Discussion and possible action regarding Region 13 Subcommittee on Flood Mitigation and Management Goals for Short Term (10 Year) and Long Term (30 year) – Proposed documents (Task 3B)**

The subcommittee met on August 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss these standards and priorities. There was a PowerPoint presentation in which assimilated information on what others had been considering. The TWDB have 4 groupings loss of life, property damage, floodplain management and funding. A floodplain standards and goals survey were sent out to administrators or judges in regional flood group planning area. 32 responses representing all 4 of the different subgroups were received. The feedback from the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting discussion of the 10- and 30-year goals were put have been summarized as well as the floodplain management standards, which was sent 2 weeks prior to this meeting. Kristi Shaw went over the goals and the 10- & 30-year metrics.

**Loss of life** – Low water crossings, high hazard dams and improving regional coordination.

**Property damage** – Performing flood mapping evaluations and update of flood plain maps and flood hazard data.

**Floodplain management** – Preparing minimum floodplain or flood management standards including identifying operations and maintenance practices to maintain drainage structures, including removal of gravel and sediment deposition to mitigate future flood impacts. The second metric is promoting riparian conservation land protection programs and landowner incentives to engage in voluntary land practices to manage flood waters. The third metric is developing public information campaigns to increase community knowledge of rules and regulations flood prone areas and the importance of protecting floodplains from encroachment.

**Funding** – Increase the dedicated funding sources to provide maintenance of drainage and culvert systems to divert flows and identify structural improvements causing flooding issues and to move those or rectify. Identify resources and technical training for floodplain administrators or designees to support community outreach including permitting support to

verify new projects meet floodplain development requirements and providing funding sources for 20 percent of communities and 30 percent of the counties in Region 13.

Several members had comments and suggestions on some of the verbiage, which Kristi Shaw addressed/changed.

LJ Francis asked for a motion to approve the proposed goals “as is” until the next meeting where they can be refined.

Debra Barrett made the motion to approve.

Shanna Owens seconded it.

Motion passed unanimously.

### **9. Discussion and possible action regarding Region 13 Subcommittee to Identify Potentially Feasible FMSs and FMPs and Select FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs for the 2023 RFP – Proposed documents and preliminary list (Tasks 4A & 4B)**

A group consisting of Debra Barrett, LJ Francis, Kendria Ray and & Lauren Hutch Williams met on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to put together a process by which potential flood management evaluation strategies and processes would be identified for the 2023 Nueces Regional Flood Plan. The goal is communication the tools that have been developed by the Nueces River Authority; such as the Region 13 website and maps for the flood prone areas. Surveys were sent to floodplain administrators and stakeholders based on contacts that gathered through the GLO, FEMA, Water Development Board and Nueces River Authority efforts from the direct outreach provided by the roadshow meetings. There was also person follow up. Then the aforementioned subcommittee was formed to draft the process that we’re talking about today. The goal today is to discuss these in an open and transparent way and receive public comments on the process we are proposing to use and identify and select projects moving forward.

By looking at the story map Bryan shared earlier we identify ongoing and proposed projects, along with the flood prone areas. We also look conjunctively and identify where there are already projects in progress that seek to address some of these flood prone areas. More importantly from a flood planning perspective where are there no projects that have been identified, we can identify as a group the projects that would help ameliorate some of the flooding issues. We will use that to perform an initial screening of these projects during the next year and a half of evaluation the studies. We will then look at those evaluations within the lens of the goals we just talked about. Emergency needs considering prevention projects to mitigate future flooding and the potential impact to the agreed order provisions with respect to how the City of Corpus Christi operates the Choke Canyon and Lake Corpus Christi reservoir systems will be evaluated. HDR is also looking at federal funding and funding sources in the draft and final plan so that communities can gather much needed resources to implement these programs that are identified.

Implementation and with the goal of reducing flood risk for 100-year storm events will be included.

LJ Francis asked for a motion to approve the preliminary list.

Andrew Rooke made the motion to approve it.

Sky Lewey seconded it.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **10. Update from Planning Group Sponsor – Nueces River Authority regarding administrative matter of the Regional Flood Planning Group.**

Travis Pruski told the group that Larry Dovalina had suffered a stroke over the weekend and was recovering at home. He will be on bedrest, and he asked the group include him in their prayers.

We have our next meeting together on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The governor's mandate states that we are required to have in-person meetings; so we need to pick a location suitable for the meetings. If you are unable to attend you can send a proxy, just notify me of the proxy, someone that can come and vote on your behalf. We are required to have a location and a quorum present in that location. We need to make sure we are doing our best to be here or have a proxy in attendance.

LJ Francis stated that everyone is required to name a proxy in accordance with the bylaws. So, I am going to ask all voting and non-voting members to please email to Travis by the end of this week.

The decision was made to continue having the meeting at McMullen County EOC. It was mentioned that an earlier time would be more convenient. Travis stated we would try to have a noon meeting and provide lunch.

Travis stated that the GLO has shared information with us for our flood plan and they are asking us to share the information we've collected so far. I think that's the right thing to do unless anybody has an issue with that. They are specifically asking for the results of the survey.

#### **11. Update from Patrick McGinn Liaison to Region 12 San Antonio RFPG and Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG.**

Patrick McGinn gave a short brief of the last meeting of Region 15 covering the Lower Rio Grande. He stated the group discussed and updated voting and non-voting members. The technical consultant is working on task one, three and four.

Region 12 San Antonio discussed a few items from TWDB as well as a report on the 1.8 million funding. There were a couple of discuss items that were for creating subcommittees and their

subcommittees are trying to identify and tweak their goals. They also discussed inappropriate actions regarding the consultant's work and schedule with collecting data, concerns with map changes and how they were prepared. They discussed the type of criteria for their land use and how to set their goals. They also discussed the plans for the subcommittees.

#### **12. RFPG member's comments.**

LJ Francis asked to hear from the non-voting members about updates or comments.

LJ had a question for Travis regarding the funding from the communities. Travis stated that about 40 to 50% have already replied with funding. The remaining are all doing their budgets for the 21-22 cycles October 1. We have not had any negative feedback. The funding is to help us cover the cost of the river authority sponsoring the group. We only get a small portion of the funding from TWDB, and local funding helps us cover cost. So, NRA does not spend or make money from the planning project. We asked the counties to buy into the project.

#### **13. Adjourn**

LJ Francis adjourned the meeting at 3:33.