

Meeting Minutes
Region 13 Nueces Flood Planning Group Meeting
January 25, 2021
Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Agenda Item – Call to Order

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 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>	present
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	N/A
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 districts</i>	absent

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>	absent

Travis Pruski *Nueces River Authority*

Guest

James Bronikowski, TWDB	Richard Bagans
Brandon Hilbranch	Kim Chansler
Rose Sobel	Linda Massman, Nueces River Authority
Stella Anderson	Kristi Shaw, HDR
Reem Zoun, TWDB	R. Branyon
S Stein	

2. Agenda Item – Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information and Instructions

LJ Francis welcomed members to the meeting. Travis Pruski provided meeting facilitation information and instructions.

3. Agenda Item – Prayer:

LJ conducted the prayer.

4. Agenda Item – Approval of minutes from November 30th 2020.

Jeff Pollack made a motion to approve the meeting.

Andy Rooke seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Agenda Item – TWDB Update & Presentation from Hayley Gillespie

Updates on the Draft Scope of Work: A couple of e-mails went out on Dec. 18th and Dec. 22nd. They have a lot of details regarding the pre-planning meetings that are required to gather public feedback. Updated draft contract language. The Working Conceptual Schedule is very helpful. It shows the whole planning cycle visualized in terms of the calendar

Broad overview of the 10 tasks in the Scope of Work.

Task #1 Planning Area Description

A general description of the region may include:

- Social & economic character
- Flood prone areas, types of major flood risks and key historical flood events
- Political subdivisions with flood related authority
- The extent of local regulation & development codes relevant to flooding
- Existing or proposed natural flood mitigation features & constructed major flood infrastructure

Tasks 2A & 2B Existing & future Condition Flood Risk Analyses

- Perform existing & future condition flood hazard analyses to determine the location & magnitude of both 1.0% and 0.2% annual chance flood events
- Develop existing & future condition flood exposure analyses to identify who and what might be harmed for both 1.0% and 0.2% annual chance flood events
- Perform existing & future condition vulnerability analyses to identify vulnerabilities of communities and critical facilities (Fire stations, schools, hospitals, etc)

Task 3A Evaluation & Recommendations on Floodplain Management Practices

- Consider how current floodplain management practices or regulations increase flood risks
- Consider how the 1.0 annual chance floodplain & associated flood risks may change over time
- Consider adopting minimum floodplain management/land use standards that an entity must adopt prior to including any evaluations, projects, or strategies in the regional flood plan.

Task 3B Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis

- Looks to identify very specific and achievable flood mitigation and floodplain management goals. We will be looking for both short term (10 year range) and long term (30 year range) if achievable mitigation goals. Because we may not be able to completely eliminate the risk of flooding in the future, we will want you to state the levels of residual flood risk that will remain in the region after these goals are fully met.

Task 4A Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis

- We are looking to identify locations within the region that have the greatest flood mitigation and flood risk study needs. We are going to base this on the analyses and goals developed under Task 2A through 3B. Things to consider would be areas most prone to flooding that threaten life and property. Location and performance of the floodplain management and land use policies. May be looking at areas that lack adequate inundation maps, areas with emergency needs, areas with historical flood events.

Key Terms for Tasks 4&5: FME, FMP & FMS

FME or Flood Management Evaluations: are the flood studies or proposed flood studies of specific flood prone areas that are needed in order to assess your flood risk and determine whether there are any potentially feasible strategies or flood mitigation projects.

FMP or Flood Mitigation Projects: are specific projects, they can be either structural or non-structural. When implemented they should reduce flood risks, mitigate flood hazards to life or property.

FMS or Flood Management Strategy: they are long term solutions, that may or may not involve construction and there are usually no capital costs associated with them.

Task 4B Identification & Evaluation of Potential FMEs & Potentially Feasible FMSs & FMPs.

- Here we are looking to identify potential FMEs for potentially feasible strategies and projects based on the process that you come up with, developed with public input. Your region will be tasked with coming up with a process for identifying potentially feasible strategies and projects here. You are also going to evaluate potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs & FMPs based on a variety of factors described in both the rules and the forthcoming guidance documents. FMPs should be permissible, constructible and implementable.

Task 4C Prepare and Submit Technical Memorandum or tech memo will be due by January 7, 2022 and should include all deliverables from Tasks 1 – 4 detailed in the Scope of Work. The TWDB Guidance Document will provide more information.

Task 5 Recommendation of Flood Management Evaluations and Flood Management Strategies & Associated Flood Mitigation Projects: This is where your group recommendations, your recommended flood evaluations/studies that are most likely to identify potentially feasible strategies and projects. Recommend FMS and FMPs to reduce the impacts of floods, based on evaluations under Task 4B. Recommendations should be based on comparison of alternatives.

Task 6 Regional & State Flood Planning Long-Range Planning Process: This gives an overall view of how the regional flood planning process interlocks with the state flood plan and the long range planning process. The regional flood plans will identify flood risk. You will recommend FMEs, FMSs and FMPs within the region. Once the regional flood plans are given over to the TWDB and they developing the state flood plan, the state flood plan is going to rank those recommended evaluation strategies and projects statewide. The next step in future planning cycles, future state assistance may be allocated using criteria that will involve public input an input from all regions.

Task 6A Impacts of Regional Flood Plan: Summarize the relative reduction in flood risk that implementation of the plan would achieve. Describe impacts of recommended FMSs and FMPs on environment, agriculture, recreation, water quality, erosion, sedimentation & navigation. Another key component affect neighboring communities or downstream communities.

Task 6B Contributions to and Impacts on Water Supply Development and the State Water Plan: 6B is related to 6A but it specifically focused on water supply. What are the impacts of the regional water plan and how will it affect water supply. How do your FMSs & FMPs contribute to water supply if at all. Look at the state water supply plan as well, how would FMSs & FMPs impact water supply availability or other projects in your region that are also part of the state water plan and look how these two processes are related.

Task 7 Flood Response Information and Activities: Summarize existing flood response preparations within your region and coordinating entities in the region to gather information. RFPGs do not perform analyses or other activities related to disaster response and recovery.

Task 8 Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations: Here you're developing policy recommendations to implement and achieve with the groups stated goals and plans in your regional flood plan. The second component is that it is possible to consider potential new revenue raising opportunities to fund flood activities in the region.

Task 9 Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis: We are going to survey and report on how sponsors proposed to finance recommended FMEs & FMPs. Also to include recommendations on the proposed role of the state, financing these studies, the evaluations and projects.

Task 10 Public Participation and Plan Adoption: Public participation in the plan adoption is key here. Administrative activities in this task include, of course, meeting preparation, notices, agendas, materials, making sure that the meetings are public and gathering public comments. Website creation and maintenance is part of this task. Here an inter-regional coordination and communication to develop the regional flood plan is necessary.

6. Agenda Item – Update from Planning Sponsor – NRA regarding administrative matters of the Regional Flood Planning Group

a. Discussion on status of application for Regional Flood Planning Grant Funds

Travis Pruski asked for prayers for Larry Dovalina. Mr. Dovalina has contracted Covid. Mr. Pruski stated the application for the RFPG has been turned into the TWDB.

b. Discussion on status of solicitation process for individuals to fill the two remaining voting positions – Electric Generating Utilities & Flood Districts

Mr. Pruski stated that we did not receive any applications to fill the remaining spots. Mr. Pruski recommended we extend the applications until March 1st. Mr. Francis agreed. The Vacancy Notice will be posted on the Nueces River Authority Website, the Secretary of State Website and the TWDB Website. Mr. Pruski stated he will be talking with County Judges through the Region also to fill the Vacancy.

7. Agenda Item – Discussion and possible action regarding Solicitation for Technical Consultant.

Mr. Francis set a meeting on Feb 8th for the Executive Officers to review the RFQ with the Nueces River Authority. Andrew Rooke made the motion for the Nueces River Authority to proceed with the solicitation as directed by the Executive Committee.

Debra Barrett seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Agenda Item: Discussion of the Requirements for All Members of the RFPG-13 under Texas Water Code:

Mr. Francis reminded all voting and non-voting members need to complete the training for the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act within 90 days from the date of membership. Mr. Pruski shared the website link with the group.

9. Agenda Item – Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

10. Agenda Item – RFPG member’s comments:

Mr. Francis reminded everyone of the Working Conceptual Schedule that was made available by TWDB. He asks for everyone’s help is the next step of our pre-planning meetings. Per the Texas Water Code we are required to hold public meetings at central locations. These meetings should be readily accessible to the public within the flood planning region to gather general suggestions and recommendations from the public as to issues, provisions and types of flood management strategies, flood mitigation projects and flood management, evaluations. They should be considered or addressed are provisions that should be considered and potentially included during the regional flood planning cycle in accordance with the public notice requirements. These meetings may be held in conjunction with the regular regional flood planning group meetings or may be held at entirely separate meetings. The TWDB recommends that we have a

minimum of two such meetings with the regions for this purpose. Since everyone here represents a certain constituent; we need to reach out them within region 13 to encourage them to participate in these pre-planning meetings. We should have one in March before we select our technical consultant to start the process. Then have a second one after we select our technical consultant. At the first pre-planning meeting in March meeting, hopefully to get members of the public to let us know what we should be considering for strategies and projects. This bottom-up approach to planning is so important because these people are living in the area. We are just the facilitation, but we are depending on their help. Please encourage everyone to get with your constituents and encourage them to participate in this pre-planning meeting. We want to make sure we have a successful planning cycle.

No comments from the RFPG.

11. Agenda item – Consider date and agenda items for next meeting.

Mr. Pruski suggest meeting the last Monday of the month. Mr. Francis Agreed. March 29th is the next meeting date.

12. Agenda item – Adjourn

Debra Barrett made motion to adjourn.

JR Ramirez seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Francis adjourned at 2:01

Shanna Owens, SECRETARY

LJ Francis, CHAIR

Minutes Prepared by Travis Pruski, Nueces River Authority