

Meeting Minutes
Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Meeting
May 4, 2023
2:00 p.m.

at
Ark-Tex Council of Governments Office, 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, TX 75503
and 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	
Casey Johnson	Industries	X
Dustin Henslee	Municipalities	X
Troy Hudson	Public	
R. Reeves Hayter	River authorities	X
Kelly Mitchell	Small business	
David Weidman	Water districts	X
Susan Whitfield	Water utilities	

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
James (Clay) Shipes	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Andrea Sanders	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Darrell Dean	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Tony Resendez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Trey Bahm	General Land Office	
Anita Machiavello	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Lisa M. Mairs	USACE, Galveston District	
Travis Wilsey	USACE, Tulsa District	
Randy Whiteman	RFPG 1 Liaison	
Richard Brontoli	Red River Valley Association	
Jason Dupree	TxDOT – Atlanta District	
Dan Perry	TxDOT – Paris District	X

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **6**

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Paul Prange – ATCOG

Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team

Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team

David Rivera – Halff Associates Team

Jake Madewell – TWDB

James Bronikowski - TWDB

**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 2:16 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome

Reeves Hayter welcomed members and attendees to the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group meeting.

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

Reeves Hayter asked ATCOG staff member, Paul Prange, to conduct a roll call of attendees. 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. Six voting members were present along with five non-voting members.

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

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were received.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: *Consider approval of minutes for the meetings held Thursday, December 15, 2022

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion and approval of the minutes from the previous meetings. A motion was made by Andy Endsley and was seconded by Greg Carter to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: *Discuss and Consider Section 2 Terms of Office, to assign term limits to all voting members of the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Regional Flood Planning Group

Reeves Hayter announced that the terms of the current voting members will expire on July 10, 2023. The terms of the voting members need to be staggered with one more than half of the terms expiring in two years and the other terms in five years. Mr. Hayter read the names of each voting member and a Paul Prange drew lots to assign terms of non-present voting members, while voting members who were present, drew their own lots. The terms were assigned as follows: Preston Ingram - 2 years; Andy Endsley - 5 years; Greg Carter – 5 years; Laura-Ashley Overdyke – 2 years; Casey Johnson – 5 years; Dustin Henslee – 5 years; Troy Hudson – 5 years; Reeves Hayter – 2 years; Kelly Mitchell – 2 years; David Weidman – 2 years; and Susan Whitfield – 2 years.

PRESENTATIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Texas Water Development Board Update:

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Anita Machiavello, who announced the proposed amendments of the regional state flood planning rules are published in the Texas Register and are open for public comment through May 22, 2023. Ms. Machiavello also announced that the TWDB is seeking additional guidance on methods for ranking FMSs in the 2024 State Flood Plan. Ms. Machiavello then introduced a new TWDB Planner, Jake Madewell, who will soon become the new Region 2 contact at TWDB. Mr. Madewell provided a brief self-introduction. Reeves Hayter thanked Ms. Machiavello and Mr. Madewell.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Region 1 Canadian-Upper Red Regional Flood Planning Group Updates:

Reeves Hayter asked for any updates relating to Region 1 flood planning activities. Region 1 liaison, Randy Whiteman, was not present and Parker Moore did not have any updates available for the flood planning group.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Technical Presentation by Halff Associates, Inc.

- **TWDB Ranking Criteria Response Update**
- **Revised Regional Flood Plan Submitted**
- **Task 12 Update**
 1. **Status of FMEs and FMPs**
 2. ***RFPG2 to Consider vote for inclusion of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs in the Amended Regional Flood Plan**
- **Schedule**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Parker Moore who announced that Joshua McClure would conduct a virtual presentation. Mr. McClure announced that the Revised Flood Plan was submitted to TWDB on April 14, 2023, and briefly discussed the comments. Mr. McClure then began discussion of the Task 12 update (additional funding for conducting FMEs) and announced that 3 FME candidates were removed from consideration as FMPs which include: Cowhorn Creek East (City of Texarkana), City of Atlanta Storm Drain Improvements, and Pecan to Waggoner Creek (City of Nash). However, these will remain as FMEs in the Amended Flood Plan.

David Rivera discussed in detail the Anderson Creek WWTP Flood Study sponsored by the City of DeKalb, to evaluate the need for a levee to protect the WWTP during the 100-Year flood event. This project would meet the "No Negative Impact" requirement of TWDB and Mr. Rivera commented that this FME could be elevated to a FMP.

David Rivera discussed the Pig Branch Watershed Culvert Study FME in the City of Bonham to alleviate existing and potential flood damages for various crossings. Existing conditions models have been completed and will focus on culvert upgrades and channel improvements, potential mitigation options are being investigated, and FMP feasibility is still pending due to unknown factors. "No Negative Impact" determination is currently unknown, however Mr. Rivera recommended to continue the FME analysis.

David Rivera discussed the Hunt County, TX Project for County Road 1051 which is being performed utilizing separate funding to conduct a Countywide Drainage Study. The Project proposes to construct two new bridge crossings, raise the road elevation, and perform side channel improvements to reduce flooding. Mr. Rivera stated that the BCA is in progress, "No Negative Impacts" are anticipated, the Level of Service: 10-Year, and all FMP data and other TWDB requirements will be provided to the Region 2 Flood Planning Group.

Joshua McClure discussed the City of Hooks Infrastructure Study to address flooding along several creeks and announced that a field visit had been conducted on February 16th, BLE models have been updated to verify flooding issues, and that “No Negative Impact” determination is currently unknown. Mr. McClure announced that he is working closely with the City of Hooks and TexAmericas Center to develop a strategy to help reduce flooding by utilizing two detention ponds in order to remove dozens of structures from the floodplain. FMP inclusion into the Flood Plan will be contingent on cooperation with TexAmericas Center

Parker Moore discussed the City of Paris, Big Sandy Creek Improvements to reduce the risk of flooding along streams. Existing conditions models have been obtained, three alternatives have been incorporated into one project, “No Negative Impact” determination is pending downstream assessment and detention availability, and FMP Feasibility is dependent upon no increased discharges downstream. Brief discussion took place between Reeves Hayter and the Technical Consultants.

Joshua McClure discussed the City of Texarkana Gauges Project to install solar/battery powered rainfall and flow monitoring gauges in various flood-prone areas. Preliminary locations have been established and a meeting has been conducted with the City of Texarkana. This FMP would meet the “No Negative Impact” requirement.

Joshua McClure presented the Task 12 Update and asked the Region 2 Flood Planning Group to Consider a vote for the following FMEs to be included as FMPs in the Amended Flood Plan: Anderson Creek Water Treatment Plant (City of DeKalb); Pig Branch Watershed Study (City of Bonham); County Road 1051 Project (Hunt County); City of Hooks Infrastructure Project; Big Sandy Creek Improvements (City of Paris); and the City of Texarkana Gauges Project. Reeves Hayter announced that these six new FMPs are in addition to the three original FMPs that have been included in the Region 2 Flood Plan and asked for a motion to accept the new FMPs. A motion was made by Dustin Henslee and was seconded by David Weidman. The motion carried unanimously.

Joshua McClure announced the schedule of upcoming deliverables which included: May 4, 2023-RFPG2 Meeting to recommend FMPs and new FMEs for inclusion in the plan, and provide update on the amended plan; June 1, 2023 – Submit Amended RFP for public comment (Minimum 14 days before vote); June 15, 2023 – Public Meeting to Review and Approve Amended RFP; June 29, 2023 – Public Comment Period closes; July 14, 2023 – Amended RFP Due to TWDB. Brief discussion took place between Mr. McClure and Reeves Hayter regarding unexpended funds remaining in Round 1, to potentially conduct a couple of additional FMEs for consideration during the Round 2 planning process. Mr. Hayter asked Anita Machiavello about utilizing Task 12 funds for public outreach and Ms. Machiavello stated that Task 13 funds can be used to enhance the regional flood plan with RFPG approval. Mr. Hayter asked that this item be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Paul Prange who announced that ATCOG has no updates for the group at this time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion. The Region 2 RFPG board members agreed to conduct the next Region 2 Flood Planning Group Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at a time and location to be determined and via webinar/teleconference.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Adjourn

Reeves Hayter called for the meeting to be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.
Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG at a meeting held on 6/15/2023.

Reeves Hayter, CHAIR