

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 12 San Antonio Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**Friday, May 14, 2020**  
**9:00 AM**  
**GoToMeeting Virtual Meeting**

**Roll Call:**

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) /Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Brian Yanta	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	X
David Wegmann	<i>Counties</i>	X
Doris Cooksey	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	X
Deborah (Debbie) Reid	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
Nefi M. Garza	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Cara C. Tackett	<i>Industries</i>	
Jeffrey Carroll	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
John Paul Beasley	<i>Public</i>	X
Suzanne B. Scott	<i>River authorities</i>	X
Steve Gonzales	<i>Small business</i>	
David Mauk	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Steve Clouse	<i>Water utilities</i>	

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Marty Kelly	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Jami McCool	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Jarod Bowen	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Kris Robles	General Land Office	X
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	Anita Machiavello*
Susan Jablonski	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **9**

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 12: **7**

*All meeting materials are available for the public at: <http://www.region12texas.org>.*

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.1: ROLL CALL**

Kendall Hayes, San Antonio River Authority, called the role and confirmed a quorum.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.2: PUBLIC COMMENT – LIMIT 3 MINUTES PER PERSON**

No public comment.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 20, 2021 SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP MEETING (REGION 12)**

Ms. Reid motioned to approve. Mr. Wegmann seconded the motion, motion passed.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.4: COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB)**

Ms. Machiavello reminded the committee that TWDB needs to approve the subcontracts with the Technical Consultants.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.5: CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Garza gave an overview of the recent weather in Region 12. He commented that the Scoring Committee has finalized a recommendation for Technical Consultant, and he supports the decision.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.6: PRE-PLANNING INPUT**

Ms. Machiavello presented the Pre-Planning Meeting. She provided background on Regional Flood Planning Group's history and development. RFPGs are currently soliciting Technical Consultants. Technical Consultants will assist with providing a regional flood plan due in 2022. Key tasks of the RFPGs include gathering and analyzing data on existing and future flood risks. The RFPGs also provide recommendations for actions and policies. Public input is essential to the TWDB's process. Item No. 6 was opened for public comment. No public comments.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO.7: ACTION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATION OF A TECHNICAL CONSULTANT FIRM TO THE SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP**

Ms. Reid reviewed the scoring committee process for rating Technical Consultant proposals.

Ms. Scott confirmed that the committee's presentation to the Executive Committee was thorough and supported the recommendation.

Mr. Carroll confirmed the appeal of the formal recommendation. HDR Half Team is formal recommendation.

Chair Garza announced that the Executive Committee supports the recommendation and presents it to the Planning Group for approval.

Mr. Beasley notified the Group that he has worked with HDR before and supported their work.

Mr. Wegmann motioned to adopt HDR as the Region 12 Technical Consultant. Mr. Beasley seconded the motion, motion passed.

Mr. Ron Branyon of HDR introduced himself and his past experience with the Lower Basin.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.8: PRESENTATION ON FLOOD PREVENTION INVESTMENTS BY THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY**

Chair Garza presented on the City of San Antonio's Flood Plan. San Antonio is in a Flash Flood Alley and averages 30" of rainfall per year. Chair Garza provided an overview of COSA's Public Works and Storm Water departments. City of San Antonio requires a storm water utility fee from citizens. This money is used for maintenance and repairs. The second funding source is from the Regional Storm Water Fund and these funds are used for regional drainage projects. Chair Garza spoke about San Antonio's Flood Tunnels' ability to divert water from downtown to prevent major flooding. This water can be captured and recirculated into the Riverwalk during drought conditions. Chair Garza provided further information on Public Works' investments. City of San Antonio's Bond Program has significantly increased, investing in new infrastructure to impact the city's drainage system. Reducing the level of funding through development, 100-year plan over adhering to only flood fringe. Chair Garza spoke to the importance of continued investment in infrastructure and awareness of flood mitigation.

Mr. Wegmann provided an update on Bexar County's Flood Control. Bexar County works closely with San Antonio on flood control and mitigation. They serve 20 suburban cities, creating safer roads. The County has invested \$500M over 10 years with 83 capital improvement projects identified as flood hazard areas.

Ms. Reid asked if similar information is available in lower regions. Ms. Scott spoke about the River Authority's flood map, identifying investments that communities should make to mitigate flooding. Mr. Graham notified the group that state programs will allow communities such as those in the lower regions to have access to funding. For example, Karnes County received a grant from the state, assisted by SARA.

Mr. Robert Boyd asked about the Planning Group's overall regional plan and watershed approach. He hopes that having a formal identification of problem areas through a regional plan would assist with state and federal applications for project funding.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO.9: PRESENTATION BY TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE REGARDING RIVER BASIN FLOOD STUDIES**

Mr. Kris Robles and Ms. Elizabeth Levitz presented on the Texas General Land Office's Flood Studies. The Texas GLO's Flood Study's goal is to collect accurate and reliable data to protect

against disasters. GLO is currently engaging stakeholders and collecting data for their study, projected to end in 2024. The data will be compiled into a Texas Disaster Information System (TDIS) defined format for community use. GLO wants to coordinate with the RFPG to support future plan updates, possibly incorporating results from their studies into the RFPG's long term flood management strategies. Data produced by the GLO's Combined River basin Flood Studies program will inform TDIS. TDIS compiles flood study information and makes the analysis available to serve the public.

Ms. Scott asked if the GLO will be using SARA's flood mapping data in their study. Ms. Levitz explained the GLO is open to all available data.

Ms. Reid asked if nature-based solutions will be a part of the strategies organized by the GLO. Ms. Levitz explained that the GLO is currently defining risks but does plan to consider the option of prioritizing nature-based solutions.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.10: REGIONAL LIAISON UPDATES**

Ms. Scott, Region 11 liaison, spoke to Region 11's updates. They met recently and introduced their Technical Consultant. A priority of the last meeting was to analyze public meeting rules and regulations, trying to incorporate as much public input as possible. They will have a combination of virtual and in-person meetings with an emphasis on in-person attendance in August. Texas Living Waters Group presented on green infrastructure.

Mr. Mauk, Region 13 liaison, spoke to Region 13's updates. Patrick McGinny will be their Region 12 liaison. They will meet next on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: POTENTIAL DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting date is June 15, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

Ms. Reid confirmed that the group that will present on nature-based solutions will be able to present at the next meeting.

Mr. Wegmann suggested a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting for future meetings. Mr. Mauk brought legislation to attention regarding the pressure to rescind permissions to hold virtual meetings.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.