

Meeting Minutes
Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca Flood Planning Group Meeting
April 19, 2021
9:00 AM
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Roll Call:

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

Non-voting Member	Agency	Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)
Shonda Mace	General Land Office	X
David Galindo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Lauren Mayes	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Beth Bendik	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Allen Nash	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Hayley Gillespie	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	

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **11**

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Elizabeth Levitz
 Dan Zell
 Stephen Tolbert
 Jim Carrillo
 Kathryn Johansen

Kimberly M. Miller
 Laura Atlas
 Matt Bucchin
 Shannon Longoria
 Shelley Rappaport

Stephen Rockwood
 James Bronikowski, TWDB
 Morgan White, TWDB
 Lauren Graber, LCRA
 Marcin Tyszka, LCRA

****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.lowercoloradolavacafood.org/meetings

Agenda:

1. Call to Order

Chair Phillip Spenrath called the meeting to order at 9:03AM. 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 Spenrath 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. Kirby Brown moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Kacey Paul. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

4. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments. No public comments were given.

5. TWDB Update

No formal presentation or updates were given.

6. Update from RFPG liaisons

First time this is on the agenda and will become a standing item going forward to allow liaisons to provide updates on their region.

Ann Yakimovicz, Region 9 liaison, said that HDR was selected by the group as the Region 9 technical consultant and the contract would go to the San Angelo city council for approval prior to being sent to the Texas Water Development Board. She said that Region 9 members also discussed the fact that the map of Regional Flood Planning areas shows Lake O.H. Ivie split between Regions 9 and 10 rather than having the lake placed entirely in Region 9. Region 9 members wished to discuss the matter of jurisdiction at a future meeting. Hayley Gillespie said she would report back any update at the next Region 10 meeting.

7. Update from the Planning Group Sponsor

Lauren Graber reported that the Sponsor is in contract negotiations with the technical consultant and LCRA has requested the initial 20% funding allocation from TWDB.

8. Pre-Planning Public Input – Public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered during the flood planning cycle and/or input on the development of the regional flood plan (as

required per Texas Water Code §16.062(d) and 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(a)(4))

a. TWDB Presentation

No presentation was given at this meeting, but the presentation materials given two meetings ago were again made available at this meeting as a resource.

b. Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker

Chair Phillip Spenrath said that a public comment item was required to be placed on a minimum of two RFPG meetings to solicit input on items potentially impacting the plan. He noted that those interested can submit information to Lauren Graber and/or request to meet directly with the RFPG later.

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments. No public comments were given.

Kirby Brown requested that a presentation on natural infrastructure be given and said that Jennifer Walker is the contact.

Lauren Graber said that she had received a request from Jennifer Walker and that she will put the item on a future agenda.

9. Discussion regarding upcoming kick-off meeting with technical consultant

Lauren Graber said that she had received comments from members in the past with questions and asked if any members would like to speak during this meeting.

Matt Hollon said that he wanted to have the timeline clarified for getting public input on policies and strategies, giving communities time to prepare information for consideration. He also was interested in the timing of the public engagement discussion of plan goals. He noted that the City of Austin may be able to synchronize such input with its own process to solicit comments on its upcoming Watershed Protection Strategic Plan.

Kacey Paul asked about what public outreach will look like and about how the technical consultant plans to reach out. She reiterated the importance of getting a timeline so that smaller communities would have ample notice to prepare resources in a timely manner.

Ann Yakimovicz talked about FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) and how communities can use this program to reduce flood insurance premiums. She noted that CRS has a requirement for flood assessment data and asked if this data could be distributed back from the RFPG process to communities, especially helpful for communities with limited resources, for use after the plan is completed.

Frances Acuña noted that it is hard to communicate with communities about this topic. She said that the technical language of flood management experts is hard to comprehend and can be intimidating, and that Spanish-speakers have to rely on Google Translate for interpretation, because translation services are seldom offered. She asked if there was a plan to simplify the language to reduce the effort required to communicate with these communities.

Lauren Graber noted that the members could ask the technical consultant to describe their plan to make the public outreach portion of the planning process more accessible to the general public, including the possible use of less technical language.

10. Presentation and discussion regarding General Land Office flood studies

Shonda Mace (GLO) and Elizabeth Levitz (AECOM) gave a presentation entitled the Flood Studies within Combined River Basins Study Overview.

11. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments. No comments were given.

Brandon Klenzendorf congratulated Kacey Paul for being selected as 2021 Civil Engineer of the Year by the Austin Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

12. 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 Spenrath concluded that the next meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

Lauren Graber noted that if the consultant is under contract by the next meeting, she recommended a kickoff workshop be designated as the main agenda item. She anticipated that the workshop would require a couple of hours to allow enough sufficient time for the topic.

Kelly Payne said that the Sponsor was making good progress in bringing the technical consultant on board.

Lauren noted that the TWDB timeline asks that the technical consultant be contracted by the end of May and that this objective was on schedule.

13. Adjourn

Kelly Payne made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patrick Brzozowski. The motion passed 11-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM CDT by Chair Phillip Spenrath.

Approved by the Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG at a meeting held on May 17, 2021.



Matt Hollon, SECRETARY



Phillip Spenrath, CHAIR