

Meeting Minutes
Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Meeting
October 6, 2022
2:00 p.m.
at

**Ark-Tex Council of Governments, Transportation Facility, 240 SE 10th Street, (Building 5), Paris, TX 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	X
(Vacant)	Water districts	
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	
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	X
Darlene Prochaska	USACE, Fort Worth District	
Travis Wilsey	USACE, Tulsa District	
Randy Whiteman	RFPG 1 Liaison	
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: **6**

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of **9: 5**

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Kathy McCollum - ATCOG

Paul Prange – ATCOG

Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team

David Rivera – Halff Associates Team

Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team

David Weidman – Franklin County Water District

**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 2:00 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. Six voting members were present and five non-voting members were also present.

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, September 1, 2022, and Thursday, September 22, 2022.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: *Consider approval of invoices submitted by Halff Associates, Inc. and the Ark-Tex Council of Governments

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion of the invoices and asked Paul Prange if the invoices accurately reflect the work performed to date. Mr. Prange stated, yes, that the invoices have been reviewed by the ATCOG finance staff and appear to be accurate. The invoices from Halff Associates, Inc. will be paid by ATCOG and the invoices from ATCOG will be submitted to the TWDB for reimbursement once the Region 2 Flood Planning Group approves them. Reeves Hayter made a motion to approve the invoices and the motion was seconded by Greg Carter. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: *Consider approval of application submitted by Mr. David Weidman, to serve as a voting member on the Region 2 Flood Planning Group, representing the category of *Water Districts*

Reeves Hayter announced that the Executive Committee of the Region 2 Flood Planning Group met just prior to this meeting and agreed to recommend Mr. David Weidman to serve as a voting member of the Region 2 Flood Planning Group, in the category of *Water Districts*. Mr. Hayter presented Mr. Weidman's resume to the group for consideration as a new voting member and provided testimony of his achievements and experience. Mr. Hayter also stated that his application was submitted in a timely fashion and no other applications were received for this position. Mr. Hayter then made a motion to nominate Mr. David Weidman to fill the vacant position representing *Water Districts* on the Region 2 Flood Planning Group Board of Directors. Laura-Ashley Overdyke seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Weidman announced his appreciation to the board members and stated that he looks forward to working together in the future.

PRESENTATIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Texas Water Development Board Update:

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Anita Machiavello who announced that the TWDB recently sent out a stakeholder survey and encouraged the members of the flood planning group to revisit the TWDB website and review the September newsletter which contains guidance relating to the regional flood plans.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: 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 Joshua McClure and David Rivera announced that Region 1 is on approximately the same schedule as Region 2 and did not have any additional information to share at this time.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Technical Presentation by Halff Associates, Inc.

- **Update on Draft Regional Flood Plan**
 1. **Review any comments received**
- **Update on Task 12 – Perform Identified FME, Identify, Evaluate, and Recommend Additional FMPs**
 2. **Review revised Technical Consultant (TC) recommendations**
 3. **Discuss Potential FMPs for City of Paris and City of Atlanta**
 4. ***Discussion/Action on TC recommended list**
- **Review upcoming meeting schedule**
 5. **Select December meeting date**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Joshua McClure who began discussion of the comments received from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) regarding the Draft Regional Flood Plan. The USACE comments were fairly, generic in nature and primarily focused on urban population centers located within the state. Mr. McClure highlighted a few of the comments for discussion among the Region 2 Flood Planning Group. One comment addressed the potential need for non-regulatory regional flood control or drainage districts. ATCOG plans to establish a Regional Flood Drainage Manual to be included in the Regional Flood Plan for use as a template by communities located within Region2. Reeves Hayter stated that he is in favor of ATCOG creating this template for Region 2. Language will also be added to the plan, emphasizing that counties actually have floodplain regulatory authority, even though some counties may not exercise this authority. Laura- Ashely Overdyke stated that she hopes that the TWDB considers the importance of the USACE comment regarding many small communities not being capable of dealing with the complexities of floodplain management. Ms. Overdyke also mentioned that she is very concerned about the potential for over-designing flood projects which may negatively impact the natural environment and certain wildlife species and suggested that some guidance may be required from the TWDB regarding these matters. Mr. McClure then presented two additional comments relating to the development of future land use plans and conditions utilizing future flows for regulation of floodplains and development of FMPs. Discussion took place among the group regarding the comments from USACE.

Joshua McClure then presented the comments from TPWD and their recommendations to consider when developing a floodplain management project. The TPWD is particularly concerned about potential impacts to Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species including, paddlefish, freshwater mussels, and alligator snapping turtles when culverts are installed in waterbodies. Mr. McClure stated that these comments could be addressed in our regional criteria manual. Laura-Ashley Overdyke encouraged the planning group to insert specific language into the flood plan addressing these concerns, so that rural communities have access to this information while developing any future projects. Discussion took place among the group. Mr. McClure provided information to the group relating to culvert design and placement practices currently being utilized. Ms. Overdyke stated that there is definitely a disconnect between current project design strategies and the latest best practices. Mr. McClure stated that generic language could be added to the plan stating that “all designs, where necessary, consider aquatic species migration and stream geomorphology to ensure proper floodplain function.” David Rivera stated that he agrees with the inclusion of this type of language in the flood plan, and it should be noted that this is a recommendation from the planning group for flood project design. Additional discussion took place among the group focusing on the level of detail needed in the flood plan relating to environmental knowledge and engineering design recommendations, to help close the gap. Greg Carter provided details of the drainage design located at a SWEPCO plant located within the region, as an example of environmental considerations. Reeves Hayter mentioned that the comments from USACE and TPWD should be added to the language in Chapter 10 of the Region 2 Flood Plan, and that project sponsors are encouraged to incorporate these practices into the design of their projects. Mr. McClure stated that the comment letters from both agencies will be included in the flood plan and the recommendations could either be added to existing FMSs, or a new FMS could be developed focusing specifically on these recommendations.

Joshua McClure presented the upcoming schedule of activities which include Reviewing and Responding to Public/TWDB Comments in late October and Adoption of the Regional Flood Plan by the Region 2 Flood Planning Group before January 10, 2023. Anita Machiavello announced that the TWDB is on schedule to send out formal comment letters by the end of October. Mr. McClure stated that numerous FMEs were identified but only a few FMPs were selected by the Region 2 Executive Committee due to the strict guidelines imposed by the TWDB relating to upstream and downstream negative impacts. Mr. McClure then turned the presentation over to David Rivera for discussion of Task 12 (FMEs->FMPs). Mr. Rivera presented two tables containing all the potential FMPs that were selected by the Region 2 Executive Committee for consideration by the flood planning group. Discussion took place among the group. Mr. McClure stated that Halff Associates, Inc. is requesting approval from the planning group to move forward with the FMEs/FMPs in the tables for inclusion in the Region 2 Flood Plan. Reeves Hayter announced that he has no problem with this particular list, but he is concerned that the City of Paris, TX has not been adequately addressed, regarding their potential FMEs/FMPs. Mr. McClure stated that he would meet further with the City of Paris, TX to identify and prioritize their projects to be included in the Region 2 Flood Plan. A motion was made by Greg Carter to approve the FMEs/FMPs which have been submitted and highlighted in “green” in the tables. The FMEs/FMPs highlighted in “yellow” in the tables, need follow-up discussion and screening analysis with the sponsors prior to approval. Reeves Hayter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Joshua McClure then presented the Region 2 Flood Planning Group Schedule consisting of; October 31 – Receive TWDB Comments (1 month to address comments), December 1 – Submit Draft Final RFP to RFPG2 (Minimum 14 day review period), December 15 – RFPG2 Meeting (Meet to discuss comments and Approve submission to TWDB), January 5 – RFPG2 Meeting, and January 10 – Submit Final RFP to TWDB.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Paul Prange who announced that the ATCOG has no updates to provide at this time.

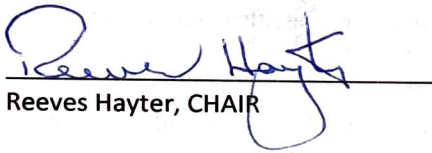
AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

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, November 3, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at a location to be determined and via webinar/teleconference.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m. by Reeves Hayter.

Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG at a meeting held on 11/03/2022.


Reeves Hayter, CHAIR