

Meeting Minutes
Region 13. Nueces Flood Planning Group Meeting
April 26, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order

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

2. Prayer

LJ Francis conducted the prayer

3. Welcome, Roll, Meeting Facilitation Information, and Instructions

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 interests</i>	present
Shanna K. Owens	<i>Counties</i>	present
Vacant	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	N/A
Lauren Hutch Williams	<i>Environmental interest</i>	absent
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	N/A
Jeffrey Pollack	<i>Industries</i>	present
LJ Francis	<i>Municipalities</i>	present
Adnan Rajib	<i>Public</i>	absent
Sky Lewey	<i>River authorities</i>	present
Andrew M. Rooke	<i>Small business</i>	present
J.R. Ramirez	<i>Water districts</i>	absent
Larry Dovalina	<i>Water districts</i>	present

Non-voting members

Jim Tolan	<i>Texas Parks & 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 & Water Conservation</i>	absent
Simone Sanders	<i>General Land Office</i>	present
Hayley Gillespie, Ph.D.	<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	present
Joel Anderson	<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	present

Travis Pruski	<i>Nueces River Authority</i>
Kristi Shaw	<i>HDR</i>
Bryan Martin	<i>HDR</i>
Dave Mauk	<i>Liaison from San Antonio RFPG</i>

Guest

Judge Shanklin	Judge Saenz
Stacey Barna	Kim Chanslor

Larry Thomas
Rose Sobel
Zach Stein
Laura Raun
Susan Roth
Velma Danielson
James Bronikowski
Juan Pimented

Patrick McGinn
Gwen Jurisich
Kim Szymczak
Matt Nelson
Sarah West
Daniel Zell
Morgan White
L. Muniz

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

Larry Dovalina Made a motion to approve meeting minutes
Shanna Owens Seconded the motion
The Motion Passed Unanimously

5. TWDB Update & or Presentation

Hayley Gillespie gave an update on the execution of the contract with the Technical Consultant. She has been working the NRA and HDR to complete.

Hayley Gillespie said we have one more preplanning meeting to schedule in the future.

Hayley Gillespie asked us to update our contact list when we add new members

6. Discussion Item – Technical Consultant Team- HDR, Inc.- Introductions Team Roles

Kristi Shaw thanked the Nueces RFPG for selecting HDR to be the Technical Consultant. Kristi Shaw introduced the HDR team and their roles in the project. Bryan Martin will be the Project Manager. Please see the attach pages with the member bios.

Larry Dovalina expressed the concerns over the middle basin of the Nueces RFPG being overlooked and wanted to make sure it was address during the process. Kristi Shaw stated Brian Hilbrich has worked in the Middle Basin and will help fill in those data gaps in that part of the region. LJ Franics thanked the HDR team for committing to project and expects the Nueces RFPG plan to go above and beyond during the process.

7. Discussion Item – RFP Schedule and near-term activities and or milestones

Kristi Shaw explained plan of using “Road Shows” to break the Nueces RPFGG into smaller regions to get to the local level. Kristi will be working with Travis Pruski on the scheduling the road shows. The goals is to have them between May 11th and 21st.

Kristi Shaw asked to be flexible on the last meeting if November 29th meeting and moving if needed to meet the TWDB timelines. LJ Francis stated the board would be flexible

Travis Pruski stated he speaking with many County Judge and is working on a calendar to make the “Road Shows” a success.

Bryan Martin stated the local input is the most invaluable information to this project. The sooner the input comes in the better the plan can be.

LJ Francis asked out the members can be involved in the “Road Shows”. Travis Pruski said he would email the Nueces RFPG. Everyone is invited to the locations and asked to spread the word to the public.

Kristi Shaw stated the goal of the “Road Shows” to introduce ourselves to the public and get the feedback from the local stakeholders.

8. HDR Discussion & Presentation

a. Examples of Stakeholder Communication Tool to gather and display information to support RFP process and complete the TWDB flood planning tasks

Gwen Jurisich demonstrated the online survey tool to get local input. There will be a GIS tool that allows the public to drop “pins” on their local flooding issues. This is a program they used with great success in the City of San Angelo. This allows real-time data, pictures and will live thru the lifetime of the project. Bryan Martin stated how important this local information is for the project.

Larry Dovalina asked if HDR would be excess the water rights during this process. Zach Stein would be looking into the Region Water Planning Groups and water right in projects that would be necessary.

b. Stakeholder database, notification, and engagement

Kristi Shaw is working with several groups to build the stakeholder database.

9. Agenda - Update from Planning Group Sponsor – Nueces River Authority regarding administrative matters of the Regional Flood Planning Group. (item moved up on the Agenda)

a. Discussion and possible action regarding status of solicitation for individuals to fill the two remaining voting positions – Electric generating utilities & Flood Districts

Nomination of Larry Thomas to the Flood District Position

Larry Dovalina Made the Motion for Larry Thomas to fill the voting positions.

Sky Lewey Seconded the Motion

The Motion Passed Unanimously

b. Discussion and possible action regarding appointing Liaison to the neighboring Region 12 San Antonio RFPG and Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG

Nomination of Patrick McGinn for the Liaisons to both San Antonio RFGP and Lower Rio Grande RFGP
Shanna Owens Made the Motion for Patrick to the Liaison positions
Andrew Rooke Seconded the Motion
The Motion Passed Unanimously

10. Public Comment

No Public Comment

11. RFGP members' comment

LJ Francis asked about the Contract for the Nueces RFGP. Travis Pruski stated has been completed with the Contact between the Nueces River Authority and the Texas Water Development Board. Travis also stated that John Byrum and Kristi Shaw are completing the contract between HDR and the Nueces River Authority and will be complete by next meeting.

12. Adjourn

Andrew Rooke made motion to adjourn.
Larry Dovalina seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Francis adjourned at 2:21

Shanna Owens, SECRETARY

LJ Francis, CHAIR

Minutes Prepared by Travis Pruski, Nueces River Authority

Technical Consultant Team- Key Team Members



Kristi Shaw, PE will serve as the delivery manager to support the Nueces Regional Flood Planning Group (Region 13) and Nueces River Authority. Kristi has been involved in regional water planning for the 11-county Coastal Bend Region N for 20 years. Through this process she has developed an understanding of Nueces River complexities, TWDB guidance and processes required for an adopted plan, and importance of task sequencing for planning group discussion and action to keep the project moving for successful on-time delivery. Her key responsibilities for Region 13 include identifying topics for RFPG and stakeholder discussion aligned with plan development, coordinating with Nueces River Authority and TWDB, and getting deliverables submitted on schedule.



Bryan Martin, PE, CFM will serve as the Project Manager for development of the 2023 Region 13 Nueces Regional Flood Plan. Bryan has over 22 years of focused experience related to flood management and risk analysis. Bryan is an experienced leader of basin-wide flood risk feasibility studies, including identifying and evaluating flood prone areas, feasible flood risk reduction alternatives, developing costs and prioritizing future Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs). Bryan has recent experience with stakeholder engagement for review of and update of floodplain ordinance and drainage criteria. He has recently identified and prepared flood mitigation application funding through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grants.



Sarah West, PE, CFM will serve as the Assistant Delivery Manager for the 2023 Region 13 Nueces Regional Flood Plan. Sarah's 18-yr career has been spent living and working in the Coastal Bend region, with experience developing drainage master plans and managing storm water drainage and coastal shoreline protection projects. She currently works in the Freese & Nichols Corpus Christi office, and will support many of the activities planned in the lower half of the Nueces Region.



Laura Raun will serve as Public Outreach and Engagement specialist in support of the 2023 Region 13 Nueces Regional Flood Plan. Laura is the founder of Laura Raun Public Relations, a PR firm that specializes in the water industry. She has extensive experience in flood planning, including leading stakeholder outreach for the State Flood Assessment done in 2018-19. Currently, she is assisting with stakeholder outreach for the GLO Flood Study for the Western Region, which includes the Lower Nueces watershed. For the Region 13 Flood Plan, Laura's responsibilities include public outreach and engagement activities

in support of analyzing existing and future flood risks; identifying and evaluating flood management strategies and flood mitigation projects; and completing the 2023 Region 13 Nueces Regional Flood Plan and getting Texas Water Development Board approval.



Velma Danielson will serve as team lead for Public Outreach and Engagement in the Upper Basin and support many of the activities related to GIS, environmental, and database management support. Her experience at Blanton and Associates is principally in the fields of groundwater management, water resources, and organizational management and administration, with specialties in coordination and management of multidisciplinary projects and organizations. Velma spent over 20 years with the Edwards Aquifer Authority and retired as General Manager in 2010 before joining B&A in 2013. Over her 30-plus year career, she has managed and directed multi-million-dollar efforts related to water resources and management.



Brandon Hilbrich will serve at the Task Lead for Flood Risk, Floodplain Management and Flood Mitigation activities for the 2023 Region 13 Nueces Regional Flood Plan. Brandon has over 12 years of complex H&H experience and is currently leading Drainage Tasks for several on-going flood planning and design projects throughout the basin. Through this experience, he has a strong understanding of current flood related data gaps and implemented successful approaches to mitigating this constraint. His responsibilities as Task Lead for Task 1-4 will include working with Bryan and Kristi to define key approaches, overseeing task objectives to completion and proactively communicating task progress.



Zach Stein will serve as the Task Lead for Impacts, Response, Recommendations, and Financing (Tasks 6-9) and will be responsible for identifying impacts of the flood plan, contributions and impacts to the State Water Plan, and preparing planning level costs for flood mitigation strategies. Zach has over 14 years of experience in water supply planning, water rights permitting, and surface water availability analyses and has been involved in the Coastal Bend (Region N) water planning throughout his entire career. Through his experience, Zach has gained in-depth knowledge of the hydrology and water management within the Nueces River Basin and the regional planning process.