

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Public Meeting**  
**September 14, 2023**

2:00 p.m.

at

**Northeast Texas Community College, Community Room-(Hum 101), 2886 FM 1735, Chapel Hill Road,  
Mount Pleasant, TX 75455, 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       | X   |
|                          |                               |   |
| Casey Johnson            | Industries                    |   |
| Dustin Henslee           | Municipalities                |   |
| 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( )/<br/>Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| James (Clay) Shipes      | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department           |  |
| Andrea Sanders           | Texas Division of Emergency Management        |  |
| Darrell Dean             | Texas Department of Agriculture               |  |
| 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     |  |
| Lisa M. Mairs            | USACE, Galveston District                     |  |
| Travis Wilsey            | USACE, Tulsa District                         |  |
| Randy Whiteman           | RFPG 1 Liaison                                |  |
| Ellen Mott               | Red River Valley Association                  |  |
| Jason Dupree             | TxDOT – Atlanta District                      |  |
| Dan Perry                | TxDOT – Paris District                        |  |

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **5**

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of **10: 5**

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

Paul Prange – ATCOG

Mary Beth Rudel – ATCOG

Kathy McCollum - ATCOG

Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team

Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team

David Rivera – Halff Associates Team

\*\*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 2:23 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. Five voting members were present along with two 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, June 15, 2023**

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: \*Consider approval of applications submitted by interested parties, to serve as a voting member of the Region 2 Flood Planning Group, representing the category of *Agricultural Interests*:**

Reeves Hayter announced that Preston Ingram formerly held this position but recently resigned from the flood planning group due to taking on additional duties at work. Mr. Hayter asked if any applications have been submitted and Paul Prange stated that no applications have been received to date. Mr. Hayter asked the group to encourage anyone with an agricultural background to submit an application for this open position if they are interested in serving on the Region 2 Flood Planning Group Board of Directors during round 2.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: \*Consider additional, region specific, public notice requirements for Region 2 as required by Texas Administrative Code 361.12(a)(3). Texas Administrative Code 361.70(c) requires that this meeting take place prior to the Planning Group Sponsor submitting its application for funding on behalf of the RFPG.**

Reeves Hayter began the discussion by reading a list of public notification methods used by Region 2 during the first round of flood planning. These included posting notices on the Region 2 website, the bulletin board at the ATCOG office building, the Texas Register, county clerk's offices, public libraries, and courthouses. Discussion took place among the group and Mr. Hayter suggested posting notices in local newspapers as a release, to avoid publication costs. David Weidman suggested posting notices on the websites of local water entities such as Riverbend Water Resources District and the Sulphur River Basin Authority. Greg Carter asked that the group include the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District,

as well. Laura-Ashley Overdyke suggested posting notices to soil and water conservation districts websites and on social media. Mary Beth Rudel announced that we could post notices on the ATCOG facebook page and the linked-in account. Discussion took place about including photographs, as well. Andy Endsley commented on the lack of public participation at commissioners' court meetings in Hopkins County, as well. Mr. Hayer asked the group if utilizing these additional public notification methods would be helpful and the group agreed. Mr. Hayter then made a motion to add a link from the ATCOG website to the RFPG website and social media platforms, in addition to preparing news release statements to be distributed to the larger regional newspapers for potential publication. Greg Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: \*Discuss and consider designating a Sponsor for the Region 2 Flood Planning Group.**

Reeves Hayter stated that he had previously discussed round 2 sponsorship with Chris Brown and Paul Prange. Mr. Hayter announced that he thought ATCOG did an outstanding job for the Region 2 Flood Planning Group during the first round of planning and proposed that the group continue with ATCOG as the Sponsor for round 2. The motion was seconded by Greg Carter. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Texas Water Development Board Update:**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Anita Machiavello, who asked the group to visit the TWDB website and review the newsletter, which contains pertinent information relating to the flood planning process. An updated newsletter will be available in October and the TWDB is currently reviewing the amended flood plan submitted in July. RFI letters will be submitted by TWDB in October and it will follow the final plan timeline, allowing the RFPG 2 weeks to reply to the letter. An extension for review may be requested by the RFPG if necessary. TWDB is working on providing additional guidance on closing out Round 1 and starting up Round 2. Conceptual guidance is available on the TWDB website for the proposed Round 2 process. Greg Carter asked the consultants if two weeks is adequate to respond to the RFI. Josh McClure stated that two weeks should be enough time, depending upon the extent of the questions. Ms. Machiavello announced that no work can be performed after December 29, 2023 and all reimbursement request should be submitted to TWDB by February 29, 2024.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: 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 so Anita Machiavello stated that Region 1 was on the same pace as Region 2 at this time.

**TECHNICAL CONSULTANT UPDATE**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Technical Presentation by Halff Associates, Inc.**

**1. Planning Process Update**

- a. Regional Flood Plan accepted by TWDB on July 25, 2023**
- b. Amended Regional Flood Plan submitted on July 14, 2023**

- 1. No comments received yet**
- 2. Revisions and all work must be complete by December 29, 2023**

- c. TWDB Preparing State Flood Plan for submittal by September 1, 2024
2. Additional work performed by consultant
  - a. Preparing more detailed documentation of FMS/Ps for use by sponsors

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Joshua McClure who presented a brief technical update to the group focusing on the timeline of deliverables mentioned earlier by Anita Machiavello. Mr. McClure announced that the TWDB is preparing the State Flood Plan for submittal by September 1, 2024 and it will include the Amended Regional Flood Plans. The technical consultant is now preparing more detailed documentation of FMS/Ps for use by the Sponsor and no substantial additional work will be allowed by TWDB during Round 1. Reeves Hayter asked Mr. McClure if anyone in the region has contacted Halff Associates about a new project that was not previously submitted. Mr. McClure stated that he has not been contacted by any entity asking to include a project in the plan, but he expects that may change due to more funding being appropriated by the legislature for projects during the next couple of years. Mr. Hayter asked Ms. Machiavello when the TWDB rules for the distribution of additional funds may be available. Ms. Machiavello stated that the updated rules will be provided to the TWDB in October of 2023 and the RFA package for Sponsors will be provided to the TWDB in November of 2023. Approved funding amounts should be available to the public some time during the Spring of 2024, after the TWDB approves the Amended Flood Plans in February or March of 2024.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update from Planning Group Sponsor**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Paul Prange who asked Mary Beth Rudel if Chris Brown provided any updates for her to share. Mrs. Rudel mentioned that Anita Machiavello met with ATCOG via webinar a few days ago to provide updates to the deliverable timeframe.

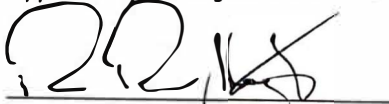
##### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

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, December 7, 2023, at 2:00 pm at location to be determined and via webinar/teleconference.

##### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Adjourn**

Reeves Hayter asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Laura-Ashley Overdyke and seconded by Andy Endsley. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

*Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG at a meeting held on 12/07/2023.*



Reeves Hayter, CHAIR