

Meeting Minutes
Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
December 3, 2020
8:30am
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>	*
Sonia Lambert	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Riazul I. Mia	<i>Water utilities</i>	X

* Lymaira Reyes served as a designated alternate for Jose Caso.

<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	
Nelda Barrera	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Adrian Perez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Shonda Mace	General Land Office	
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: **

Jaime Salazar (Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1)
Raul E. Sesin, PE (Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1)
Megan Ingram (TWDB)
Morgan White (TWDB)
Reem Zoun (TWDB)
James Bronikowski (TWDB)
Matt Nelson (TWDB)
Richard Bagans (TWDB)
Mohamed Bagha
Miles Bullion
Jim Carrillo
Stephanie Castillo
Troy Dorman
Stephanie Griffin
Derek Katznelson
Kristina Leal
Josh Logan
Michael Moya
Nick Panyard
Nora D Cavazos (Hidalgo County Drainage District No 1)

******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 and establish Quorum

David Garza called the meeting to order at 8:34AM. 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

David Garza welcomed members to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of minutes from previous meeting November 5, 2020

David Garza opened discussion regarding minutes from previous meeting on November 5, 2020. No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by Sonia Lambert to approve minutes from previous meeting November 5, 2020. The motion was seconded by Riazul Mia. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: TWDB Update

Megan Ingram provided an TWDB update, indicating that this will be a standing agenda item at future meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: TWDB Presentation

Megan Ingram gave a presentation providing an overview of flooding in Texas and introducing next steps regarding the Request for Applications for Regional Flood Planning Grant contracts to be submitted to the TWDB.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider approval of bylaws as discussed by group and updated by TWDB

David Garza opened discussion regarding bylaws as adopted by the group and updated by TWDB. No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by David Fuentes to approve bylaws as discussed by group and updated by TWDB. The motion was seconded by Daniel Lucio. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider nominating and electing RFPG Vice Chair and Secretary (as applicable, per group bylaws)

David Garza introduced the consideration of nominating and electing RFPG Vice Chair and Secretary.

A nomination of David Fuentes as Vice Chair was made by Lymaira Reyes (alternate for Jose Caso). David Fuentes was elected as Vice Chair by acclamation.

A nomination of Sonia Lambert as the Secretary was made by Joe Hinojosa. Sonia Lambert was elected as Secretary by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider nominating and electing two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee (as applicable, per group bylaws).

David Garza opened discussion on electing two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee. No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A nomination of Riazul Mia as a member-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee was made by David Fuentes.

A nomination of Vanessa Rosales-Herrera as a member-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee was made by David Garza.

A nomination of Joe Hinojosa as a member-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee was made by Sonia Lambert.

Riazul Mia received 8 votes.

Vanessa Rosales-Herrera received 5 votes.

Joe Hinojosa received 7 votes.

Riazul Mia and Joe Hinojosa were selected as two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discuss whether a river authorities interest exists in the region and, if applicable consider authorizing the Hidalgo County Drainage District No 1 to initiate solicitation process for individuals to fill the position

David Garza opened discussion on whether a river authorities interest exists in the region.

The members discussed the potential inclusion of a "river interest" category instead of river authorities, the definition of river authorities under regional flood planning rules, and the international nature of river interests in Region 15.

The members concluded that a river authority does not exist in the region.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 9.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discuss and consider action to add additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region:

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

The members discussed the potential additions of the following: a "river interest" interest category, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) as a non-voting member, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as a non-voting member, additional county positions, representation from Willacy County and Starr County, and an additional flood districts position.

The members discussed the need to include representation from Mexico and the importance of IBWC throughout the region.

David Garza opened the floor to public comment for Agenda Item No. 9 and Agenda Item No. 10.

Derek Katznelson (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council) provided public comment regarding the potential addition of non-voting membership representing Councils of Governments (COGs) throughout the region.

A motion was made by David Garza to add one (1) non-voting IBWC position, three (3) non-voting Council of Governments positions (one from each COG in the region), and one (1) non-voting USGS position to the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by David Garza to add two (2) additional voting county interest category positions and one (1) additional voting flood district interest category position to the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG.

The motion passed by voice vote.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider authorizing the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 to initiate RFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill any new voting or non-voting positions created under Agenda Item 10.

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

The members authorized the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 to initiate the RFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill new voting positions created under Agenda Item No. 10. David Garza indicated that a vote to do so was not required.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update from Planning Group Sponsor regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB.

David Garza opened discussion regarding updates from the Planning Group Sponsor regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB.

Jaime Salazar discussed the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1's procurement guidelines.

The members discussed their wish for the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 to perform a competitive Request for Qualifications and the goal for members to review the Draft Scope of Work posted on the TWDB website before the next RFPG meeting.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 12.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider a means by which the RFPG will develop and host a public website (required per §361.21(b))

Jaime Salazar introduced the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1's initial efforts regarding development of a public RFPG website.

David Garza opened the floor for discussion.

Members discussed their preference for a standalone RFPG website instead of a webpage housed on the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1's website. The members concluded that website development is a high priority. Jaime Salazar will present at the next RFPG meeting next steps regarding website development.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 13.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Consider a means by which the RFPG will accept written public comment prior to and after meetings (required per §361.21(c))

Jaime Salazar introduced current means to accept written public comment prior to and after meetings. David Garza concurred with Jaime Salazar's potential suggestion to create a Region 15 RFPG Sponsor email address to direct future written public comment.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 14.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion of the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of RFPG activities (required per §361.21(e)).

Jaime Salazar introduced the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of RFPG activities.

The members discussed related action to forward to Jaime Salazar the contact information of any individuals or entities who are interested in being included on the mailing list.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 15.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

The next Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 8:30am. Agenda items will include a presentation by TWDB, any other necessary items, and considering a group mission statement.

Jaime Salazar reminded members of the group bylaws requirement that an alternate must be designated 48 hours prior to a meeting which a member will not attend.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18:

The meeting adjourned at 10:21AM by David Garza.

Approved by the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG at a meeting held on **DATE**.

FIRST AND LAST NAME, SECRETARY

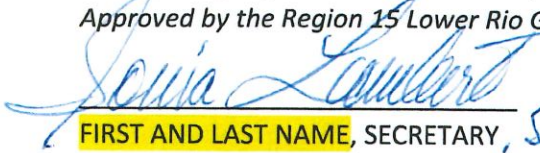
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AGENDA ITEM NO. 18:

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Approved by the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFGP at a meeting held on **DATE**.



FIRST AND LAST NAME, SECRETARY, *Senia Lambert*

FIRST AND LAST NAME, CHAIR