

Meeting Minutes
Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Meeting
August 5, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Titus Regional Medical Center 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 (Jonathan Wade-Alternate)	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	
Darrell Dean	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Tony Resendez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Trey Bahm	General Land Office	X
Anita Machiavello (Richard Bagans - Alternate)	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
Richard Brontoli	Red River Valley Association	X
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
Matt Nelson – TWDB
James Bronikowski – TWDB
Richard Bagans – TWDB
Ben Pylant – Halff Associates Team
Walt Sears - NETMWD
Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team
Jim Keith – Halff Associates Team
Kimberly Miller- Halff Associates Team
Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team
Tyler Ogle – Halff Associates Team
Jim Keith – Halff Associates Team
Vance Liles – Halff Associates Team
Jim Roberts – City of Wake Village
Vance Liles – Halff Associates Team
Chris Hartung
Lisa Mairs - USACE
Bobby Howell – Bowie County Judge
Lisa Benson – Harrison County
Dustin Meyer - PRPC

**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 2:03p.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 two 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, July 8, 2021:

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting and requested two revisions. The first revision was a typographical error in the RFPG 2 website link and the second revision was to add a statement in Agenda Item 11 indicating that the chairman requested public comment and no comment was received. A motion was made by Greg Carter and was seconded by Susan Whitfield to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

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

Reeves Hayter handed the item over to Richard Bagans from the TWDB, attending the meeting for Anita Machiavello. Mr. Bagans 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 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 in the next few months. Once the funding becomes available, the TWDB will initiate a contract amendment with the RFPG 2 sponsor, ATCOG. Mr. Bagans stated that one possible use for the additional funding could be to increase the number of FMEs located within region 2. Discussion took place between Joshua McClure and Richard Bagans regarding the timeframe in which the funds would actually become available. Mr. Bagans also announced that the COVID-19 emergency declaration will expire in September and that all public meetings will be required to adhere to the Open Meetings Act policies. Brief discussion took place among the board members and Chris Brown stated that ATCOG would make sure to stay in compliance with the rules at all future meetings.

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. Chris Brown stated that Mr. Whiteman was attending the meeting remotely and was experiencing technical difficulties with his computer audio. Mr. Hayter suggested that the planning group table this item until the technical issues were resolved. The issues persisted, so no updates from Region 1 were provided.

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. Chris Brown quickly stated that three additional non-voting members have been appointed to the RFPG 2 Board and wanted to recognize these individuals. Mr. Brown introduced Richard Brontoli, the Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association; Jason Dupree, representing the TxDOT Atlanta District; and Dan Perry, representing the TxDOT Paris District. Mr. McClure announced that today's presentation will be focusing on Chapter's 1- 4 and the associated Tasks.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: 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. **Stakeholder's List**

- f. **Schedule**
 - i. **Overview**
 - ii. **Future Meeting Plan**

Joshua McClure, Project Manager with Halff Associates began the workshop by stating that he sent out a web survey on July 19th and plans to close it on August 16th. 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 so far, only 20 surveys have been completed, but that percentage is quite common in this process. Email reminders will be sent out during the next two weeks to further encourage participation in the data collection process. Mr. McClure also provided a map of the entities who are participating in the survey, along with a table containing the data submitted and stated that public outreach efforts are ongoing to gather as many surveys as possible.

Joseph Weir asked about the outreach activities identifying environmental impacts to fish and mussels, and asked who the stakeholders are with environmental experience. Joshua McClure stated that Laura-Ashley Overdyke is the environmental representative for Region 2 and that other board members may have knowledge and experience relating to environmental impacts to aquatic wildlife. Mr. Weir also asked about environmental impacts to crops due to channelization of the Sulphur River and who has been contacted in the agricultural community for their input. Mr. McClure stated that Preston Ingram is the agricultural representative for Region 2 and that he may be aware of additional stakeholders who could provide beneficial information relating to environmental impacts to agriculture.

Reeves Hayter asked Joshua McClure if the surveys were targeting governmental entities or environmental/agricultural entities and Mr. McClure stated that the surveys were being provided to governmental entities such as cities, counties and utility districts per TWDB guidelines and that representatives of the RFGP 2 Board will eventually need to identify additional stakeholders to provide input from the public. Preston Ingram suggested that board members reach out County Agriculture Extension Agents for additional data and Mr. McClure stated that the Halff Associates Team plans to contact each county agent. General discussion took place among the board members regarding data collection from the general public and various entities. Mr. McClure stated that a separate survey will be developed and provided to the public requesting their input.

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 stated that the Floodplain Quilt is missing data in five counties and that the Fathom Data is currently being updated for the TWDB due to outdated USGS mapping information, which may cause potential problems with deliverable deadlines being met. The Halff Associates Team is working with TWDB to develop a plan to address this concern. Mr. McClure then discussed Future Mapping strategies relating to the 100 and 500 Year Floodplain. Discussion took place between Greg Carter, Laura-Ashley Overdyke and Reeves Hayter regarding differences between the 100 and 500 Year Floodplain impacts and Future Conditions in rural vs. urban areas.

Joshua McClure turned the floor over to Jim Keith, filling in for David Rivera, to discuss Chapter 3 goals and tasks. Mr. Keith conducted a presentation focused on floodplain management practices and flood

protection goals and provided a brief overview of the processes involved for recommending or 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. Keith explained that the RFPG 2 Board of Directors must decide on whether to “recommend” or “adopt” certain standards, along with short term and long term goals, to be included within the regional flood plan. Mr. Keith then spoke in detail about Data Collection and the associated goals and standards. Mr. Keith then discussed short term and long term flood protection goals including; lowering the risk to life and property, infrastructure protection, floodplain protection, flood warning and response, and inter-jurisdictional cooperation within the region. The RFPG 2 board members then participated in an interactive, online exercise by answering various survey questions related to flooding. Seven Draft Goals were presented by Mr. Keith to the RFPG 2 Board including; Draft Goal 1 – Education and Outreach; Draft Goal 2 – Flood Warning and Readiness; Draft Goal 3 – Flood Studies and Analysis; Draft Goal 4 – Flood Prevention; Draft Goal 5 – Flood Property Acquisition; Draft Goal 6 – Flood Elevation and Proofing; and Draft Goal 7 – Flood Infrastructure Projects. General discussion took place among the RFPG 2 Board members.

Joshua McClure took the floor and conducted a presentation on Chapter 4 (Task 4) focusing on Needs (Gap Analysis); Identifying and Evaluating FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs; and the Technical Memorandum due to TWDB. Mr. McClure stated that the RFPG 2 Board members need to provide feedback to the Halff Associates Team about the specific goals selected by the planning group. Mr. McClure presented three alternatives for the RFPG 2 Board to choose from. 1st; Halff Associates Team selects the goals based upon information gathered at previous meetings. 2nd; The RFPG 2 Board forms a sub-committee/task force to determine the goals. 3rd; The Halff Associates Team conducts a more detailed polling of RFPG 2 Board members to gather additional data in order to determine the goals. Discussion took place among the board members and Reeves Hayter stated that the 3rd alternative would be his personal choice. Laura-Ashley Overdyke then asked Mr. McClure if he could provide detailed polling questions to the RFPG 2 Board members and he stated that he would. Mr. Hayter asked the RFPG 2 Board members if the 3rd alternative was acceptable and the response was unanimously, yes. Mr. McClure stated that he would provide the poll to the board members by the end of next week. Brief discussion took place regarding the time needed for the board members to complete the polling questions in order for the Halff Associates Team to compile the data to present at the September meeting.

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 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 stated that future meetings will be held in various locations throughout the region and that ATCOG will provide RFPG 2 Board members with mileage reimbursement forms soon.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: 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, September 2, 2021 at 2:00p.m. at a location to be determined, possibly in Paris, Texas and via webinar/teleconference.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjourn

Reeves Hayter opened the floor to adjourn the meeting.

A motion was made by Laura-Ashley Overdyke and Seconded by Greg Carter.

The vote to adjourn was passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53p.m. by Reeves Hayter.

Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG at a meeting held on 9/2/2021.

Reeves Hayter, CHAIR