

Region 10
Lower Colorado-Lavaca
Regional Flood Planning Group

March 29, 2021

Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome**
- 3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Meeting Minutes
 Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca Flood Planning Group Meeting
 February 11, 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	x
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
VACANT / Kelly Payne	River authorities	x joined following Item 6

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	
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	x
Mark Vogler	Region 8 – Lower Brazos Liaison	* [Brian Fambrough]
Cara Tackett	Region 12 – San Antonio Liaison	x

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **11 (12 following Item 6 addition of new River Authority representative)**

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 12: **7 (remained at 7 following Item 6 addition of new River Authority representative increasing voting members to 13)**

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Anna-Maria Clardy
 Ashley Campbell
 Cindy Engelhardt
 Daniel Zell
 Eric Scheibe
 Jamie Burke
 Karen Ford

Matt Bucchin
 Michael Moya
 Michael Personett
 Stephen Rockwood
 Lauren Graber, LCRA
 Marcin Tyszka, LCRA AV
 Morgan White, 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:
www.lowercoloradolavacaflood.org/meetings

Agenda:

1. Call to Order

Chair Phillip Spenrath called the meeting to order at 9:04am CST. 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 to the meeting and gave brief introductions to new non-voting members from adjacent planning groups who joined the meeting:

- a) Ronald Fieseler, Region 11 (Guadalupe RFGP): General Manager of Blanco Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District.
- b) Mark Vogler (Brian Fambrough attending on his behalf), Region 8 (Lower Brazos RFGP): General Manager and Chief Engineer at Fort Bend Co. Drainage District.
- c) Cara Tackett, Region 12 (San Antonio RFGP): Senior Vice President for Water Resources at Pape-Dawson Engineers.

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 Patrick Brzozowski. 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.

Planning group member Frances Acuna requested a guest presentation from Danielle Goshen with the Galveston Bay Foundation on the Texas Living Waters Project at a future meeting.

Kirby Brown supported the recommendation to have the Texas Living Water Project presented to discuss natural flood mitigation strategies.

Chair Phillip Spenrath asked Lauren Graber to check on arranging a presentation.

5. TWDB Update and Presentation

Hayley Gillespie (TWDB) gave a presentation on RFGP Responsibilities Scope of Work Overview.

6. Discuss and Consider action to fill the vacant voting RFPG member seat representing river authorities

Chair Phillip Spenrath announced that two separate nominations, both for Kelly Payne, had been received to fill the vacant voting RFPG member seat representing river authorities.

Chair Phillip Spenrath then said that at its Feb. 8, 2021 meeting, the RFPG Executive Committee had considered Mr. Payne's nomination to fill the vacant river authority member seat and voted 3-0 in favor of recommending him for the position to the full RFPG.

a) Public Comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

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

b) Consider Executive Committee's recommendation, discussion and consider taking action to fill the river authority interest category position for a term commensurate with the initial voting members

The planning group discussed Kelly Payne's candidacy.

Kirby Brown moved to nominate Kelly Payne, seconded by Patrick Brzozowski.

The motion passed by a vote of 11-0.

Kelly Payne was then added to the planning team members' zoom call to participate as a full member.

7. Consider nominating and electing two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee

a) Nominations for two Executive Committee members-at-large by members

The planning group discussed potential candidates.

Kacey Paul nominated Brandon Klenzendorf. Patrick Brzozowski nominated Kelly Payne.

b) Discussion and consider taking action to elect Executive Committee members-at-large

Kacey Paul moved to nominate Brandon Klenzendorf and Kelly Payne to serve as members-at-large on the Executive Committee, seconded by Ann Yakimovicz.

The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

8. Consider designating a non-voting member liaison to coordinate between the upstream and downstream Flood Planning Regions located within the same major river basin (required per 31 TAC §361.11(f)(8))

a) Nominations for Region 9 Upper Colorado RFPG liaison by members

The planning group discussed potential candidates.

Kacey Paul nominated Ann Yakimovicz as Region 9 liaison.

b) Discussion and consider taking action to designate Region 9 RFPG liaison

Kacey Paul moved to nominate Ann Yakimovicz to serve as Region 9 liaison, seconded by Kelly Payne.

The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

9. Consider designating non-voting member liaisons to coordinate with neighboring Flood Planning Regions along the Gulf Coast (required per 31 TAC §361.11(f)(9))

- a) *Nominations for Region 8 Lower Brazos RFPG liaison by members*
The planning group discussed potential candidates.
Patrick Brzozowski nominated Kelly Payne as Region 8 liaison.
- b) *Discussion and consider taking action to designate Region 8 RFPG liaison*
Patrick Brzozowski moved to nominate Kelly Payne to serve as Region 8 liaison, seconded by Kacey Paul.
The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.
- c) *Nominations for Region 11 Guadalupe RFPG liaison by members*
The planning group discussed potential candidates.
Judge Philip Spenrath nominated Patrick Brzozowski as Region 11 liaison.
- d) *Discussion and consider taking action to designate Region 11 RFPG liaison*
Judge Philip Spenrath moved to nominate Patrick Brzozowski to serve as Region 11 liaison, seconded by Kirby Brown.
The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.
- e) *Nominations for Region 12 San Antonio RFPG liaison by members*
The planning group discussed potential candidates.
Judge Philip Spenrath nominated Patrick Brzozowski as Region 12 liaison.
- f) *Discussion and consider taking action to designate Region 12 RFPG liaison*
Judge Philip Spenrath moved to nominate Patrick Brzozowski to serve as Region 12 liaison, seconded by Kirby Brown.
The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

10. Update from Planning Group Sponsor regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB

- a) *Discussion on status of application for Regional Flood Planning Grant funds*
Lauren Graber presented on the status of the application for Regional Flood Planning Grant funds. The application was submitted in mid-January prior to the deadline and now in the hands of the Texas Water Development Board for approval. The grant contract between the TWDB and the sponsor must be executed prior to execution of the contract with the technical consultant.
- b) *Discussion of technical consultant procurement process and RFQ*
Lauren Graber spoke to the technical consultant procurement process and RFQ. She noted that the RFQ was posted and all questions from potential applicants should be directed to the contact listed on the RFQ.

11. Discuss and Consider selecting a committee to review responses to the Request for Qualifications for the RFPG technical consultant

Chair Phillip Spenrath said that, per the group bylaws, the RFPG may delegate administrative decisions to the Executive Committee.

The planning group then discussed whether to select a committee to review responses to the RFQ for the RFPG technical consultant.

Ann Yakimovicz moved for the selection of the Executive Committee to review responses to the Request for Qualifications for the RFPG technical consultant, seconded by Kirby Brown.

The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

12. Discuss a means by which the RFPG will develop and host a public website (required per 31 TAC §361.21(b))

Lauren Graber showed the RFPG the newly created public website www.lowercoloradolavacaflood.org for the RFPG. In reference to agenda items 12, 13, and 14, the website will display all agenda items, meeting dates, member information, etc. Non-voting liaisons will be added as they are selected.

13. Discuss a means by which the RFPG will accept written public comment prior to and after meetings (required per 31 TAC §361.21(c))

Lauren Graber demonstrated that the new website contains an option to accept public comments. When a member of the public submits a comment, a notification is sent to the sponsor for collection to share with the RFPG.

Matt Hollon asked if comments shared during the RFPG public meetings would be shared with the public. Lauren Graber answered that any comments will be included in the public record.

14. Discussion of the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of RFPG activities (required per 31 TAC §361.21(e))

Lauren Graber demonstrated that the new website contains a "Subscribe to notifications" form for persons or entities to request to be notified of RFPG activities. All persons who enter their contact information in this form will be sent all relevant notifications going forward.

15. Discuss the requirement for Flood Planning Members to obtain Public Information Act and Open Meetings Certification to fulfill Texas Government Code 551.005

a) Discussion for members to fulfill the requirements of Texas Government Code 551.005

Chair Phillip Spenrath reminded the group that all RFPG members are required to complete the trainings and receive certification on the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act. For those who completed the training more than two years ago, it was advised, but not required, that they take the training again. Members need to obtain the certificate of completion of the two trainings and send them to Lauren Graber for record keeping.

b) Discussion and consideration of a nomination for a Public Information Act Coordinator

Chair Phillip Spenrath told the group that they might appoint a Public Information Act coordinator and that such action was optional for each Region.

The planning group then discussed the nomination of a Public Information Act Coordinator.

Matt Hollon moved for the nomination of Lauren Graber, seconded by Kelly Payne. The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

16. 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))

Chair Phillip Spenrath noted that it is statutorily required that public input be included on at least two RFPG meeting agendas during the calendar year to allow the public to bring forward information on flooding issues, provisions, projects, and strategies. The RFPG members could thus consider inclusion of these topics in future meetings. Items would be considered for inclusion in the final flood plan flood plan. Chair Spenrath noted that such input was posted on this current agenda and would be again for the March 2021 agenda. He asked that persons interested in such agenda items let Lauren Graber know in advance to coordinate their possible inclusion.

Judge Philip Spenrath shared that, as examples, the City of Wharton is considering a levee project and three counties (Matagorda, Colorado, and Wharton) are working together on a project to develop a flood early-warning system, remap the river, and create a new inundation map.

a) TWDB Presentation

Hayley Gillespie (TWDB) gave a presentation entitled: “Regional Flood Planning Pre-Planning Public Meeting Requirements.”

b) Public Comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments. No comments from the public were given. RFPG member Frances Acuña commented that more restrictive regulations should be required for new development along waterways to mitigate flooding, especially in areas with inadequate infrastructure.

17. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person

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

18. 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 suggested the next meeting be held on Monday, March 29, 2021 at 9:00 AM. The group also requested that the meeting include a discussion of the selection of the RFPG technical consultant.

Patrick Brzozowski moved to hold the next meeting on March 29 at 9:00 AM, seconded by Kacey Paul.
The motion passed by a vote of 12-0.

19. Adjourn

Kacey Paul made a motion to adjourn, Kelly Payne seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM CST by Chair Phillip Spenrath.

*Approved by the Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG at a meeting held on **DATE**.*

Matt Hollon, SECRETARY

Phillip Spenrath, CHAIR

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4. Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

5. TWDB Update

Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG

- 6. Update, discussion, and action concerning the technical consultant procurement for Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**
 - a. Update and discussion of responses to the RFQ
 - b. Discuss a recommendation from the Executive Committee for the selection of a technical consultant
 - c. Consider the selection of a technical consultant to provide services in conjunction with the development of a regional flood plan for the Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG
 - d. Consider authorizing the Region 10 RFPG Sponsor to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm to provide technical consulting services in conjunction with the development of a regional flood plan

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- 7. Update from Planning Group Sponsor regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB**

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- 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
 - b. Public Comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Regional Flood Planning Pre-Planning Public Meeting Requirements

Pre-Planning Meeting Background

- Provide background on formation of RFIGs and the Regional Flood Planning process.
- Gather suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered in development of regional flood plan.



TWDB flood outreach meeting in Bastrop, TX.

Image: TWDB

About Regional Flood Planning

- First-of-its-kind statewide flood plan
- Watershed-based planning regions
- Bottom-up approach to flood planning
- Transparent process with public input
- Volunteer members representing interest categories



Find your RFRG Information, Meeting Schedules & Important Documents here:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/index.asp>

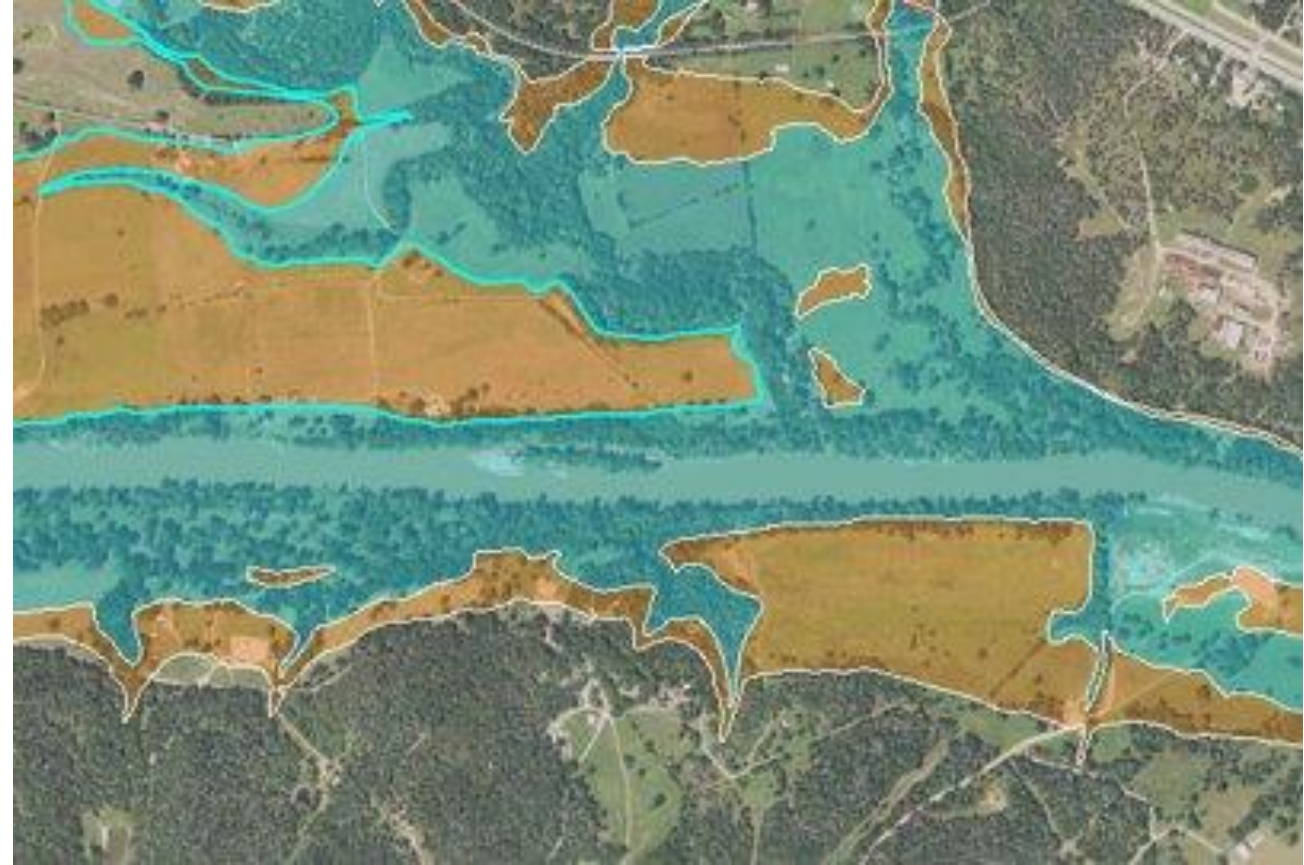
Flood Planning Timeline

SB 8 passed in 2019 requiring a statewide flood plan based on regional flood plans



Key Tasks of the RFPGs

- Gather & analyze data
- Identify existing and future flood risks
- Evaluate floodplain management practices
- Recommend evaluations, strategies, and projects to reduce flood risks
- Develop a regional flood plan



The 1% annual chance floodplain is shown in blue.
The 0.2% annual chance floodplain is shown in orange.
Image by FEMA

Flood Mitigation

The implementation of actions, including both **structural** and **non-structural solutions**, to reduce flood risk to protect against the loss of life and property.



Mangroves on the Texas Coast stabilize shorelines and help absorb storm surge; an example of a non-structural flood mitigation solution.

Photo by Univ. Of Texas Marine Science Institute



Galveston Seawall, a structural flood mitigation solution. Image by [Yinan Chen CC-PD](#)

Additional Opportunities for Public Input

There will be many opportunities public involvement:

- public comments are received at every RFPG meeting
- there will be at least one meeting for the public to comment on a flood risk summary map to identify any flood risk not captured
- there will be at least two public pre-planning meetings to receive feedback and gather general suggestions
- the public will get to comment on the draft regional flood plan, once developed



TWDB flood outreach meeting in Bastrop, TX.

Image: TWDB

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Image: Brent Hanson, U.S. Geological Survey. Public domain.

Questions? Comments?

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9. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person

10. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

11. Adjourn