

Meeting Minutes
Region 15. Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
November 5, 2020
1:00 PM
GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Jose "Joe" Angel Hinojosa	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	X
David A. Garza	<i>Counties</i>	X
Daniel Lucio, Jr.	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	X
Hudson DeYoe	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
David L. Fuentes	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Plinio Joey Trevino	<i>Industries</i>	X
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Joe A. Califa	<i>Public</i>	X
Jose Luis Caso	<i>Small business</i>	X
Sonia Lambert	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Riazul I. Mia	<i>Water utilities</i>	X

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Willy Cupit	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Tim Frere	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Nelda Barrera	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Adrian Perez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Shonda Mace	General Land Office	X
David Ramirez	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

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

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 11: **6**.

Other Meeting Attendees: **

James Bronikowski, TWDB (Meeting Facilitator)
Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member
Reem Zoun, TWDB
Matt Nelson, TWDB
Morgan White, TWDB
Annette Mass, TWDB

Megan Ingram, TWDB
Richard Bagans, TWDB
Anna Gonzalez, TWDB
Hayley Gillespi, TWDB
Sarah Backhouse, TWDB
Jean Schlitzkus, TWDB
Jennifer White, TWDB

Chanel Borrego
Miles Bullion
Phil Bullock
John Byrum
Rick Carrera
Jim Carrillo
Stephanie Castillo
Manuel Cruz
Raul Gomez
Stephanie Griffin
Jena Hanson
Derek Katznelson
Deanna LeVrier
Kristina Leal
Deborah Morales
Michael Moya

Travis Pruski
Tom Ray
Paul Robinson
Jaime Salazar
Carlos A Sanchez
Augusto Sanchez Gonzalez
Tony Smith
Mark Yates
Kate de Gennaro
Camille Cotsakis
Lauren Gonzalez
Amin Kiaghadi
Ricardo Pedraza
Gustavo Sa
Robert Saenz
Raul Sesin

**Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the GoToWebinar 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

James Bronikowski called the meeting to order at 1:10PM. 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.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information and Instructions

James Bronikowski and Director Kathleen Jackson welcomed members to the meeting. James Bronikowski provided meeting facilitation information and instructions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Member Introductions

Each present voting and non-voting member of the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG introduced themselves.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Regional Flood Planning Overview Presentation

James Bronikowski presented an overview of the regional flood planning process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion of group bylaws and consider adopting group bylaws

James Bronikowski presented the model bylaws provided by the TWDB for the RFPG to consider adopting and opened discussion on adopting group bylaws.

After discussion, the bylaws were edited to replace "Model RFPG" with "Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG".

Additionally, the members discussed and made edits to the model bylaws regarding the following topics: selection of officers, solicitation of nominations to fill vacancies, and amending the bylaws.

The members discussed the maximum number of voting members, limits to the number of terms a member may serve, quorum, executive committee composition, and designation of alternates. No changes were made regarding these topics.

A motion was made by David Fuentes to adopt the bylaws.

The motion was seconded by Joe Califa.

The vote to adopt the group bylaws passed by a vote of 11 Ayes and 0 Nays.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider nominating and electing regional flood planning group Chair or Interim Chair

James Bronikowski described the Chair/Interim Chair election process and opened the floor to nominations for the Chair or Interim Chair position.

A nomination of David Garza as the Chair was made by David Fuentes and Riazul Mia.

The nomination of David Garza as the Chair was approved by unanimous consent.

Chair David Garza requested that James Bronikowski continue with facilitation of this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the regional flood planning group

James Bronikowski opened the floor to public comments.

Travis Pruski (Nueces River Authority) stated the interest of the Nueces River Authority in serving as Planning Group Sponsor.

John Byrum (Nueces River Authority) stated the interest of the Nueces River Authority in serving as Planning Group Sponsor.

Manuel Cruz (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council) stated the interest of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council in serving as Planning Group Sponsor.

James Bronikowski listed the entities that had expressed interest in serving as the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG's planning group sponsor. These interested entities included:

Cameron County

Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)

Nueces River Authority

James Bronikowski asked if any there was anyone in the audience that represented a political subdivision that was interested in acting as the planning group sponsor.

Raul Sesin stated that Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 was interested in serving as the planning group sponsor.

James Bronikowski opened discussion on selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG.

No points nor comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by Hudson DeYoe to select Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council as the designated planning group sponsor for Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG.

The vote to select the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council as the planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG received 4 Aye votes and 4 Nay votes. Jose Hinojosa, David Garza, and David Fuentes abstained from the vote.

A motion was made by Sonia Lambert and Riazul Mia to select Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 as the designated planning group sponsor for Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG.

The vote to select Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 as the planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG passed by a vote of 8 Ayes and 2 Nays. David Fuentes abstained from the vote.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider additional, region-specific public notice requirements, if any, that might be necessary to ensure adequate public notice in the region per 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(3).

James Bronikowski described existing notice requirements and opened discussion on identifying additional, region-specific public notice requirements.

David Garza opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

David Garza opened discussion on consideration of additional, region-specific public notice requirements, if any, that might be necessary to ensure adequate public notice in the region per 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(3).

The members discussed opportunities to effectively reach the public.

No action was taken. David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider authorizing the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG

David Garza opened discussion on authorizing the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and to enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG.

No points nor comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by Joe Califa to authorize the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG.

The motion was seconded by Riazul Mia.

The vote to authorize the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG passed by a vote of 11 Ayes and 0 Nays.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion of necessary additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region

James Bronikowski provided background regarding the addition of voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region.

David Garza opened discussion additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region.

The members discussed potential recommendations for additional membership, including: the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States Geological Survey, additional members to represent counties interest category (including potentially from Willacy County and Starr County), and additional members to represent flood districts (including potentially from a drainage district from Cameron County).

The members discussed the importance of members representing their interest category, as it exists throughout the region.

David Garza opened the floor to public comments.

Rick Herrera stated the interest of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council to serve as a non-voting member.

No action was taken. David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Receive general public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

David Garza opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

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

David Garza opened discussion to consider the date and agenda items for the next meeting.

After discussion, David Garza stated that the next meeting will be on December 3, 2020 at 8:30AM.

Potential agenda items include selection of additional officers and executive committee members and consideration of additional membership.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn

Sonia Lambert made a motion to adjourn.

The motion was seconded by Jose Hinojosa.

The vote to adjourn passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10PM by David Garza.

Approved by the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG at a meeting held on December 3, 2020.



Sonia Lambert, SECRETARY



David A. Garza, CHAIR