

**Region 10**  
**Lower Colorado-Lavaca**  
**Regional Flood Planning Group**

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**May 17, 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**  
**April 19, 2021**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Roll Call:

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

<b>Non-voting Member</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*)</b>
<b>Shonda Mace</b>	General Land Office	X
<b>David Galindo</b>	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
<b>Lauren Mayes</b>	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
<b>Natalie Johnson</b>	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
<b>Beth Bendik</b>	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
<b>Allen Nash</b>	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
<b>Hayley Gillespie</b>	Texas Water Development Board	X
<b>Ronald G. Fieseler</b>	Region 11 – Guadalupe Liaison	
<b>Mark Vogler</b>	Region 8 – Lower Brazos Liaison	* Brian Fambrough
<b>Cara Tackett</b>	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.lowercoloradolavacaflood.org/meetings](http://www.lowercoloradolavacaflood.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 **DATE**.*

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Matt Hollon, SECRETARY

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Phillip Spenrath, CHAIR

# **Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

**4. Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person**

**5. TWDB Update**

**6. Update from RFPG liaisons**

**7. Update from the Planning Group Sponsor**

**8. Regional flood planning kick-off presentation and discussion  
with technical consultant**



**LOWER COLORADO – LAVACA**  
**REGIONAL FLOOD PLAN**  
**A TEXAS INITIATIVE**

**KICK-OFF MEETING | MAY 17, 2021**





# AGENDA

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**HALFF Team Introductions**

**Reality Check**

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**Scope and Schedule**

**Calendar: June-December 2021**

**Q&A**



# HALFF Team Introductions



Local / regional flood planning,  
flood risk assessment



Stormwater,  
water planning

+



Flood infrastructure,  
water planning

+



Communications,  
stakeholder and public  
engagement



**Cindy Engelhardt, P.E., CFM**  
Deputy Project Manager



**Mike Personett**  
Project Manager



**Mike Moya, P.E., CFM**  
Project Principal

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**Karen Ford**  
Communications, Stakeholder/Public Engagement

**Matt Bucchin, AICP, LEED GA**  
Floodplain Management Practices

**Cris Parker, P.E., CFM**  
Screening FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs

**Jay Scanlon, P.E., CFM, ENV SP**  
Evaluation/Recommendation FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs



# Reality Check

## What Is Reasonably Achievable in the First Cycle Considering:

- Innovation and scale of regional flood planning
- Schedule and budget constraints
- Availability of data, information and analytical tools
- Stakeholder participation

## Likely Outcomes:

- Flood Management Evaluations (FME)
- Flood Management Strategies (FMS)
- Few Flood Mitigation Projects (FMP)

## Goal:

- Meet all TWDB requirements
- Recommend FMEs, FMSs, FMPs
- Establish solid foundation for future planning cycle(s)



Everyone needs water. But not everyone is subject to flooding.

### WATER PLANNING

**Regional Water Planning initiated in 1997 and was built on decades of State Water Planning.**

**Well-developed data, tools, and methods for:**

- Historical water use
- Population and water demand projections
- Surface and groundwater supply availability

**Water supply is a commodity that generates revenue.**

### FLOOD PLANNING

**Regional Flood Planning is new and fundamentally different:**

- No history of flood planning at the state level
- Flooding is episodic and response is disaster-driven

**Flood hazard mitigation is not a revenue generating endeavor.**



# Roles and Responsibilities



## HALFF TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure compliance with TWDB requirements and schedule
- Guide and facilitate the planning process
- Support public and stakeholder outreach and engagement
- Gather data/information
- Conduct planning-level analyses of:
  - Flood risk
  - Floodplain management practices
  - Flood mitigation needs
  - Identify, evaluate, recommend FMEs, FMSs, FMPs
  - Evaluate impact / benefits of RFP
  - Flood response preparedness
  - Policy recommendations
  - Flood infrastructure financing

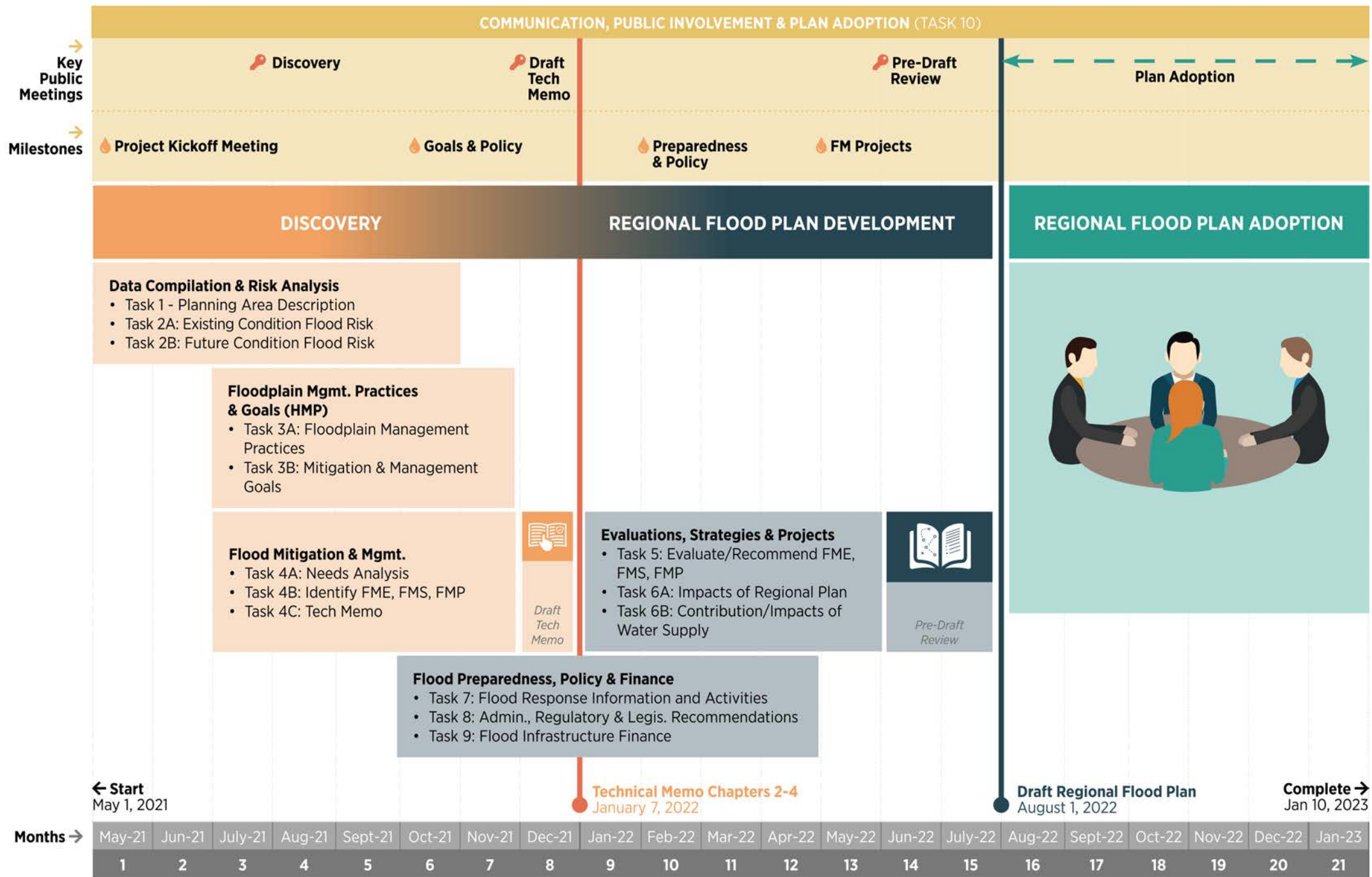
## RFPG RESPONSIBILITIES

- Active voice to establish goals, policies, recommendations
- Support public/stakeholder outreach and engagement
- Provide timely feedback on consultant deliverables
- Approve submittal of RFP chapters, Technical Memo, and Initial RFP
- Adopt and submit the Initial Regional Flood Plan

**TIMELY FEEDBACK AND ACTION IS CRITICAL!**



# Scope and Schedule



# PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Karen Ford – WaterPR



## Website: content and build-out

- Navigation, documentation, imagery/graphics, links
- Work with LCRA

**Social Media Strategy: FB, Twitter, #hashtags, posts, boost, link, share, tips**

**Public meetings: planning and materials for adoption phase**

**Discovery Process Outreach Support**

## Media Relations:

- Gather/build media contact list
- Press releases for RFPG meeting notices, key phases
- Opinion Editorials by RFPG member
- Meeting notices on public calendars
- Content: the 5Ws of RFP
- Status
- Availability of chapters for review

# DISCOVERY – TASKS 1 & 2

Cindy Engelhardt – HALFF



## Task 1 – Planning Area Description

- Data collection and management
- Direct engagement and survey of key stakeholders

## Task 2A – Existing Condition Flood Risk

- Risk analysis...location, magnitude, frequency
- Flood exposure analyses...who/what might be harmed
- Vulnerability analyses
- Information critical to subsequent tasks

## Task 2B – Future Condition Flood Risk

- Same as above looking 30 yrs +/- into the future

# DISCOVERY – TASKS 3

Matt Bucchin – HALFF



## Task 3A – Floodplain Management Practices

- Current state of floodplain management
- Identify and reduce existing flood risk and avoid new risk
- Consider changing risk
- Determine region-wide *shoulds* or region-specific *minimums*

## Task 3B – Floodplain Management Goals

- Specific and achievable (will require refinement)
- Timeframe
- Residual risk

Example Goals	
Short-Term (e.g., 10-Years)	Long-Term (e.g., 30-Years)
Remove 50% of the low water crossings from 10% annual chance flood risk in the region by 2033	Remove 90% of the low water crossings from 10% annual chance flood risk in the region by 2053

# DISCOVERY – TASKS 4A

Cindy Engelhardt – HALFF



## Task 4A – Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis

- Locations that have the greatest flood mitigation and flood risk study needs
- Considerations include:
  - High risk / hazard flood prone areas
  - Areas lacking sufficient models and accurate maps
  - Historic flooding
  - Emergency needs

# DISCOVERY – TASKS 4B

Cris Parker – HDR



## Task 4B – Identification of Potential FMEs, FMSs and FMPs

- Screening-level evaluation
- Define evaluation / decision process and criteria
- Potential solutions to meet 100-year (1%) flood risk
- FMEs for priority areas of “apparent” need

## Task 4C – Prepare and submit Technical Memo to TWDB by Jan 7, 2022



# PLAN DEVELOPMENT – TASKS 5

Jay Scanlon – Freese & Nichols



## Task 5 – Recommendation of FMEs, FMSs and FMPs

- Builds on results of Task 4
- More thorough evaluation
- Coordination with potential sponsors, local governments, other political subdivisions



# Look-Ahead Calendar

## June – December 2021

# JUNE 2021

## RFPG Meeting

- Overview and discussion of public and stakeholder engagement strategies
- Demonstration of interactive web map and overview of stakeholder survey
- Present and discuss approach to Task 1 - Planning Area Description
- Present and discuss approach to Task 3A/3B - Floodplain Management Practices and Goals
- Briefing re: all things floodplain management (e.g., modeling/mapping, land use and development regulation, NFIP, etc.)
- Initiate RFPG discussion of floodplain management goals. Start with TWDB examples from guidelines

# JULY 2021

## RFPG Meeting

- Present and discuss approach to Task 2A/2B - Existing and Future Condition Flood Risk Analysis
- Present and discuss approach to Task 8 - Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations (aka, policy)
- Initiate RFPG discussion/brainstorm re: administrative, regulatory, and legislative policy issues
- Continue discussion re: floodplain management goals
- Briefing and discussion re: FMEs, FMSs and FMPs

# AUGUST 2021

## RFPG Meeting

- Present and discuss preliminary draft Chapter 1 - Planning Area Description
- Present and discuss preliminary Task 2A results - Existing Condition Flood Risk Analysis
- Present and discuss preliminary results of Task 3A - Floodplain Management Practices (Chapter 3)
- Conclude discussion of Task 3B - Floodplain Management Goals (Chapter 3)
- Present and discuss approach to Tasks 4A and 4B
- Present and discuss screening criteria for FMEs, FMSs and FMPs

# SEPTEMBER 2021

## RFPG Meeting

- Approve submittal of draft Chapter 1 - Planning Area Description
- Present and discuss preliminary Task 2B results - Future Condition Flood Risk Analysis
- Approve submittal of draft Chapter 3 - Floodplain Management Practices and Goals
- Present and discuss preliminary results of Task 4A

# OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021

## RFPG Meeting

### October


- Approve submittal of draft Chapter 2 - Existing and Future Flood Risk Analysis and associated maps/tables
- Present and discuss preliminary results of Task 4B

### November

- Present and discuss draft Chapter 4

### December

- Approve submittal of Technical Memo (due Jan 7, 2022)



# Q&A



# **Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

**9. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person**

**10. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

**11. Adjourn**