

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 13. Nueces Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**June 28th, 2021**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

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

LJ Francis Called the meeting to order at 1:03pm

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>	present
Jeffrey Pollack	<i>Industries</i>	present
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>	absent
Nelda Barrera	<i>Texas Department Of Agricultural</i>	absent
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>	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	Liaison from San Antonio RFPG	absent
Patrick McGinn	Liaison to Region 12 &15 RFPG	absent

Guests

Mayor Easton- City of Bayside

Reem Zoun – TWDB

Sarah West

Alicia Reinmund Martinez

Vilma Danielson

Christian Barnes

Kelli Greenwood

Martin Escamilla

Tyler Castillo – NWS

Susan Roth

Justin Li

Gendi Hobbs

Cynthis Contreras – City of Bishop

Debbie Farmer

L. Martinez

James Bronikowski - TWDB

Stacy Barna

Brain Lecker

Lisa McCracken-Mairs - USACE

Anna Aldridge

Brian Leiher

Laura Raun

Thomas Salazar – City of Three Rivers

Kathryn Tunnell

Tammy Embrey

Jonathan Bates

Daniel Li

Kahrine Lawrence

J. Caldera

Kathleen B.

**2. Prayer**

LJ Francis conducted the prayer.

**3. Approval of minutes from the April 26th, 2021 Full RFPG and Pre-planning meeting**

Larry Dovalina made one correct for him representing Water Utilities. Travis Pruski agreed to make the change.

Larry Dovalina 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**

James Bronikowski presented the Pre-Planning Public Meeting Background. This process is to gather suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered by the Regional Flood Planning Group in the development of the

regional flood plan. Mr. Bronikowski shared the timeline and other regional flood planning information with the public.

**5. Pre-planning Public comments - Public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies to consider during the flood planning cycle/development of the regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code §361.12(a)(4)).**

Lj Francis open the public comment period. No members of the public provided a comment. Dr. Jim Tolan wanted to follow up on the non-use of mangroves for flood strategies. Texas Parks and Wildlife does not recommend the use of them. Mr. Francis announced that he would ask for public comment again at the end of the meeting.

**6. Discussion and possible action regarding preliminary Planning Area Description information gathered by Technical Consultant – Task 1**

Kristi Shaw talked about the ArcGIS information they are collecting online and how it will be easy to share information, identify information gaps and include stakeholder comments.

This is important because the development of the Nueces Regional Flood Plan is a collaborative effort. Information exchange is important for the completion of the draft plan.

Ms. Shaw discussed the information that was collected via the roadshow, the public comments, and the Nueces RFPG website.

Bryan Martin walked the group through the ArcGIS platform. Mr. Martin showed the story map that shows 522 dams in the region. He showed the 548 low water crossing and 2,814 bridges that have been identified. He showed the proposed and ongoing projects, which included 30 Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) projects that have been identified with 17 FIF

projects having been funded by TWDB so far. This task is in progress. Mr. Martin showed the location of the USGS gage locations and described record flood events throughout the region. Andrew Rooke asked if the information was going to be shared with the public. Ms. Shaw would like to share the information with Nueces RFPG members only at this time since the information is provisional. Sky Lewey asked about the input on the low water crossing and gage location. Ms. Lewey saw several missing items and in correct items. Mr. Martin stated that is exactly the feedback needed from the group to improve the maps and update the information. Ms. Shaw said the information was provided through the TWDB Floodplain Quilt. Updating the information is needed through feedback from the Nueces RFPG and the public. Ms. Lewey also wanted to see who maintains the infrastructure, between, counties, cities, and state. Ms. Lewey said that many county- maintained low water crossing are not on the map. Ms. Shaw will share the maps with Nueces RFPG members and welcomes feedback to improve the mapping.

**7. Discussion and possible action regarding Identified Flood Prone Areas (from interactive survey and roadshow) – Tasks 2A & 2B**

Bryan Martin showed the story map with the information that was collected through the Stakeholder meetings, the Nueces RFPG website and the surveys. Lauren Williams asked about the outreach for collecting input from the stakeholders and public. Travis Pruski stated we have collected 600 plus email addresses and are sending out emails requesting input into the plan. The email may go into some junk email boxed depending on email setting. Around 200 emails are being opened.

**8. Discussion and possible action regarding preliminary information on existing Flood Risk (from TWDB Floodplain Quilt) and Data Gaps – Task 2A**

Bryan Martin showed the flood risk inundation boundaries on the story map. Mr. Martin showed the historical flood fatalities, injuries and property damages on the story map. Mr. Martin showed maps showing data gaps due to no identified mapping or outdated mapping. All this is part the ArcGIS platform. Lauren William asked how we are working with other Regions to see what they are doing. Mr. Martin stated HDR is working with technical consultants in other regions to share experiences. Andrew Rooke asked when the Nueces RFPG members would get the link. Ms. Shaw said they would have it to the group in the next few days. Ms. Lewey asked if we would include a vegetation layer for the mapping. Mr. Martin said the region can add vegetation to the mapping.

**9. Discussion and possible action regarding existing Floodplain Management Practices and Effectiveness – Task 3A**

Kristi Shaw discussed the survey that was deployed on June 17<sup>th</sup>. It went to 120 stakeholders to gather information on existing Floodplain Management Practices. Ms. Shaw walked the group through the survey and what HDR is looking for.

**10. Agenda - 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. Discussion and possible action regarding the need to establish local funding participation for the business operation of the Region 13- Nueces Flood planning group**

Travis Pruski made the presentation on how many regions in Water Planning Groups use local funding to help with the business operations of the Planning Group. Those funds help cover cost of meetings, stakeholder outreach and travel expenses that are not covered in the funding through the Water Development Board funding. The Nueces River Authority is looking for \$80,000 to \$90,000. Ms. Shaw stated how it works in the Coastal Bend RWPG. Mr. Pruski suggested about \$3,000 per county that are 50% or more in the Nueces RFPG and around half for the counties less than 50%. This is voluntary for the counties. In the Coastal Bend RWPG, 100% of municipalities do participate. Sky Lewey said this was good idea because it will give the local counties to have ownership in the plan.

Larry Dovalina made the motion to approve the local funding participation for the business operations the Nueces River Authority as the sponsor for Region 13.

Sky Lewey seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

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

**Lower Rio Grande RFPG**

Patrick McGinn was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

**12. RFPG members' comment**

Travis Pruski discussed the option for moving to in person meeting in September. Mr. Pruski has meet with Judge Teal in McMullen County. Judge Teal has a suitable meeting facility in Tilden and has offered it to the Nueces RFPG for use. The location is centrally located for the Nueces RFPG.

Lj Francis gave an updated on the tri-county drainage in Nueces, Jim Wells, and Kleberg counties. Mr. Francis gave an update on the RFPG Chairs Conference Call on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Francis challenged the Nueces RFPG members to engage with stakeholders in your interest group.

Larry Thomas thanked HDR for the interactive map. The data set and map is outstanding and great foundation for the Nueces RFPG plan.

### **13. Adjourn**

Larry Dovalina made motion to adjourn.

Larry Thomas seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Francis adjourned 2:48pm

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Shanna Owens, SECRETARY

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LJ Francis, CHAIR

Minutes Prepared by Travis Pruski, Nueces River Authority