

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**July 8, 2021**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom Webinar/Teleconference**

**Roll Call:**

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) /Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Preston Ingram (William)	Agricultural interests	
Andy Endsley	Counties	X
W. Greg Carter	Electric generating utilities	X
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Environmental interests	X
Clark Crandall	Industries	
Dustin Henslee (Jonathan Wade-Alternate)	Municipalities	X
Kirby Hollingsworth	Public	X
R. Reeves Hayter	River authorities	X
Kelly Mitchell	Small business	X
Joseph W. Weir III	Water districts	X
Susan Whitfield	Water utilities	X

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
James (Clay) Shipes	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Brian Hurtuk	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Darrell Dean	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Tony Resendez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Trey Bahm	General Land Office	X
Anita Machiavello	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Darlene Prochaska	USACE, Fort Worth District	X
Travis Wilsey	USACE, Tulsa District	
Randy Whiteman	RFPG 1 Liaison	X

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **9**

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of **11: 6**

**Other Meeting Attendees: \*\***

Chris Brown - ATCOG  
Paul Prange – ATCOG  
Reem Zoun – TWDB  
James Bronikowski – TWDB  
Richard Bagans – TWDB  
Ben Pylant – Halff Associates Team  
Walt Sears - NETMWD  
Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team  
David Rivera – Halff Associates Team  
Kimberly Miller- Halff Associates Team  
Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team  
Tyler Ogle – Halff Associates Team  
Jim Keith – Halff Associates Team  
Jarred Overbey – Halff Associates Team  
Vance Liles – Halff Associates Team  
Chris Donan – Hayter Engineers  
Lisa Mairs - USACE  
Richard Brontoli – Red River Valley Association  
Christopher Armstrong – City of Sherman

\*\*Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the Zoom meeting.

*All meeting materials are available for the public at:*

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order**

Reeves Hayter called the meeting to order at 2:06p.m. 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.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome**

Reeves Hayter welcomed members to the meeting and asked ATCOG staff member, Paul Prange to conduct a roll call of attendees.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Confirmation of attendees / determination of a quorum**

Each present voting and non-voting member of the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG introduced themselves, establishing that a quorum had been met. Nine voting members were present and three non-voting members were absent.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person**

Reeves Hayter opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consider approval of minutes for the meeting held Thursday, April 1, 2021 (p 6):**

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. No discussion took place among the board members. A motion was made by Joseph Weir and was seconded by Andy Endsley to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Discuss and Consider action on appointing Mary Beth Rudel (ATCOG Deputy Director) as the Public Information Coordinator to fulfill requirements per Texas Government Code 551.005 (p 13):**

Reeves Hayter handed the item over to Chris Brown who stated that this designation was necessary to ensure all public inquiries regarding meeting agendas or minutes of the regional flood planning group are directed to one individual responsible for providing a response. Mr. Brown also stated that this would remove the requirement for each board member to complete Public Information Act training. Reeves Hayter asked if board members should forward all requests from media outlets to Mary Beth, as well and Mr. Brown stated that each board member should use their own discretion when contacted by the press and that they are definitely allowed to respond to these types of inquiries. Mr. Brown stated that this designation would streamline the system of public requests through the flood planning group website. A motion was made to approve Mary Beth Rudel as the Public Information Coordinator by Joseph Weir and seconded by Laura-Ashley Overdyke. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discuss and Consider action to add additional non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region (p 14):**

Reeves Hayter opened the floor up for discussion and mentioned that the RFPG 2 Board of Directors had previously added two non-voting members from the USACE and that at the meeting in May, 2021 suggestions were made to possibly add non-voting members from TxDOT. Mr. Hayter stated that the RFPG 2 would be very well represented by TxDOT members from the Paris and Atlanta Districts and welcomed any discussion among the board members. Chris Brown announced that Rich Brontoli from

the Red River Valley Association was present at this meeting and is highly involved with planning efforts to expand navigation along the Lower Red River from the Texarkana area to Shreveport. Mr. Hayter then asked the RFPG 2 board members for a motion to request additional non-voting members from TxDOT and the Red River Valley Association. A motion was made by Kelly Mitchell and seconded by Greg Carter. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Texas Water Development Board Update:**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Anita Machiavello with the TWDB. Ms. Machiavello announced the Texas Legislature approved approximately 10 million dollars in additional flood planning funds which may become available on September 1, 2021 to enhance the regional flood plans during the first cycle. Ms. Machiavello also announced that the TWDB provided a survey regarding the additional funding to each RFPG and it is due to be submitted to the TWDB on July 16<sup>th</sup> instead of July 9<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that the TWDB has approved the subcontract between ATCOG and Halff Associates and that the technical guidelines for regional flood planning have been finalized and are posted on the TWDB website.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: US Army Corps of Engineers Presentation: Dam Operations (p 15):**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Darlene Prochaska with the Fort Worth District of the USACE who conducted a detailed presentation focusing on 25 flood control reservoirs located within her district. Ms. Prochaska stated that the USACE is mostly a civilian workforce but that all commanders are members of the US Army who oversee 9 divisions and 43 districts in 130 countries throughout the world, with a primary goal of flood damage reduction operations. The USACE manages 410 flood control reservoirs throughout the United States which are also used for water supply electric power generation purposes. Ms. Prochaska explained the processes involved in monitoring and inspecting the integrity of the dams located on the reservoirs and discussed the differences between the Conservation Pool, the Flood Storage Pool and the Surcharge Pool levels. Laura-Ashley Overdyke asked if any dams within our region have any significant safety issues at this time and if strategies can be employed at reservoirs to maintain higher levels of water during times of drought rather than constructing additional reservoirs and dams. Ms. Prochaska stated that no dams are at any significant risk at this time and that a reallocation study could be conducted on a reservoir, such as Lake o' The Pines to determine if additional storage is possible, but a financial sponsor would be required. Reeves Hayter mentioned that it was surprising to see that ½ of the population of the state resides along the I-35 corridor.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Region 1 Canadian-Upper Red Regional Flood Planning Group Updates:**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Randy Whiteman who stated that he did not attend the previous meeting and had no information to report.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Pre-Planning Public Input – Texas Water Development Board:**

- a. The RFPG is soliciting public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects and strategies that should be considered during the flood planning cycle and/or input on the development of the regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code 16.062(d) and 31 Texas Administrative Code 361.12(a)(4))**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Anita Machiavello with the TWDB who conducted a slide presentation focusing on the pre-planning meeting background, regional flood planning and the flood planning timeline. Ms. Machiavello also discussed the key tasks of the Regional Flood Planning Groups and presented information relating to flood mitigation practices, including examples of both structural and non-structural mitigation strategies. Finally, Ms. Machiavello stressed the importance of public input in the flood planning process and stated that there will be multiple opportunities for public input throughout the development of the regional flood plan. Reeves Hayter asked if there were any members of the public who wished to make comments and there were none. Mr. Hayter then announced that this concludes our 2<sup>nd</sup> public pre-planning meeting requirement.

### **WORKSHOP**

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Halff Associates led workshop (p 46):**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Joshua McClure from Halff Associates to conduct the workshop. Mr. McClure announced that Tasks 1-4 are scheduled to be completed during 2021 and Tasks 5-10 during 2022, with today's presentation focusing on Chapter's 1, 2 and 3.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Discussion of Scope and Schedule overview for the region 2 flood plan:**

- a. **Task 1 – Planning Area Description**
  - i. **Overview**
  - ii. **Methodology**
  
- b. **Task 2A – Existing Condition Flood Risk Analyses**
  - i. **Objectives**
  - ii. **Approach**
  
- c. **Task 2B – Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses**
  - i. **Objectives**
  - ii. **Approach**
  
- d. **Task 3A and 3B – Recommended Floodplain Management Practices and Goals**
  - i. **Objectives**
  - ii. **Process and Schedule**
  - iii. **RFPG Decisions Needed**
  - iv. **Approach**
  
- e. **Outreach Approach**
  - i. **Recap on Data Needed**
  - ii. **Outreach Methods Planned**
  - iii. **Stakeholders List**
  
- f. **Schedule**
  - i. **Overview**

## ii. Future Meeting Plan

Joshua McClure, Project Manager with Halff Associates introduced Kimberly Miller with Halff Associates and asked her to cover the material in Chapter 1 (Planning Area Description). Mr. McClure then stated that he would cover Chapter 2 (Data Collection) and that David Rivera would cover Chapter 3 (Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals) in today's workshop.

Kimberly Miller began her presentation by showing a timeline of events scheduled to occur between May and early August of 2021. Ms. Miller stated that the initial assessment of the Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress basins has been completed and 22% of the region is located within the 100 year floodplain and that 80% of the counties are participating in the NFIP. Lamar, Red River, Delta and Camp Counties are not participating in the NFIP. Brief discussion took place among the board members regarding the availability of flood maps in certain counties that are participating in the NFIP. Ms. Miller stated that the key stakeholders list has been developed and a data collection survey is being developed for distribution to community leaders throughout the region.

Joshua McClure then presented information about the flood risk assessment and data collection efforts, focusing on flood risk mapping, flood exposure estimation and vulnerability assessments to determine what the impact of a flood would be. Mr. McClure presented information relating to the various types of flooding, including flood event types, as well as data sources such as community data, which is a critical component of this flood planning process. Mr. McClure then presented information about a data collection website that is under development for the public to provide input relating to flooding. This process will be somewhat time consuming and the survey questions are available to be answered from July 12 through August 9, 2021. Laura-Ashley Overdyke asked how much information the USACE is going to be able to provide on the Cypress basin below Lake O' The Pines. Mr. McClure stated that Halff Associates is coordinating with the USACE and Darlene Prochaska stated that information from various studies and models would be include in the survey answers. Reeves Hayter asked if the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's data would be collected in the surveys and incorporated into the regional flood plan. The Halff Associates team members stated that they utilize a different methodology so their data may or may not be incorporated into the regional flood plan as supplemental information.

David Rivera conducted a presentation focused on floodplain management practices and flood protection goals and provided a brief overview of the processes involved for adopting standards for the region and receiving RFPG 2 Board and public feedback. This included an overview of the activities scheduled from July to September 2021. Mr. Rivera explained that the RFPG 2 Board of Directors must decide on whether to "recommend" or "adopt" certain standards to be included within the regional flood plan. Joshua McClure announced that in order to receive funding from the TWDB for a particular project, that project must adhere to the standards and be included within the regional flood plan. Mr. Rivera then discussed short term and long term flood protection goals including; lowering the risk to life and property, infrastructure protection, land preservation, funding mechanisms, adopting minimum standards and increasing NFIP participation within the region. The RFPG 2 board members then participated in an interactive, online exercise by answering various survey questions relating to flooding. Reeves Hayter commented that he is very concerned about the RFPG 2 Board recommending flood planning strategies to the counties, because the "public" is largely unaware of this flood planning process. Kirby Hollingsworth stated that the RFPG 2 Board may need to ease into making any

suggestions that the public should be required to adopt flood strategies. David Rivera commented that recommendations may be preferable to requirements during the first round of regional flood planning and Joshua McClure suggested that any additional TWDB funding be directed toward public outreach activities. Andy Endsley suggested that more public may attend the RFGP 2 meeting if food was provided. Mr. Hayter asked if the RFGP 2 Board should publish a news release in local newspapers or on social media and Chris Brown stated that utilizing social media to advertise our meetings would reach a larger audience.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Update from Planning Group Sponsor**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Chris Brown for updates. Mr. Brown announced that additional funding for regional flood planning may become available after September 1, 2021 and that Governor Abbott has rescinded the restrictions placed on the Open Meetings Act requirements which were in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning September 1, 2021. This means that future RFGP 2 meetings must be conducted in a physical location open to the public, however board members may still attend remotely to constitute a quorum.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion. The Region 2 RFGP board members agreed to conduct the next meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 2:00p.m. at the Northeast Texas Community College Campus in Mount Pleasant, Texas and via webinar/teleconference.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjourn**

Reeves Hayter opened the floor to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Kirby Hollingsworth and Seconded by Andy Endsley.

The vote to adjourn was passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47p.m. by Reeves Hayter

*Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFGP at a meeting held on 8/5/2021.*

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Reeves Hayter, CHAIR