

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 13. Nueces Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**July 26th, 2021**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

LJ Francis Called the meeting to order at 1:04pm  
 A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance and a quorum was established prior to calling the meeting to order.

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>	present
Sky Lewey	<i>River Authorities</i>	present
Andrew M. Rooke	<i>Small business</i>	present
J.R. Ramirez	<i>Water Districts</i>	present
Larry Dovalina	<i>Water Utilities</i>	present

Non-voting members

Jim Tolan	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Department</i>	present
Tim Frere	<i>Texas Division of Emergency Management</i>	present
Nelda Barrera	<i>Texas Department Of Agricultural</i>	present
Kendria Ray	<i>Texas State Soil &amp; Water Conservation</i>	present
Simone Sanders	<i>General Land Office</i>	present
Morgan White	<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	present
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	Liaison from San Antonio RFPG	absent
Patrick McGinn	Liaison to Region 12 &15 RFPG	present

Guests

Diana Adami – Freer WCID	Judge Saenz – Duval County
Tammy Embrey	Maria Escamilla
Judge Rogers	James Bronikowski – TWDB
Lisa McCracken Mairs – USACE	Kathy Ard-Blattner
Brenda Elizondo	Debbie Frammer
Odilia Reyes – Gregory	Sarah West
Laura Raun	Cathy Skurow – Portland
Dale Patterson – McMullen County	Stephen Tolbert
Danielle Gosha	Anna Aldridge
Elizabeth Levitz – AECOM	Isabella Baker

Gary Edwards  
Amanda Torin  
Arsum Pathuk  
Diana Cantu  
J. Calderon  
L Muniz

Raul Carrizles  
Matt Nika  
Susan Roth  
Robert Hurley  
Christine B

**2. Prayer**

LJ Francis conducted the prayer.

**3. Approval of minutes from the June 28th, 2021 Full RFPG and Pre-planning meeting**

JR Ramirez made a motion to approve meeting minutes.

Sky Lewey seconded the motion

The Motion passed unanimously

**4. TWDB presentation on pre-planning public meeting background information and requirements**

Morgan White mentioned that \$10 million in additional funds are made available for the State Wide for the Regional Flood Planning. Travis Pruski and Kristi Shaw had applied on behalf of Region 13. We will know the results at the October meeting.

**5. GLO Presentation**

The West Region team presented an overview of the Combined River Basin Flood Study. Simone Sanders gave a brief overview of the GLO's goals for the study. Elizabeth Levitz, the West Region's project manager with AECOM shared the study's benefits, partners, timelines, and potential funding opportunities as a result of this study.

Lj Francis asked how data will be collected and shared between communities. Elizabeth answered that there will be many opportunities and interactions between GLO and TWDB to share data. The West Region team is happy to share data in support of the RFPG where relevant (though the overlap between Nueces and West Region is limited to eight counties). Lj Francis also asked if the study was fully funded. Elizabeth answered yes. Any questions about the study can be directed to the team's mailbox at [GLOfloodstudies.west@recovery.texas.gov](mailto:GLOfloodstudies.west@recovery.texas.gov).

**6. Discussion and possible action regarding Green Infrastructure**

The goal of our presentation is to provide science-based information on nature-based solutions to the Regional Flood Planning Group members that will allow the region to make informed flood planning decisions. Designed to bring everyone up to a baseline level of knowledge, the presentation provides an overview of nature-based solutions and their importance, showcases different types of nature-based solutions, and discusses their role in mitigating flooding as well as building socio-economic and environmental resilience. The presenters also share region and state specific case studies, potential funding sources, and recommendations that the group members can leverage for incorporating nature-based solutions in the development of their flood mitigation strategies.

**7. Discussion and possible action regarding RFPG members comments from the Technical Consultant presentations at the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Bryan Martin discussed the HDR data updates since the last minute. They have updated the layers for the GIS story map. New data entered was the Texas Department of Emergency Management. They are going to update in October with new data as they are continuing their data mining. The story map includes the 115 regulated dams, 750 lower water crossings and 2704 bridges. We know that we did not capture all low water crossing. We need the stakeholders to help us highlight those missing crossing. The story map has been updated with USGS gages. We also included property damages, injuries and deaths from the FEMA data base.

**8. Discussion and possible action regarding consideration of formation of Region 13 Subcommittee to Identify Flood Mitigation and Management Goals for Short Term (10 year) and Long Term (30 year) (Task 3B)**

Kristi Shaw discussed the need to form a Subcommittee to Identify the Flood Mitigation and Management Goals for the Nueces RFPG laid out in Task 3B. Andrew Rooke, Larry Dovalina, Jim Tolan, and Larry Thomas volunteered for the subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet in August

Larry Dovalina made the motion to appoint the subcommittee group.

Andrew Rooke seconded the motion

The Motion passed unanimously

**9. Discussion and possible action regarding consideration of formation of Region 13 Subcommittee to Develop Proposed Process to be used by RFPG to Identify Potentially Feasible FMSs and FMPs and Select FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs for the 2023 RFP (Tasks 4A & 4B)**

Kristi Shaw discussed the need to form a Subcommittee to Develop Proposed Process to Identify Potentially Feasible FMS and FMPs laid out in task 4A and 4b. Debra Barrett, Lauren Williams, LJ Francis and Kendria Ray volunteered for the subcommittee. The subcommittee will meet in August

Larry Dovalina made the motion to appoint the subcommittee group.

Debra Barrett seconded the motion

The Motion passed unanimously

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

**a. Discussion and possible action regarding status of solicitation for individuals to fill the one remaining voting position – Electric Generating Utilities**

Travis Pruski stated he is working on soliciting for the open position.

**b. Cancel August General meeting in leu of Subcommittee Meetings**

Travis Pruski made the suggestion to cancel the August General so the subcommittee could do their work. Kristi Shaw agreed. This would allow us to keep on track with our first planning schedule.

Larry Dovalina made the motion

Andrew Rooke seconded the motion

The Motion passed unanimously

**c. September 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting – In Person in Tilden, McMullen County**

Travis Pruski stated that due to the Governor lift of the open meeting exemptions, meeting will need to be held in person. We will allow online listen only. There will be no comments or votes allowed virtually.

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

There were no updates.

**12. RFPG members' comment**

LJ Francis challenged the group to meet with stakeholders in their interest group. Andrew Rooke visited with Refugio County. They appreciate the update and want to be engaged. Travis Pruski visited with the city of Bayside to discuss their issues. Kristi Shaw stated there were several comments on the data map from that area.

**13. Adjourn**

Larry Dovalina made motion to adjourn.  
Debra Barrett seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.  
Mr. Francis adjourned 3:17pm

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Shanna Owens, SECRETARY

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LJ Francis, CHAIR

Minutes Prepared by Travis Pruski, Nueces River Authority