

Meeting Minutes
Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group
Technical Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting
March 18, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Titus County AgriLife Extension Office, 1708 Industrial 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	
W. Greg Carter	Electric generating utilities	X
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Environmental interests	X
Casey Johnson	Industries	
Dustin Henslee	Municipalities	X
Kirby Hollingsworth	Public	
R. Reeves Hayter	River authorities	X
Kelly Mitchell	Small business	
Joseph W. Weir III	Water districts	
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	
Tony Resendez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Trey Bahm	General Land Office	
Anita Machiavello	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Darlene Prochaska	USACE, Fort Worth 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	

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **4**

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of **5: 3**

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

Tyler Ogle - Freese & Nichols

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 10:02 a.m. and welcomed members and attendees to the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Technical Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: 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 member of the Sub-Committee introduced themselves, establishing that a quorum had been met. Four voting members were present and one was absent.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: *Election of Sub-Committee Officers per Article XII, Section 3 of the Bylaws

Reeves Hayter asked ATCOG Executive Director, Chris Brown to explain that the TWDB requires sub-committees to elect officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) as outlined within the Bylaws. Mr. Brown stated that the members of the sub-committee happen to be officers on the regular board, in this instance. Mr. Hayter then opened the floor up for nominations. Dustin Henslee made a motion to elect the same officers from the full board to serve as officers on the sub-committee and Greg Carter seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Acknowledgement of written public comments received

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items – limit 3 minutes per person

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

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Technical presentation by Halff Associates, Inc.

- a. **Task 5 overview (10 min)**
 - i. **Purpose**
 - 1. **FME, FMP and FMS recommendations**
 - ii. **Process Overview (FME, FMP, and FMS)**
 - 1. **Background context and findings summary**
 - 2. **Questions for Sub-Committee**
 - 3. **Other Sub-Committee Guidance**
 - iii. **Technical Sub-Committee involvement and key roles**
- b. **FME (40 min)**
 - i. **TWDB requirements**
 - ii. **Sources**
 - iii. **Geographical distribution and categories**
 - iv. **Flood Risk Indicators and Planning Level Costs**
 - v. **Assessment examples**
 - vi. **Technical Sub-Committee guidance for recommendations**
 - 1. **Practical considerations and constraints for not recommending an FME**
 - 2. **Propose additional FME (if needed)**
- c. **FMP (30 min)**

- i. TWDB requirements for FMP
 - ii. Sources
 - iii. Geographical distribution and categories
 - iv. Assessment examples
 - v. Technical Sub-Committee guidance for recommendations
 - 1. Practical considerations and constraints for not recommending an FMP
- d. BREAK (10 min)
- e. FMS (25 min)
 - i. TWDB requirements
 - ii. Sources
 - iii. Geographical distribution and categories
 - iv. Assessment examples
 - v. Technical Sub-Committee guidance for recommendations
 - 1. Practical considerations and constraints for not recommending an FMS
 - 2. Propose additional FMS (if needed)
- f. *Action Items (15 min)

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Halff Associates staff to provide a brief update on activities. Joshua McClure announced that the Tech Memo was submitted to TWDB for review and approval, and the presentation for the April meeting is currently being prepared. Mr. McClure then turned the presentation over to David Rivera to discuss Task 5 (Recommendation of FME, FMP and FMS) which is the decision-making process for recommending the actions.

David Rivera began his presentation by asking questions seeking Sub-Committee input to provide guidance for the technical consultants to develop the plan. Mr. Rivera stated that the most important part of today's meeting is to determine the Selection Philosophy (Select only RFPG priority FMXs or Include all eligible FMXs). Mr. Rivera also mentioned that the issue of Local Sponsors needs to be addressed and asked if the Sub-Committee wished to verify an entity's willingness to sponsor FMXs or just assign sponsors, who would have an option to decline in the future. Mr. Rivera stated that new FMEs and FMSs could be added to the list, as well.

David Rivera then presented a Findings Summary which included all groups of actions depicted on an interactive regional map (FMEs-61, FMPs-3, FMSs-74) that can be posted on our website for public input. Discussion took place between the technical consultants and the Sub-Committee pertaining to FMEs vs. FMPs as they relate to "No Negative Impact" as required by the TWDB. Reeves Hayter asked Joshua McClure if he could provide an explanation for a specific project located in Paris, TX being recommended as an FME and not an FMP. Mr. McClure asked Parker Moore to access the file relating to that project and Mr. Moore indicated that the project lacked adequate supporting documentation to be listed as an FMP.

David Rivera presented information relating to each of the types of actions, beginning with Flood Management Evaluations (FME) and the basic requirements which need to be met, according to the TWDB. (1.) Identify and investigate solutions to mitigate the 1% annual chance flood. (2.) Support a specific RFPG Goal. (3.) Are most likely to result in identification of potentially feasible FMPs of FMSs for the next planning cycle. Mr. Rivera also mentioned specific FME sources and categories. Greg Carter stated that all actions that meet the TWDB requirements should be included within the plan in order to be eligible for potential state or federal funding in the future. Laura-Ashley Overdyke commented on the difference between debris removal and channelization being listed in both the FME and FMS

categories. Mr. Rivera stated that the FME category refers to a specific area and the FMS refers to a larger scale. Joshua McClure announced that the source of the data was collected from Hazard Mitigation Plans, which are fairly vague in nature, and not specific to any location. Mr. McClure also stated that a proposed project would be listed as an FME if funding will be requested in the future, but if an area only requires general maintenance, it would be listed as an FMS. An example of an FME is the proposed removal of the log jam on the Sulphur River. Reeves Hayter asked if each county has requested updated flood maps and Mr. McClure stated that he did not ask each county if they wanted the maps or not. Mr. Hayter stated that at least five counties within Region 2 have not participated in the NFIP and suggested that we reach out to them and ask if they would like to participate. Discussion took place among the board members on this topic. Mr. Hayter suggested that we contact the sponsors in each county to inform them of our regional flood planning efforts. Chris Brown commented that ATCOG staff could reach out to sponsors within the region to explain specifically what we are asking of them and Mr. McClure stated that he could draft a letter that would help clarify our requests.

Reeves Hayter commented on county-wide strategies and mentioned that several counties located within Region 2 have only a small percentage of land located within our region, with the majority of the land being located within the adjoining region. Mr. Hayter asked how we should address these counties. David Rivera stated that counties located in more than one region will be mentioned in each regional plan, but the costs associated with any FMXs apply only to the areas located within each of the regional boundaries. Mr. Hayter recommended that in the counties having less than 50% of their land area located within Region 2, only be included in the adjoining region's plan, but if a community is located within our region, we should include it within our plan. The technical consultants stated that they would coordinate with other regions to address these areas. Greg Carter and Reeves Hayter discussed the Sulphur River log jam and Mr. Hayter commented that it should be considered as two potential projects. Laura-Ashley Overdyke agreed with this request. Mr. Hayter then made a comparison of FMPs/FMEs/and FMSs and stated that he respects the strict requirements placed on the FMPs by the TWDB, but he does not fully agree with these requirements because they are not realistic for small, rural communities located within Region 2. Mr. Hayter then stated that he is concerned that there are no evaluations listed for the City of Bonham, the City of Commerce, the City of Sulphur Springs, the City of Sherman, and the City of Denison. Mr. Hayter then requested the Region 2 Flood Planning Group to reach out again to these entities to make sure that they realize they will not be included in the Regional Flood Plan and will not be eligible for flood infrastructure funding. Joshua McClure responded that he is currently coordinating with these communities in an effort to identify any potential FMEs that can be added to the list. David Rivera presented the HUC 12 map which depicted flood risk ratings throughout the region and Mr. Hayter asked for reference points to be added to the map. Discussion took place among the group.

David Rivera then conducted a presentation focusing on FMPs, including TWDB requirements, sources, and geographical distribution & categories. Mr. Rivera asked Dustin Henslee to elaborate on three projects listed in Texarkana, TX and Mr. Henslee provided a summary of the proposed project activities at each of the three project areas. Reeves Hayter asked Joshua McClure to take another look at a proposed project located in Paris, TX to make sure whether or not it is eligible for inclusion within the Region 2 Flood Plan. David Rivera stated that each proposed project must show a measurable reduction in flood impacts in order to qualify for state funding and asked Anita Machiavello for guidance on this requirement. Ms. Machiavello stated that she would look into this requirement and provide feedback as soon as possible. Discussion took place among the group followed by a 10 minute break in the meeting.

David Rivera then conducted a presentation focusing on FMSs including TWDB requirements, sources, and geographical distribution & categories. Mr. Rivera stated that much of the data was collected from the Hazard Mitigation Plans within the region, which are mostly vague in nature and asked if the planning group wanted to include this broad scale information in the Regional Flood Plan. Joshua McClure spoke on the generalized nature of the Hazard Mitigation Plans and provided examples of the overall language. Greg Carter stated that he would like to include the information listed in the Hazard Mitigation Plans in the Region 2 Flood Plan. Chris Brown concurred. Mr. McClure announced that the TWDB plans to insert information from each Regional Flood Plan into the statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan. Anita Machiavello confirmed that this is correct, but no specific information about the contents of the plan have been shared with TWDB staff. Mr. McClure stated that projects must show tangible benefits associated with them in order to qualify for state funding. Discussion took place among the group. Mr. Rivera then announced that at the next Sub-Committee meeting, the technical consultants could provide the same information relating to FMEs/FMPs/FMSs with "Yes" or "No" columns added for each specific recommendation. The Sub-Committee agreed that this would be helpful and asked for the list to be provided to the members and the public prior to the next meeting scheduled for March 28th.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Receive registered general public comments

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Chris Brown who announced that ATCOG has submitted a budget amendment to TWDB for review and approval, to allow ATCOG staff to conduct outreach activities. Mr. Brown stated that ATCOG staff member, Kathy McCollum has developed a public outreach plan that provides information on the interactive flood map located on our website. Mr. Hayter thanked ATCOG staff for their efforts to increase public participation in this planning process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion. The Region 2 RFPG Sub-Committee agreed to conduct the next meeting on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Small Business Development Center located in Mount Pleasant, TX and via webinar/teleconference.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Adjourn

Reeves Hayter opened the floor to adjourn the meeting.

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

The vote to adjourn was passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:58 p.m. by Reeves Hayter.

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


Reeves Hayter, CHAIR