

Meeting Minutes
Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Meeting
September 2, 2021
2:00 p.m.

Paris, TX City Hall – City Council Chambers 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	X
Andy Endsley	Counties	X
W. Greg Carter	Electric generating utilities	X
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Environmental interests	X
Clark Crandall	Industries	
Dustin Henslee	Municipalities	X
Kirby Hollingsworth	Public	
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	X
Brian Hurtuk	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Darrell Dean	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Tony Resendez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Trey Bahm	General Land Office	X
Anita Machiavello (Morgan White - Alternate)	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Darlene Prochaska	USACE, Fort Worth District	X
Travis Wilsey	USACE, Tulsa District	X
Randy Whiteman	RFPG 1 Liaison	X
Richard Brontoli	Red River Valley Association	
Jason Dupree	TxDOT – Atlanta District	X
Dan Perry	TxDOT – Paris District	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

Marla Matthews - ATCOG

Matt Nelson – TWDB

James Bronikowski – TWDB

Clay Barnett – Sherman/Denison MPO

Ben Pylant – Halff Associates Team

Walt Sears - NETMWD

Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team

David Rivera – Halff Associates Team

Wylie Gorup - Halff Associates Team

Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team

Tyler Ogle – Halff Associates Team

Vance Liles – Halff Associates Team

Caroline Short – Halff Associates Team

Ben Hawkins – Halff Associates Team

Troy Hudson – Fannin County

Rory Halpen – TDEM

Kevin Enoch – TDEM

L. D. Williamson – Red River County Judge

Paula Portugal – Mayor, City of Paris, TX

**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 2:04p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome

Reeves Hayter welcomed members and attendees to the meeting and recognized Mayor, Paula Portugal, by thanking her for providing the venue and refreshments for 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. Nine voting members were present and four non-voting members were absent.

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

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

ACTION ITEMS**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consider approval of minutes for the meeting held Thursday, August 5, 2021:**

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by Greg Carter and was seconded by Joseph Weir to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Texas Water Development Board Update:**

Reeves Hayter handed the item over to Morgan White from the TWDB, attending the meeting for Anita Machiavello. Ms. White stated that the legislature appropriated an additional 10 million dollars in funding that may become available after September 1, 2021 for the regional flood planning groups. The TWDB is currently working on the formula-based funding allocations for each of the 15 flood planning groups. The TWDB provided a survey to all flood planning regions asking how the additional funds could be utilized. The survey responses have been submitted to TWDB and will be reviewed by the Board of Directors for approval in late September 2021. Once the funding becomes available, the TWDB will initiate a contract amendment with the RFPG 2 sponsor, ATCOG. Ms. White also announced that the TWDB has allowed an extension for planning group sponsors and chairs to submit certain portions of the technical memorandum, specifically relating to the GIS deliverables; a TWDB conference call was held in late August for planning group sponsors to share ideas about RFPG meeting formats (in-person/remote/hybrid) and that the next conference call is scheduled for September 15, 2021. Reeves Hayter then called upon region 1 technical consultant, Wylie Gorup, and asked what type of response rate was received from their survey. Ms. Gorup stated that all stakeholders were contacted by the consulting team and approximately 60 survey responses have been received. Greg Carter asked what percentage of survey responses were received and Ms. Gorup responded that she would have to calculate the percentage and present this information at the next region 1 planning group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Region 1 Canadian – Upper Red Regional Flood Planning Group Updates:

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Randy Whiteman, Region 1 liaison, for an update. Mr. Whiteman announced that the RFPG1 is conducting similar activities as RFPG2 at this time, including developing a survey and collecting the results for analysis. Mr. Hayter then turned the floor over to Wylie Gorup, technical consultant for the RFPG1, for a technical update. Ms. Gorup stated that data gathering is underway and that an initial flood risk evaluation and exposure analysis has been completed. Ms. Gorup also announced that due to a lack of available flood data in region 1, the technical consultants are relying heavily on the Fathom data to fill in any gaps and that the next RFPG1 Board meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021.

WORKSHOP

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Halff Associates led workshop:

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Joshua McClure from Halff Associates to conduct the workshop. Mr. McClure introduced fellow team members Parker Moore, David Rivera and Ben Pylant and then announced that today's presentation will be focusing on Chapter's 1- 4 and the associated Tasks.

- a. Task 1 – Planning Area Description**
 - i. Outreach Update**
 - ii. Survey Results**

- b. Task 2A – Existing Condition Flood Risk Analyses**
 - i. Fathom Update**

- c. Task 2B – Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses**
 - i. Update**

- d. Task 3A and 3B – Recommended Floodplain Management Practices and Goals**
 - i. Deliberation of potential flood mitigation and flood management Standards and Goals in preparation of adopting (voting) in October meeting.**

- e. Task 4A and 4B – Assessment and Identification of Mitigation Needs**
 - i. Draft Process for identifying evaluations, strategies, and projects**

- f. Schedule**

Joshua McClure, Project Manager with Halff Associates began the workshop by stating that Halff Associates sent out a web survey on July 19th and closed it on August 27th. The survey was provided to 409 stakeholders representing approximately 150 entities, all of which have been directly contacted by the Halff Associates Team to make sure the survey was received and to encourage participation. Mr. McClure stated that as of August 23rd, 31 entities have responded, including 5 FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs

from 2 entities. Mr. McClure then stated the response rate is approximately 25% and that targeted efforts would be made to reach out to stakeholders who did not respond to the survey, to ensure that their needs would be reflected in the regional flood plan to fund specific projects. Mr. McClure also provided a map of the entities who are participating in the survey, along with a table containing the data submitted by the stakeholders to conclude his summary of Task 1.

Joshua McClure then presented information about existing conditions and flood risk analysis in Task 2A, including Flood Event Types and Data Sources. Mr. McClure stated that the Floodplain Quilt is missing data in several counties and that the Fathom Data is currently being updated for the TWDB to help fill the data gaps. The Fathom Data includes fluvial and pluvial flooding sources on a statewide scale. Mr. McClure then presented several comparisons between Fathom and FEMA Data on various waterbodies located within the region. Brief discussion took place among the flood planning group and Mr. McClure which led into the next topic of discussion, the Floodplain Quilt Prioritization, including: 1. Local Detailed Study, 2. FEMA Zone AE, 3. FEMA Zone A, and 4. Fathom Fluvial (Fathom Pluvial Data will be added to all floodplain types).

Joshua McClure then presented information relating to Task 2B – Future Conditions Flood Risk Assessment (Future Mapping). Mr. McClure stated that mapping for future conditions (30 years ahead) would utilize the 500-Year Floodplain Data as a baseline due to growth/future development and potential climate change. Future Floodplain Quilt Prioritization will assume that the Future floodplain is equivalent to the Existing 500-Year floodplain, including: 1. Local Detailed Study with Future Conditions, 2. FEMA 500-Year (where detailed studies are available), 3. Fathom 500-Year Fluvial Data (where no detailed studies are available (Fathom 500-Year Pluvial Data will be added to all floodplain types to represent future conditions in uplands). Discussion took place among the flood planning group.

Joshua McClure turned the floor over to David Rivera, to discuss Tasks 3 and 4. Task 3 – Floodplain Management Standards and Flood Protection Goals. Mr. Rivera announced that he was prepared to recommend a series of standards that will be beneficial for the intent of preventing the creation of additional flood risks in the future and he provided a brief overview distinguishing between “recommending” or “adopting” standards for the region. (Recommend – No pre-requisite. All FME, FMS and FMP can be considered in the Regional Flood Plan); (Adopt – Jurisdictions must meet the adopted standards BEFORE FME, FMS or FMP can be considered for inclusion in the Regional Flood Plan). Mr. Rivera then produced a map illustrating the cities and counties located within Region 2 that currently have Floodplain Management Regulations in place. Floodplain Management Standards are applicable to: Residential Properties, Commercial Properties, Critical Facilities, Roadways, Culverts/Bridges, Storm Drainage Systems, Detention Facilities and Mapping Coverage for development occurring in FEMA Zone A and unmapped areas to establish BFE. Mr. Rivera explained the difference between “Recommended Standards and Minimum Recommended Standards” and discussion took place between the planning group members. Reeves Hayter stated that small, rural communities would be happy to have any new roadways constructed, even if the roadways were designed utilizing the 2 -year flood standard instead of the 50-year flood standard. Greg Carter stated that some roadways are constructed and designed to act as a conveyance of water during flood events. Joshua McClure announced that the roadways will often flood during heavy or extended rainfall events and that several survey responses mentioned this fact. Chris Brown stated that the City of Nash, TX recently experienced

flooding in a neighborhood that was likely due to poor roadway design or inadequate storm drain capacity. Additional discussion ensued among the flood planning group related to the potential costs associated with recommending specific roadway design standards. David Rivera Stated that the recommendations are all part of an educational process during the first cycle of regional flood planning and that Region 2 does not necessarily have to recommend any standards for roadways, but instead may want to focus on bridges and culverts.

David Rivera then conducted a presentation focusing on the Goals for the regional flood plan. The short term (10-Year) and long term (30-Year) Goals focused on: Lowering Risk to Life and Property, Infrastructure Protection, Land Preservation, Funding Mechanisms, Adopting Minimum Standards, and Increase NFIP Participation. The survey conducted at the previous RFPG2 Board meeting indicated the following prioritization of the Goals: Education and Outreach, Flood Warning and Readiness, Flood Studies and Analysis, Flood Prevention, Non-Structural Flood Infrastructure Projects, and Structural Flood Infrastructure Projects. Discussion took place among the flood planning group regarding the Goals Summary.

Finally, David Rivera conducted a presentation on Chapter 4 (Flood Mitigation Needs and Potentially Feasible Solutions) & Task 4 (Assessment and Identification of Flood Mitigation Needs) and discussed potential FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs. Mr. Rivera then discussed Task 4A: Process for Identifying Areas of Greatest Need (Screening Analysis) which identified two groups of areas. Type 1 – Greatest Flood Risk Knowledge Gaps (FME) and Type 2 – Greatest Known Flood Risk and Flood Mitigation Needs (FMS & FMP). Mr. Rivera Stated that during the first flood planning cycle, it is anticipated that more Flood Management Evaluations will be performed, with Flood Mitigation Projects and Flood Management Strategies being implemented in future planning cycles. Task 4B: Process for Identifying FME, FMS, and FMP will take time to develop as data is collected to select certain projects for funding. Joshua McClure then provided an overview of the next three meeting dates and agenda topics for consideration by the regional flood planning group.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Chris Brown for updates. Mr. Brown announced that Governor Abbott has rescinded the restrictions placed on the Open Meetings Act requirements which were in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning on September 1, 2021. Future RFPG 2 meetings must be conducted in a physical location open to the public, however board members may still attend remotely to constitute a quorum since our region covers more than three counties. Mr. Brown then announced that the RFPG2 Board members could review all invoices submitted for reimbursement by Halff Associates and vote to approve them at subsequent board meetings, prior to reimbursement by the planning group sponsor.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: 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 meeting on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 2:00p.m. at a location to be determined, and via webinar/teleconference. Mr. Hayter encouraged all voting members to make an effort to physically attend the October meeting due to the importance of voting on various floodplain management recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn

Reeves Hayter opened the floor to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Greg Carter and Seconded by Joseph Weir.

The vote to adjourn was passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40p.m. by Reeves Hayter.

Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG at a meeting held on 10/7/2021.



Reeves Hayter, CHAIR