

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING OF THE SAN ANTONIO REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

*Region 12 San Antonio RFPG
08/17/2021
9:00 AM*

TAKE NOTICE that a meeting of the San Antonio Regional Flood Planning Group as established by the Texas Water Development Board will be held on Tuesday August 17, 2021, at 9:00 AM, virtually on GotoMeeting at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/786931885>. You may also dial into the meeting on your phone at +1 (872) 240-3412, access code: 786-931-885.

Agenda:

1. (9:00 AM) Roll-Call
2. Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person
3. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous San Antonio Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting (Region 12)
4. Communications from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
5. Chair Report
6. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding San Antonio Regional Flood Planning Group Membership
7. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Consultant's Work and Schedule
8. Presentation by the U.S. Geological Survey on Ongoing Projects
9. Regional Liaison Updates
10. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Region 12 Meeting Schedule
11. Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person
12. Date and Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting
13. Adjourn

If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to cheller@sariverauthority.org or physically mail them to the attention of Caitlin Heller at San Antonio River Authority, 100 E. Guenther, San Antonio, TX, 78204 and include “Region 12 San Antonio Flood Planning Group Meeting” in the subject line of the email.

Additional information may be obtained from: Caitlin Heller, (210) 302-3293, cheller@sariverauthority.org, San Antonio River Authority, 100 E. Guenther, San Antonio, TX. 78204.

Meeting Minutes
Region 12 San Antonio Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
9:00 AM
San Antonio River Authority

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) /Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Brian Yanta	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	
David Wegmann	<i>Counties</i>	X
Doris Cooksey	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	
Deborah (Debbie) Reid	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
Nefi M. Garza	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Cara C. Tackett	<i>Industries</i>	X
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>	X

<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	
Jami McCool	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Jarod Bowen	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Kris Robles	General Land Office	X
Anita Machiavello	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Susan Jablonski	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Lynn Bumguardner*

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

Caitlin Heller, 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. Scott motioned to approve. Ms. Reid seconded the motion, motion passed.

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

Ms. Machiavello dictated that the requirements for the Technical Consultant have been published online. TWDB will no longer need to approve the subcontract between RFPG and Technical Consultant.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: CHAIR REPORT

Chair Garza dictated that there will be a Chair's conference call on June 23rd. He predicts that all regions will have procured their Technical Consultants and will discuss managing in-person meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Mr. Ron Branyon, with HDR, presented the Technical Consultant team, planning schedule, the management of data, and stakeholder outreach plans. Mr. Branyon provided background on his experience in the river basin. He introduced Mr. Troy Dorman, his Assistant Project Manager. He oversees teams that are assisting with other RFPG's and will use their information to assist with Region 12's progress. Mr. Branyon reminded the group that the deadline for a draft memo is January 2022 and the deliverable draft plan must be delivered by August 2022. HDR is currently finalizing its contract with the River Authority.

Mr. Branyon showed the available data in the upper and lower basins, including mapping on flash floods, urban/rural flooding, and the effects of extreme weather. Ms. Scott asked if TWDB added the San Antonio River Authority data into the flood plain quilt. Mr. Branyon explained that the mapping doesn't include the River Authority's most recent data. Mr. Dorman explained that they collect and manage Base Level Engineering (BLE) Plans and share data with the GLO. He mentioned that Region 3 encompasses some of the coastal region in Region 12's watershed and they will hear from TWDB and GLO regarding the sharing of data. BLE data is defined as simplified version of the models. BLE is transitioning into 2D modeling that will be automated, superseding flood plain maps.

Ms. Scott expressed concern that Region 12's flood plan will not include the River Authority's floodplain mapping. She shared that Region 11 is looking ahead to include the effects of climate change in their plan. Mr. Branyon mentioned that they have a climatologist that will be involved in the project. Mr. Dorman mentioned that there are several methodologies to be considered for implementation in areas. Ms. Scott mentioned that the Regional Water Planning Group has rules and methods that have been used in the past to analyze similar data.

Mr. Branyon presented HDR's plan for stakeholder and public outreach. They will have a website and multiple platforms to provide information to the public. The RFPG's consensus was in favor of as many outreach efforts as possible. Chair Garza asked what type of data will be collected from the public. Mr. Branyon will ask for as much as the public is willing to provide, pictures of flooding, current maintenance efforts, as well as asking for the local priorities. Chair Garza shared concerns about the implementation of this data and its effects on the size of the project. He suggested that the team listen to local concerns and provide maps to residents who have knowledge of areas that flood. Mr. Branyon has experience with implementing these outreach methods and is confident that they can work hands-on with the community. Chair Garza encouraged the inclusion of TxDOT to share their data on the low water crossing and the effects of flooding on infrastructure projects. Mr. Carroll mentioned that in Boerne, they worked with the emergency responders to listen to their experience with flooding and emergency responses. Ms. Scott presented the idea of holding a workshop in the lower basin and inviting emergency responders in addition to a public meeting. Mr. Beasley encouraged taking measures to provide a holistic understanding of the risk. Mr. Branyon dictated that by next meeting, he expects to have a detailed plan for community outreach.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7: PRESENTATION ON FLOOD MITIGATION INVESTMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN BASIN, SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

Ms. Erin Cavazos presented on San Antonio River Authority flood plain mapping updates and watershed master planning. In 2015, the River Authority published flood plain mapping data for Goliad County. Majority of flood planning concerns fall to the cities of Goliad and Huisache. The River Authority provided recommendations for mitigating flooding. Included in the holistic water plan, Karnes County received similar recommendations to Goliad County. Flooding concentrates at water crossings as well as Falls City and Kenedy.

Mr. Clouse asked what standards were utilized in formulating the data. Ms. Cavazos explained that they analyze the 100-year storm events. Chair Garza requested that Region 12's plan also consider 10-year, 25-year storms, as any data would be helpful to residents.

Ms. Cavazos continued her presentation with Wilson County's holistic water plan. The county-wide study focused on water crossings and emergency roads that provide services to residents. The River Authority also encouraged all cities to pursue improved drainage. These holistic plans encourage communities to better plan for and mitigate flooding. Ms. Cavazos explained the inundation maps that provides real-time data on current rainfall and flooding. The data is available to Bexar County as well as the lower basin.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8: PRESENTATION ON NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS, DANIELLE GOSHEN

Dr. Arsum Pathak, National Wildlife Federation, presented on Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Mitigation. She mentioned that the organization is available to be involved during Region 12's planning process. Dr. Pathak presented on NOAA Atlas 14's data, specific to Region 12. She shared concerns on the San Antonio watershed's 30% increase in impervious surfaces over 20 years, from 1996-2006. Nature-based flood mitigation solutions are available to provide natural answers to erosion and mimic natural conditions. Dr. Pathak reviewed the multiple benefits of nature-based solutions: improving water quality, increasing recreation and eco-tourism, and providing education opportunities for students.

Ms. Danielle Goshen presented on case-studies that combine nature-based solutions with traditional infrastructure. Flood mitigation reduces the wear-and-tear and improves resilience of the existing infrastructure. It can also reduce cost of improving existing structures. Case studies include the River Authority's Mission Reach project in San Antonio. Ms. Goshen encouraged the pursuit of federal, state, and local funding for nature-based infrastructure. Nature-based solutions are given priority, or additional points, over other infrastructure projects in grant applications.

Ms. Scott mentioned that the River Authority has championed sustainable practices and nature-based solutions. Chair Garza mentioned that the city has a priority on green infrastructure but has concerns regarding the long-term maintenance of these projects. Dr. Pathak explained that the benefits of these structures outweigh the cost of maintenance, although she recognized that maintenance needs do increase. Ms. Goshen reminded the group that over time, nature-based solutions improve hardened infrastructure and will eventually have less maintenance needs.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9: PRESENTATION ON UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DOUG SCHNOEBELEN

This presentation was rescheduled for August's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10: REGIONAL LIAISON UPDATES

Ms. Tackett, Region 10 liaison, spoke to Region 10's updates. Region 10 will meet on Monday and she will provide information on their progress with their technical consultant.

Ms. Scott, Region 11 liaison, spoke to Region 11's updates. Region 11 is starting their process with their technical consultant. They will hold a second pre-planning and public meeting. Region 11 will focus on climate change's effects on modeling and mapping but is generally at the same stage as Region 12. Their next meeting will be June 30th.

Mr. Mauk, Region 13 liaison, spoke to Region 13's updates. Next meeting is June 28th. They are starting public meetings.

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 August 17, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.