

Meeting Minutes
Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca Flood Planning Group Meeting
October 18, 2021
9:30 AM
Hybrid Meeting

Roll Call:

Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) /Absent () Alternate Present (*)
Terry Been	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	X
Phillip Spenrath	<i>Counties</i>	X
Jason Ludwig	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	X
Kirby Brown	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
G. Nicholas "Nick" Textor	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Brandon Klenzendorf	<i>Industries</i>	X
Matt Hollon	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Frances Acuña	<i>Public</i>	X (left meeting after item 13)
Patrick Brzozowski	<i>River authorities</i>	X
Ann Yakimovicz	<i>Small business</i>	* Brenda Sies
Kacey Cubine Paul	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Hank Smith	<i>Water utilities</i>	X
Kelly Payne	<i>River authorities</i>	X

Non-voting Member	Agency	Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)
Shonda Mace	General Land Office	* Sarah Douglas
Charles "CW" Schneider	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Lauren Mayes	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
James Guin	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Beth Bendik	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Allen Nash	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Morgan White	Texas Water Development Board	X
Ronald G. Fieseler	Region 11 – Guadalupe Liaison	
Mark Vogler	Region 8 – Lower Brazos Liaison	* Brian Fambrough
Cara Tackett	Region 12 – San Antonio Liaison	X (joined during item 11)
Chuck Brown	Region 9 – Upper Colorado Liaison	

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 13

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 13: 7

Other Meeting Attendees: **

James Bronikowski - TWDB	Anthony Groves
Tressa Olsen – TWDB	Amber Hielscher
Cindy Englehardt – Halff Associates, Inc.	Kathryn Johansen
Matt Bucchin – Halff Associates, Inc.	Rebecca Katzke
Mike Personett – Halff Associates, Inc.	Nick Kincaid
Augusto Villalon – Freese and Nichols	Rachael Lindsey
Cris Parker – HDR, Inc.	Cyrus Reed
Karen Ford – WaterPR	Chuck Rogers
Lauren Graber – LCRA	Meiko Mahi
Annette Keaveny – LCRA	Valerie Miller
Marcin Tyszka – LCRA	Carol Olewin
Eric Scheibe – Scheibe Consulting LLC	Anna Pittala
Mitchell Cameron	Judge Ty Prause
Fabiola de Carvalho	

**Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the Zoom meeting.

All meeting materials are available for the public at:

www.lowercoloradolavacaflood.org/meetings

Agenda:

1. Call to Order

Chair Phillip Spentrath called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM CDT. 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.

2. Welcome

Chair Phillip Spentrath welcomed members and other attendees to the meeting.

3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

The draft meeting minutes were reviewed, and no corrections or additions were made. Kelly Payne moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Kirby Brown. The motion passed by a vote of 13-0.

4. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person

Chair Phillip Spentrath called for public comments.

Cyrus Reed with the Sierra Club commented on enforcement of building codes for flood safety.

5. TWDB Update

Morgan White from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) introduced Tressa Olsen, who will serve as the new Region 10 RFPG liaison for TWDB going forward.

They spoke to additional funding for the Regional Flood Plan and work on draft amendments.

6. Update from RFPG liaisons

No updates given.

7. Update from the Planning Group Sponsor

Lauren Graber reported that agenda items 8, 9, and 10 are voting items that will be discussed and voted upon individually.

8. Discussion and potential action to authorize the Planning Group Sponsor to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB, to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget

Lauren Graber reported that TWDB voted to add \$793,800 in funding for Region 10's flood planning efforts and is seeking RFPG authorization to amend the TWDB/LCRA grant contract. Kirby Brown moved to approve the action, seconded by Kacey Paul. The action passed by a vote of 13-0.

9. Discussion and potential action to authorize the Planning Group Sponsor to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant subcontract with the technical consultant, Half Associates, Inc., to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget

Lauren Graber reported that due to the additional funding discussed in Agenda item 8, the technical consultant's subcontract with LCRA must also be amended after authorization from the RFPG. Kacey Paul moved to approve the action, seconded by Kirby Brown. The action passed by a vote of 13-0.

10. Discussion and potential action regarding administrative expenses to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for reimbursement

Lauren Graber brought forth an action to reimburse administrative expenses for the Sponsor. Jason Ludwig moved to approve the action, seconded by Kacey Paul. The action passed by a vote of 13-0.

11. Presentation: Wharton County Flood Warning Project and Matagorda County Levees by Eric Scheibe of Scheibe Consulting LLC

Eric Scheibe gave a presentation as entitled above.

Planning Group members asked about automation of the real-time forecasting system; availability of maps to community residents for emergency response information; whether bathymetric mapping has to be redone after major flood events to recalibrate the model; and technical questions about modeling data and assumptions.

12. Technical Consultant presentations and discussions related to regional flood planning

Karen Ford (WaterPR), Matt Bucchin, Mike Personett, and Cindy Englehardt (all Halff Associates, Inc.) provided updates, briefings, and discussion on the following:

- a. Project status
- b. Public and stakeholder engagement strategies update
- c. Task 1 – Planning Area Description: Review and discussion of preliminary draft Chapter 1
- d. Task 2A/B – Existing and Future Conditions: Status and outlook
- e. Task 3A – Floodplain Management Practices: Review and discussion of preliminary draft Chapter 3
- f. Task 4A – Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis: Status and outlook
- g. Task 4B – Identification/Evaluation of Studies, Strategies, and Projects
- h. Task 8 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations: Suggested topics/issues
- i. Task 4C – Technical Memorandum: Discuss organization, content, and schedule
- j. Look-ahead – November and December RFPG meetings

Planning Group members asked whether public input meetings could be held in counties to hear from people in person; if ways could be considered to reach low-economic communities who do not have access to computer-based outreach; and whether the technical consultant was conferring with other Regional Planning Groups to consider other goals.

13. Discuss and accept public comments regarding flood mitigation and floodplain management goals

Mike Personett and Matt Bucchin gave an update on flood mitigation and floodplain management goals and called for RFPG member comments.

Planning Group members commented on:

- Goal attainability and affordability;
- Achievable vs. aspirational goals;
- Future funding levels on options such as easement acquisition;
- Informing low-income communities so they can advocate for solutions;
- That not all communities can afford to address the proposed goals;
- That goals should be aspirational to help communities identify needs and funding;
- That flood insurance costs were rising and that a monthly payment option needs to be offered for people not able to afford a lump-sum payment.

Planning Group members also made specific comments and recommendations on the draft goals and whether they should be reworded, combined, or eliminated.

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments.

Carol Olewin commented that floodproofing is very important for individual homeowners and supported including it in the goals.

Mieko Mahi said that new development should not be built in flood hazard areas but that not all people are aware of these risks when they buy properties, and that education is therefore very important. She recommended public engagement be done in County meetings.

14. Discuss and accept public comments regarding the process to be used by the RFPG to identify and select FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs

Cris Parker (HDR) presented an overview of the proposed process for selecting FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs.

Matt Hollon asked about inclusion of potential flood mitigation projects to provide flood protection for the City of Austin's South Austin Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sand Hill Energy Center (power plant). Lauren Graber said that the Chair could add such an item for future discussion.

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments.

No comments were given.

15. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments.

No comments were given.

16. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

Chair Phillip Spenrath opened discussion to consider the date and agenda items for the next meeting.

After general discussion, Chair Phillip Spenrath concluded that the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021, 9:30AM.

The December meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2021, 9:30AM.

The January meeting will be held Thursday, January 20, 2022, 9:30AM.

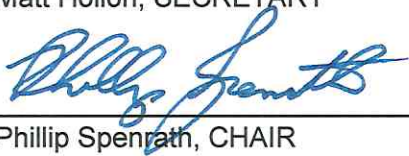
17. Adjourn

Kelly Payne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patrick Brzozowski. The motion passed 12-0 and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM CDT by Chair Phillip Spenrath.

Approved by the Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG at a meeting held on November 15, 2021.

Handwritten signature of Matt Hollon in black ink.

Matt Hollon, SECRETARY

Handwritten signature of Phillip Spenrath in blue ink.

Phillip Spenrath, CHAIR