

Meeting Minutes
Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Meeting
March 3, 2022
2:00 p.m.

Small Business Development Center, The Community Room – (2nd Floor), 105 N. Riddle Avenue, 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	X
Andy Endsley	Counties	X
W. Greg Carter	Electric generating utilities	X
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Environmental interests	X
Casey Johnson	Industries	X
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	
Andrea Sanders	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	
Anita Machiavello (Morgan White - Alternate)	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Darlene Prochaska	USACE, Fort Worth District	
Travis Wilsey	USACE, Tulsa District	
Randy Whiteman	RFPG 1 Liaison	X
Richard Brontoli	Red River Valley Association	X
Jason Dupree	TxDOT – Atlanta District	
Dan Perry	TxDOT – Paris District	X

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **10**

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Chris Brown - ATCOG

Kathy McCollum - ATCOG

Paul Prange – ATCOG

Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team

David Rivera – Halff Associates Team

Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team

Ginny Connolly - Halff Associates Team

Tyler Ogle - Freese & Nichols

Chris Hartung - SRBA

Walt Sears – NETMWD

Richard Bagans - TWDB

James Bronikowski – TWDB

Tony Smith – Carollo Engineers

**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 2:05p.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. Ten voting members were present and seven non-voting members were absent.

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

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for public comments. Tony Smith, with Carollo Engineers, introduced himself and mentioned that he served as the Project Manager for the Region D Water Planning Group. Mr. Smith stated that he would be glad to coordinate with the Region 2 Flood Planning Group as we move forward with the development of the Regional Flood Plan.

ACTION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consider approval of minutes for the meeting held Thursday, November 4, 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 Laura-Ashley Overdyke to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: *Additional Action Items Below included in Technical Presentation by Half Associates, Inc.

Reeves Hayter stated that the information will be discussed during the technical presentation and took no action on this item.

PRESENTATIONS

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

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Richard Bagans who announced that the technical memorandum submitted to TWDB in January is undergoing heavy content review by TWDB staff and informal comments will be provide to the Region 2 Flood Planning Group in late spring of 2022. Mr. Bagans stated that the second part of the Tech Memo, which is being considered for approval at this meeting, will be submitted by March 7, 2022 to TWDB for review and approval. Mr. Bagans announced that Chris Brown is working with TWDB on a contract amendment and the TWDB hosted a Technical Consultant's conference call and Chairs' conference call last week focusing on the required data for FMP/S/Es and Future Conditions.

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. Randy Whiteman stated that he did not attend the Region 1 meeting held on February 23rd due to a conflicting schedule but he provided information listed on the agenda. Mr. Hayter asked if any items were related to activities ongoing within Region 2 and Mr. Whiteman stated that there were not. Mr. Hayter then asked if the Region 1 consultants were coordinating with the Region 2 consultants in efforts to obtain adequate information, as it pertains to the geographic boundary between the two regions. Mr. Whiteman stated that coordination is taking place and information is being shared between the regions.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT UPDATE

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

- 1. Chapter 1**
 - a. Update on Ag Crop and Loss Data**
- 2. Chapter 2**
 - a. Future Conditions Flood Quilt and Exposure Analysis**
 - b. Submittal of Chapter 2 is being delayed until March to allow for incorporation of the new agricultural data**
- 3. Chapter 3**
 - a. Chapter 3 Review**
 - b. Discuss Comments**
- 4. Chapter 5**
 - a. Update Status of Data Processing**
 - b. Schedule first review committee meeting**
 - 1. Present Outline**
 - 2. Present Future Conditions Methodology**
- 5. Tech Memo Addendum**
 - a. The Tech Memo Addendum is due to TWDB on March 7, 2022**
 - b. Tech Memo Addendum Review**
 - c. Discuss Comments**
 - d. *Consider Approval of Tech Memo Addendum for submittal to TWDB**
- 6. Schedule**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Parker Moore who provided a Status Update focusing on the Tech Memo Addendum Submittal, Chapter 1, and Ag Crop and Loss Data Update. Mr. Parker stated that data was submitted by Reeves Hayter and Preston Ingram relating to Ag Crop Loss. Discussion took place among the group and Laura-Ashley Overdyke asked if the public comments received by Halff Associates had been addressed. Mr. Parker indicated that they had been addressed. Greg Carter asked if a "marked up" version of the changes to the data within the plan could be provided to the flood planning group for final review and Mr. Parker stated, yes. Mr. Ingram mentioned that one of the public comments addressed the log jam on the Sulphur River and he asked if that comment had been addressed. Mr. Parker stated that this particular comment would likely be addressed in Chapter 3 or 4 as a potential evaluation or project. David Rivera confirmed to Preston Ingram that the log jam comments are included within the flood plan.

Mr. Parker then turned the presentation over to GIS Director, Ginny Connolly, for discussion of Chapter 2 – Future Conditions Flood Risk Analysis based on a 30-year “no-action” scenario of growth and existing regulations in order to define the 100-Year and 500-Year Floodplain Quilt. The Future 500-Year Floodplain was established by incorporating a median distance of 22’ to the existing 500-Year Floodplain, based upon analysis of over 11,000 data points. The Future Floodplain adds 57% more structures and 72% more people potentially impacted than existing conditions indicate. Ms. Connolly stated that this data is intended to be used for planning purposes, only and not regulatory requirements. Ms. Connolly also presented data relating to Future Populations, Structures, Critical Facilities, Roads, and Social Vulnerability. Discussion took place among the flood planning group. Laura-Ashley Overdyke asked where the data for Critical Infrastructures, such as Water Treatment Plants, was obtained. Ms. Connolly stated that the original data was provided by the TWDB, but other state and federal data sources were utilized, such as the TCEQ. Additionally, public input was incorporated as a data source. Reeves Hayter asked about the lack of available floodplain data in 20% of the counties and the outdated nature of most of the other 80% located within Region 2. Mr. Hayter stated that he was concerned about all of the various data sources being woven together to develop a new flood risk area. He then asked, “at what point does this become junk science?” Ms. Connolly stated that this data is being compiled more for planning purposes and not for regulatory purposes. Richard Bagans stated that the State of Texas does recognize that not all regions have current flood risk maps, therefore even approximate data, such as Fathom, should be included within the floodplain quilt to help identify potential flood risk areas in the future. Mr. Bagans added that regions with outdated or non-existent flood risk maps should be able to identify many FMEs requesting TWDB funding for future flood mapping. Mr. Hayter then stated that all of the counties located within Region 2 appear to be ranked below the .75 threshold for potential funding by the TWDB for future projects and asked if other counties within the state rank above this mark. Ms. Connolly answered that yes, some counties are ranked above the .75 threshold. Chris Brown mentioned that Red River and Delta Counties appear to be represented too low. Mr. Brown stated that ATCOG could provide some additional data related to critical infrastructure for our region, to be analyzed by Halff Associates.

David Rivera conducted a presentation focusing on Chapter 3 – Floodplain Management Practices & Flood Protection Goals. Mr. Rivera discussed the Recommended Floodplain Management Standards relating to Freeboard (1 foot above BFE) for Residential Properties / Commercial Properties, and (2 Feet above BFE) for Critical Facilities. Greg Carter asked Mr. Rivera if there is consistency between Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 as it relates to floodplain elevations and discussion took place among the group. Mr. Rivera stated that these recommended standards are not intended to be applied using the maps that are generated in Task 2. The flood planning group asked for a statement to this effect be included within the Region 2 Flood Plan. Mr. Rivera continued presenting the recommended standards for Roadway, Culvert/Bridges, Storm Drainage Systems, Detention Facilities, and Mapping Coverage. Reeves Hayter asked for the definition of “unmapped areas” listed in the Mapping Coverage section of the presentation and Mr. Rivera stated that it means flood risk is unknown, therefore hydrologic and hydraulic studies need to be conducted prior to developing these areas. Mr. Rivera then presented the Goals Summary, focusing on Education and Outreach, Flood Warning Readiness, Flood Studies and Analysis, Flood Prevention, Non-Structural Flood Infrastructure, and Structural Flood Infrastructure. Mr. Hayter mentioned that Floodproofing and Property Acquisition should be included as Non-Structural Flood Infrastructure Goals and Mr. Rivera agreed to add them to the table.

David Rivera began discussion on Chapter 4B & Chapter 5 – Identification and Recommendation of FMEs, FMPs and FMSs. Chapter 4B data is now available in a geospatial format and is being refined throughout the region. Additionally, Planning Level Cost Estimates are now compiled in a tabular format and a template has been developed to serve as an example. Mr. Rivera then presented the TWDB technical guidance requiring a “No Negative Impact Certification” for all potential FMPs. Reeves Hayter stated that he understands that this is a requirement of the TWDB, but in reality there is absolutely no way that an engineer could make such a certification until the design of the project is approximately 95% complete. Greg Carter asked if this requirement is based upon the 500-Year Flood Event and Mr. Rivera stated that it is based upon the 100-Year Flood Event. Mr. Rivera mentioned that this topic will likely need to be addressed by the flood planning group during the approval process of Chapter 5. Richard Bagans stated that this requirement has been discussed at TWDB, but it is required by the State Legislature. Mr. Rivera then presented information relating to the FMP: Benefit-Cost Analysis, Process for Recommending FMEs, and Process for Recommending FMPs. This information will be discussed in greater detail at the next two sub-committee meetings held later this month. Mr. Rivera then provided an overview of the upcoming activity schedule through March 31st.

Reeves Hayter then turned the floor over to Parker Moore to discuss establishing dates for the two Sub-Committee Meetings. Discussion took place among the board members and David Rivera and a decision was made to conduct the first meeting on March 18th and the second meeting on March 28th. Mr. Moore then asked the Region 2 Flood Planning Group if they had any additional comments regarding the Tech Memo Addendum. Comments were received regarding the language referring to the Trinity Flood Planning Region and Mr. Moore stated that the language was included in the Region 2 Tech Memo as a supplemental attachment. Greg Carter voiced some level of concern over including this language in the Region 2 Flood Plan and he and Mr. Hayter asked if a “Fly Page” could be inserted before the Trinity language, indicating that the Region 2 Tech Memo Addendum was based upon the Trinity’s. Mr. Hayter asked the group if they felt comfortable approving the Tech Memo Addendum as amended with comments. A motion was made by Greg Carter and seconded by Joseph Weir to submit the Tech Memo Addendum to TWDB for review and approval. The motion carried unanimously.

Parker Moore then presented the Look-Ahead portion of his presentation and stated that in March the Region 2 Flood Planning Group approved the Final Tech Memo for submittal to TWDB and discussed the Chapter 3 comments. Halff Associates plans to submit Chapters 2, 4 and 5 to the group for review, as well. In April, discussion of Chapters 2, 4 and 5 will occur, along with submittal of Chapters 6 and 7 for review. Discussion of Chapters 6 and 7 and submittal of Chapters 8 and 9 will occur in May. Discussion of Chapters 8 and 9 and submittal of Chapter 10 will occur in June. Discussion of Chapter 10 and approval of the Draft Regional Flood Plan will occur in July, with the Draft Plan due to TWDB on August 1, 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Chris Brown who announced that ATCOG has hired a new Hazard Mitigation Planner, Kathy McCollum, who will assist in conducting flood planning outreach within Region 2 to increase public participation. Mr. Brown also stated that the TWDB has approved this activity and

funds from Task 11 of the contract will be utilized to conduct this outreach. Mr. Brown also presented the updated Region 2 website which now contains links to a video produced by the TWDB and a new interactive floodplain quilt website, containing the latest data from Halff Associates. Members of the public and public representatives will be directed to these two new resources to receive insight into the flood planning process and to provide input. Mr. Hayter thanked ATCOG staff for their efforts to increase public participation and also thanked Andrea Sanders with TDEM, for providing flood damage data which may be helpful in developing the regional flood plan.

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 meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2:00p.m. in Mount Pleasant, TX and via webinar/teleconference.

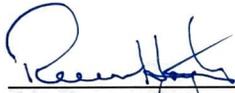
AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Adjourn

Reeves Hayter opened the floor to adjourn the meeting.

The vote to adjourn was passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10p.m. by Reeves Hayter.

Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG at a meeting held on 04/07/2022.



Reeves Hayter, CHAIR