

**AGENDA**  
**REGION 14. UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP**  
**GENERAL MEETING**

January 21, 2021  
9:00 AM (MST)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/811216077>

Or Dial by phone: (408) 650-3123, passcode: 811216077

**DISCUSS WITH ACTION AS APPROPRIATE ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

1. Welcome and call to order
2. Recognition of guests and designated alternates
3. Member updates
4. RGCOG. Review and approve the minutes for the meeting held on November 5, 2020
5. TWDB. Updates and Presentation
6. RGCOG. Consider nominating and electing Vice Chair and Secretary
  - a. Nominations for Vice Chair by members
  - b. Discussion and consider taking action to elect Vice Chair
  - c. Nominations for Secretary by members
  - d. Discussion and consider taking action to elect Secretary
7. RGCOG. Consider nominating and electing member(s)-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee
  - a. Nominations for Executive Committee member(s)-at-large by members
  - b. Discussion and consider taking action to elect Executive Committee member(s)-at-large
8. RGCOG. Discussion on required member training on the Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act
9. RGCOG. Update on URGFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill required member positions (River authorities, Water utilities)
10. RGCOG. Update on the status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with TWDB
  - a. Discussion on status of application for Regional Flood Planning Grant funds
  - b. Discussion of technical consultant procurement process
  - c. Discussion on Scope of Work posted with TWDB RFA
11. RGCOG. Consider a means by which the URGFPG will develop and host a public website (required per §361.21(b))

12. RGCOG. Discussion and consider taking action on group policies for handling public comments
  - a. If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to [annette@riogcog.org](mailto:annette@riogcog.org) and include “Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting” in the subject line of the email.
  - b. If you wish to provide oral public comments at the meeting, please submit a request via email to [annette@riogcog.org](mailto:annette@riogcog.org) in advance of the meeting.
  - c. Additional information may be obtained from: Rio Grande Council of Governments; 8037 Lockheed, Ste 100, El Paso, TX 79925 or via email at [annetteg@riocog.org](mailto:annetteg@riocog.org).
13. RGCOG. Consider a means by which the URGFPG will accept written public comment prior to and after meetings (required per §361.21(c)).
14. RGCOG. Discussion of the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of URGFPG activities (required per §361.21(e)).
15. RGCOG. Discussion and consider taking action on allowing the RGCOG to accept annual supplemental funds for the URGFPG from willing local entities.
16. General public comments
17. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting
18. Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2020**  
**9:00 AM**  
**GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting**

**Roll Call:**

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Oscar D. "Jay" Ornelas	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	
Gilberto Saldana Jr.	<i>Counties</i>	x
Jessica Christianson	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	x
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environmental interests</i>	x
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Sal Masoud	<i>Industries</i>	X (arrived at 9:20am)
Javier Acosta	<i>Municipalities</i>	x
David "Dave" Hall	<i>Public</i>	x
Vacant	<i>River authorities</i>	
Rene Rodriguez	<i>Small business</i>	X (arrived at 9:50am)
Omar L. Martinez	<i>Water districts</i>	x
Vacant	<i>Water utilities</i>	

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
James Weaver	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	x
Tim Frere	Texas Division of Emergency Management	x
Larissa Place	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Ben Wilde	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	x
Sarah Douglas	General Land Office	x
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	x
Anita Keese	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	x

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **8**

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

**Other Meeting Attendees: \*\***

Matt Nelson, TWDB (Meeting Facilitator)

Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member

Reem Zoun, TWDB

James Bronikowski, TWDB

Morgan White, TWDB

Annette Mass, TWDB

Hayley Gillespie, TWDB

Ron Ellis, TWDB

Jennifer White, TWDB

Chad Ballard

Phil Bullock  
Ramesh Chintala  
Stephanie Castillo  
Gisela Dagnino  
Kelly Dillard  
Rene Franks  
Alem Gebriel  
Annette Gutierrez  
Scott Hubley

Anita Keese  
Amin Kiaghadi  
Justin Lennon  
Gabby Ramos  
Art Reinhardt  
Paul Robinson  
Gustavo Sosa  
Rodrigo Vizcaino  
Jeff Henson

\*\*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>.

**1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order**

Matt Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. 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. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information and Instructions**

Matt Nelson and Director Kathleen Jackson welcomed members to the meeting. Matt Nelson provided meeting facilitation information and instructions.

**3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Member Introductions**

Each present voting and non-voting member of the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG introduced themselves.

**4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Regional Flood Planning Overview Presentation**

Matt Nelson and Reem Zoun presented an overview of the regional flood planning process.

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

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

The members discussed and made edits to the model bylaws regarding the following topics: replacing “Model RFPG” with “Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG” throughout the document, voting membership attendance, selecting initial officers, the selection of regular officers starting in 2022, regular meeting frequency, and amending the bylaws.

The members discussed total voting membership and forming subcommittees. No changes were made regarding these topics.

A motion was made by Omar Martinez to adopt the bylaws, as amended.

The motion was seconded by Dave Hall.

The vote to adopt the group bylaws passed by a vote of 7 Ayes and 0 Nays.

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

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

A nomination of Omar Martinez as the Chair was made by Dave Hall.

Omar Martinez discussed his willingness to serve as Chair and familiarity with the flood planning region and other members.

Dave Hall made a motion to select Omar Martinez as the Chair by acclamation.

The motion was seconded by Jessica Christianson.

The nomination of Omar Martinez as the Chair was approved by unanimous consent.

The group then took a 5-minute recess.

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

Matt Nelson listed the entities that had expressed interest in serving as the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG's planning group sponsor. These interested entities included:  
Rio Grande Council of Governments (COG)

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

Matt Nelson asked if anyone there was anyone in the audience that represented a political subdivision that was interested in acting as the planning group sponsor. No additional interested entities came forward to express interest.

Omar Martinez opened discussion on selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG.

The members discussed selecting Rio Grande COG as the planning group sponsor.

A motion was made by Jeff Bennett to select Rio Grande COG as the designated planning group sponsor for Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG.

Sal Masoud seconded the motion.

The vote to select Rio Grande COG as the planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG passed by unanimous consent.

**8. 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).**

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

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

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

No action was taken. Omar Martinez closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.

**9. 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**

Omar Martinez 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 Dave Hall 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 Gilberto Saldana.

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 unanimous consent.

**10. 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**

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments.

Rodrigo Vizcaino with HDR questioned if the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) would have membership representation.

Omar Martinez 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 IBWC having representation and discussed concerns with adding too many members.

No actions were taken. Omar Martinez closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.

**11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider initiating RFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill vacant required voting member positions**

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

Omar Martinez opened the floor to discussion on initiating RFPG solicitation processes for individuals to fill the vacant required voting member position. The current vacant, required voting positions for Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG are:

Currently Vacant: *River authorities, Water utilities*

Members discussed potential IBWC representation within river authorities.

Gilbert Saldana made a motion to initiate the solicitation process for individuals to fill the vacant required voting member position.

The motion was seconded by Jeff Bennett.

The vote to initiate the RFPG solicitation process passed by unanimous consent.

**12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Receive general public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)**

Omar Martinez opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

**13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

Omar Martinez opened discussion to consider the date and agenda items for the next meeting.

After discussion, Omar Martinez stated that the next meeting will be the week of December 17, 2020. The group decided to disseminate a survey to establish the best time for scheduling the next meeting. Potential agenda items include selecting remaining officers and members of the executive committee, status update on flood maps available in the region, and speakers engaged with stormwater in the region and the IBWC.

#### **14. Adjourn**

Sal Masoud made a motion to adjourn.

The motion was seconded by Jeff Bennett.

The vote to adjourn passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM by Omar Martinez.

*Approved by the Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFGP at a meeting held during the week of December 17, 2020 on a date and location to be determined.*

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FIRST AND LAST NAME, SECRETARY

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Omar Martinez, CHAIR



# Texas Water Development Board Flood Planning Presentation Regional Flood Planning Group 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

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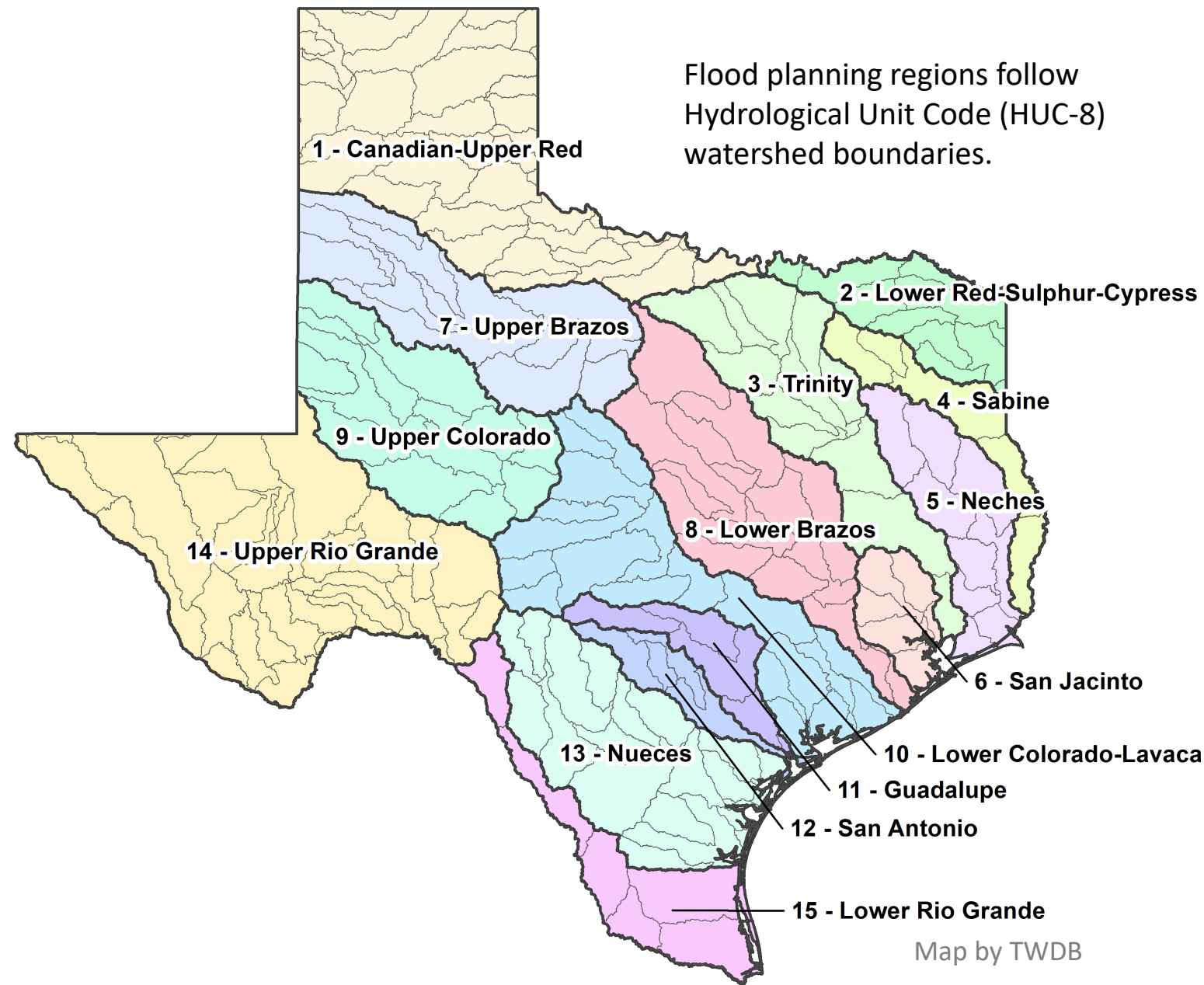
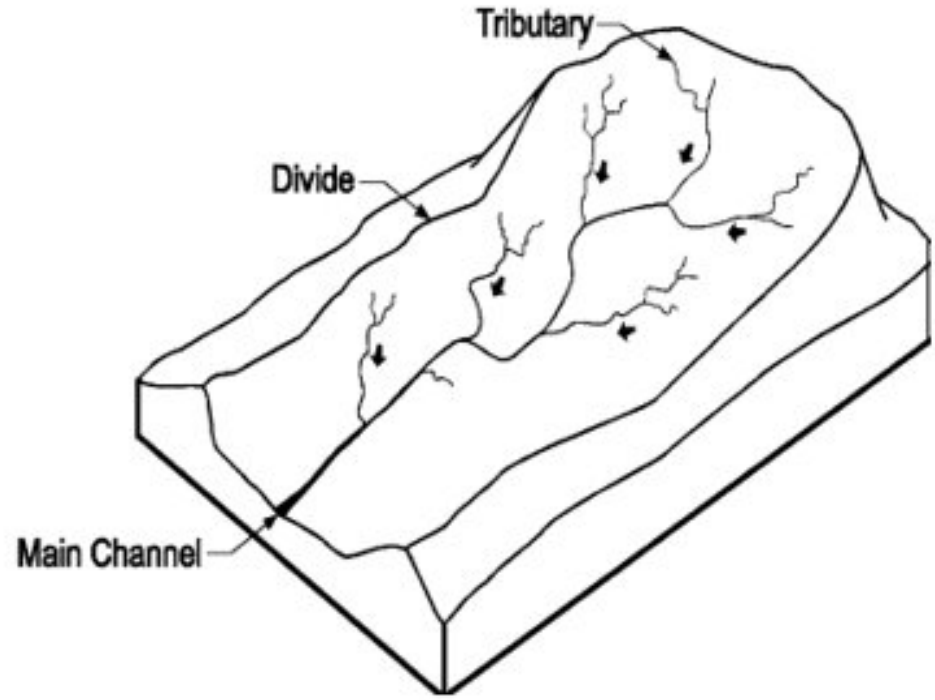
- Flooding 101 (20 minutes)
- Request for Applications Process & Contract Details (5 minutes)

# Flooding 101

(20 minutes)

# Flooding 101: Watersheds

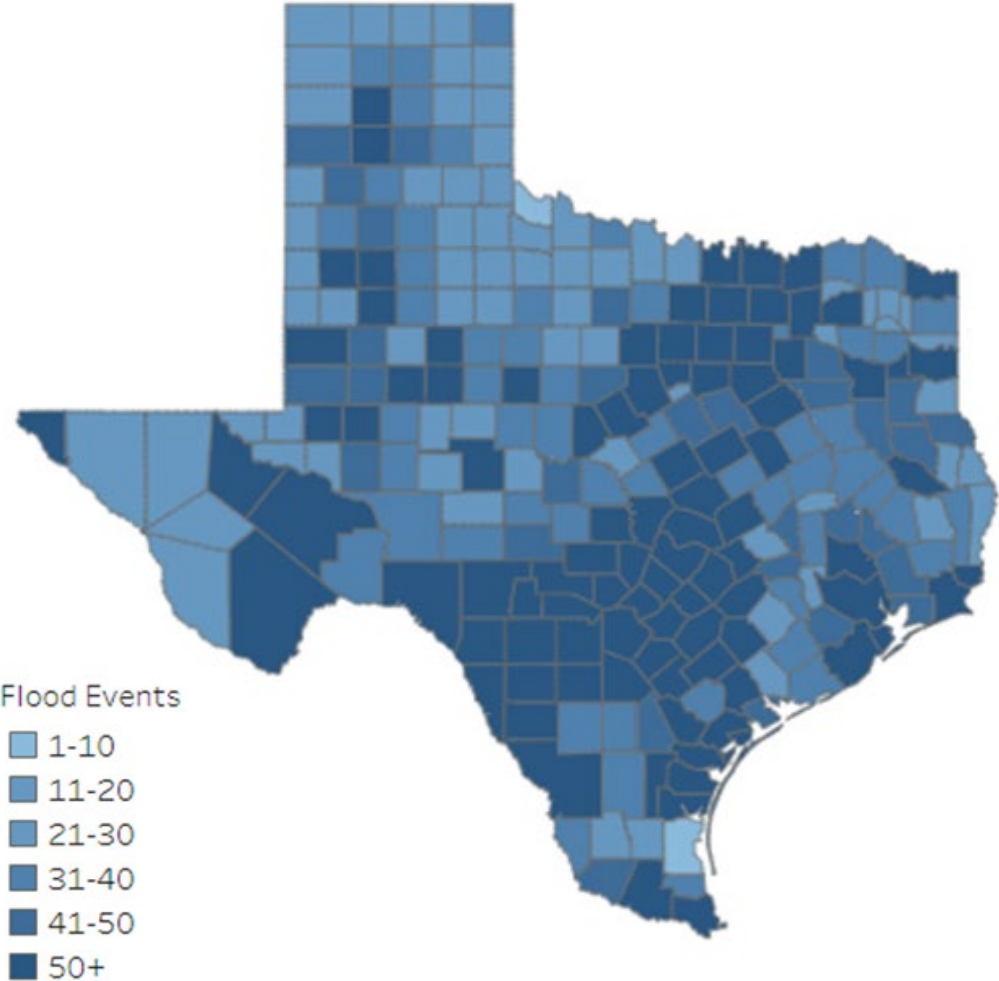
Flood planning regions follow Hydrological Unit Code (HUC-8) watershed boundaries.



**Figure 1-2. Riverine Watershed and Floodplain**  
Image by FEMA

Map by TWDB

# Flooding 101: Flooding in Texas



Map: FEMA

Data: NOAA Storm Event Database 1996-2020

State Flood Assessment

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

86TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

STATE FLOOD ASSESSMENT

Texas Water Development Board

# Flooding 101: What is a Flood?

A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land area from overflow of inland or tidal waters or from the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.



Agricultural flooding damaging crops and hay.

# Flooding 101: Floodplains

The area of land subject to periodic inundation by floodwaters.

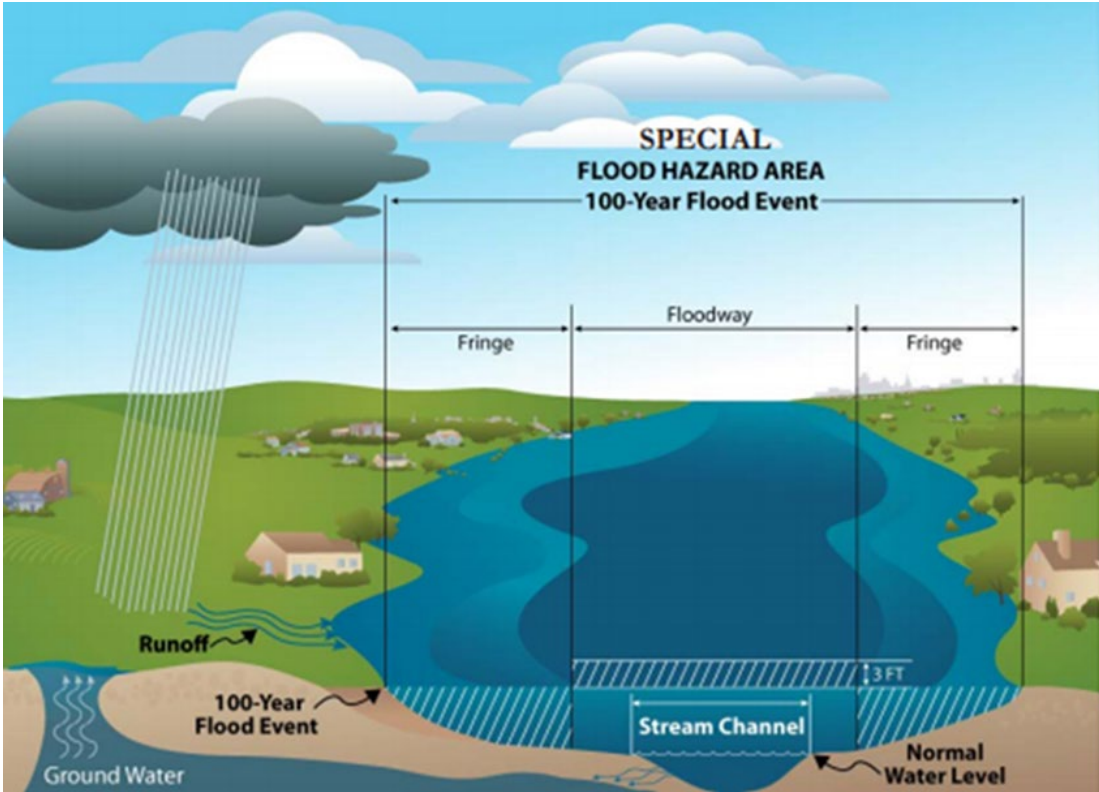


Image: FEMA



Image: FEMA

# Flooding 101: Benefits of Floods

When floodplains are preserved in their natural state, they provide many benefits:

- Reduce severity of floods by storing floodwaters, reducing flood velocities, and curbing sedimentation and erosion
- Contribute to groundwater recharge
- Provide recreation and quality of life
- Create habitats for many plants and animals.

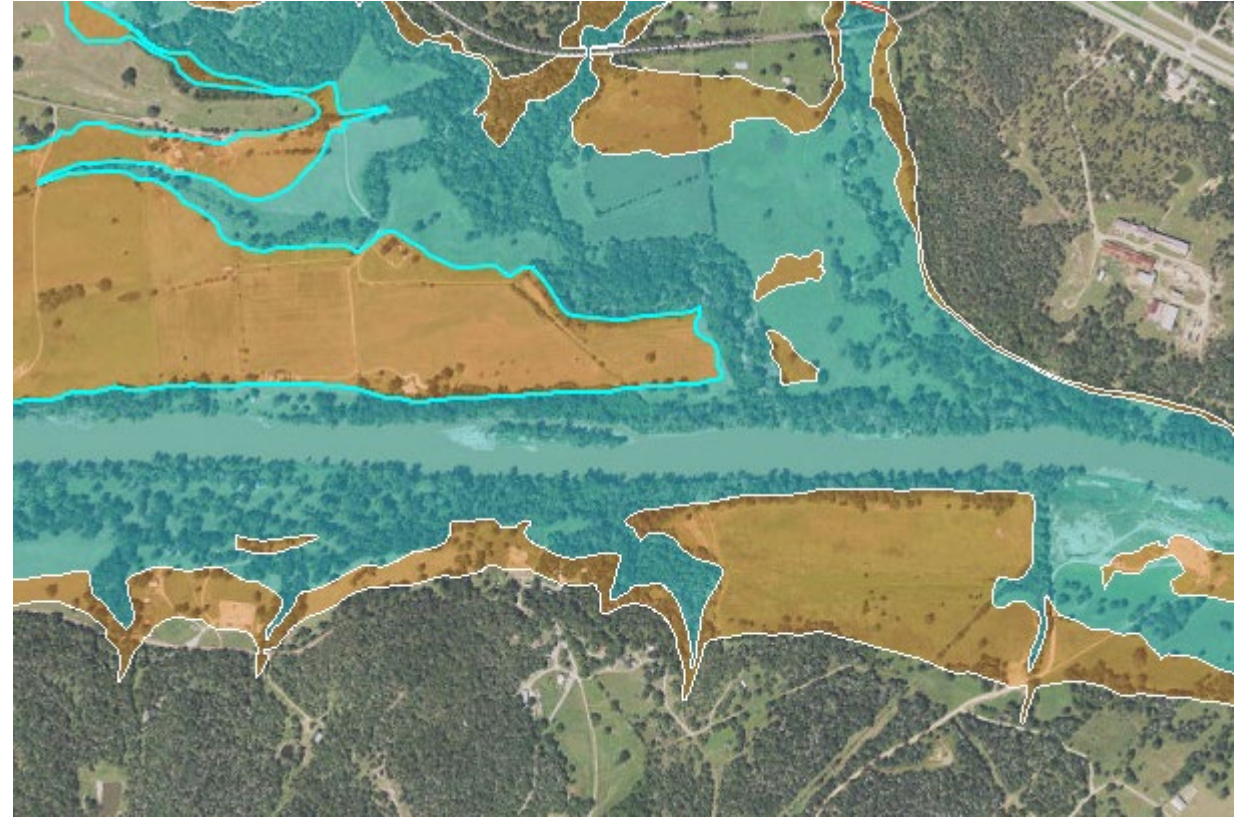


Wetlands at Galveston Island State Park provide natural ecosystem services.

Image: [Yinan Chen CC-PD](#)

# Flooding 101: Quantifying Flood Events

- 1.0% annual chance flood event
  - flood event having a 1.0% chance of happening in any given year = **every year**
  - also referred to as the "base flood" or "100-year flood"
- 0.2% annual chance flood event
  - flood event having a 0.2% chance of happening in any given year
  - also referred to as the "500-year flood"



The 1% annual chance floodplain is shown in blue.  
The 0.2% annual chance floodplain is shown in orange.  
Image by FEMA



# Flooding 101: Types of Flooding



2019 Lake Dunlap Spillway Failure.  
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority



Texas National Guard, Houston, TX  
Texas National Guard CC-BY-2.0



Blue Hole Park, South San Gabriel River,  
Georgetown, TX. FEMA



Flash flooding in San Marcos, TX. [CC-BY-SA-3.0](#)



Cadillac Ranch sculpture near Amarillo, TX.  
© Rachel Goad, used by permission.



Coastal flooding in Galveston, TX  
[pixabay, no attrib. req.](#)

# Flooding 101: Flood Mitigation

The implementation of actions, including both **structural** and **non-structural solutions**, to reduce flood risk to protect against the loss of life and property.



Mangroves on the Texas Coast stabilize shorelines and help absorb storm surge; an example of a non-structural flood mitigation solution.

Photo by Univ. Of Texas Marine Science Institute



Galveston Seawall, a structural flood mitigation solution. Image by [Yinan Chen CC-PD](#)

# Flooding 101: Structural Solutions to Flooding

Examples include the construction of levees, dikes, floodwalls/seawalls, dams, channel alterations, culverts, flood gates, and detention and retention basins.



Anzelduas Dam on the Rio Grande near Mission, TX. Image: TWDB



Storm Drains



Streambank Stabilization in Austin, TX. Image by City of Austin Watershed Protection

# Flooding 101: Non-Structural Solutions to Flooding

Examples include open space preservation, property buyouts and relocation, zoning and building codes, wetland restoration, elevated structures, flood warning systems, educational campaigns, and participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.



Homes that survived the ~20-foot-high storm surge of Hurricane Ike in Bolivar Peninsula, near the community of Caplen.  
Image: TWDB



Turn Around, Don't Drown educational campaign.  
Image: Weather.gov



Engineered Wetlands in in the Houston Audubon Society's The Oaks Nature Preserve . Image: TWDB

# Flooding 101: National Flood Insurance Program

Based on an agreement between local communities and the federal government.

- Local communities agree to adopt floodplain management regulations to reduce flood risks
- The federal government makes flood insurance and disaster assistance available to the community



Image by FEMA / National Flood Insurance Program



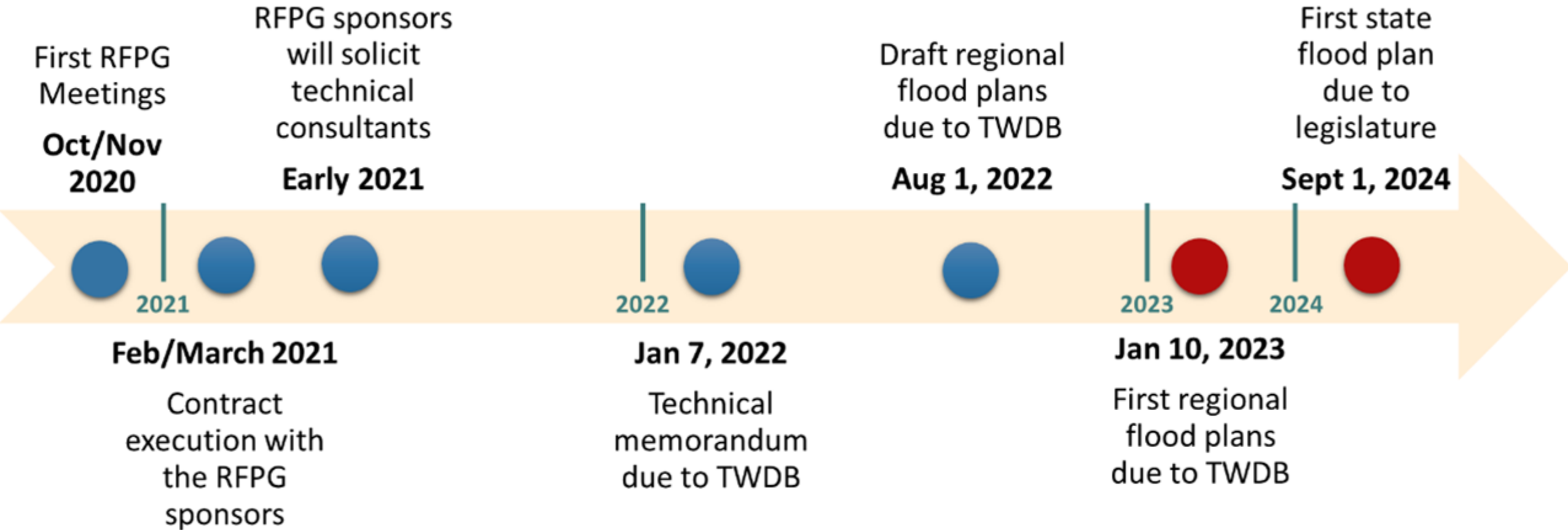
Image: Brent Hanson, U.S. Geological Survey. Public domain.

# Questions? Comments?

# Request for Applications Process & Contract Details

(5 minutes)

# Flood Planning Timeline





# Regional Flood Planning Grant RFA

- \$19.5 million in available funds to be allocated between 15 regions.
- Sponsors may submit applications November 20, 2020 - January 21, 2021
- Applications will be processed as received
- Contract execution (TWDB & sponsor) by March 31, 2021



Texas Water Development Board approved posting the Regional Flood Planning Grant Request for Applications on November 19th!

The Request for Applications and associated documents are now available on our website:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/documents/2023/index.asp>

# Regional Flood Planning Grant Application Documents:

- [Request for Applications Posting](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)
- [Application Checklist](#)
- [Draft Scope of Work](#)
- [Draft Contractor \(Planning Group Sponsor\) Task Budget](#)
- [Board item document](#)

These documents are available on our website at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/planningdocu/2023/index.asp>

# Funding the Planning Process

## Total \$19,500,000

Region	RFPG Name	Allocated Funds
1	Canadian-Upper Red	\$1,008,200.00
2	Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress	\$910,400.00
3	Trinity	\$2,520,200.00
4	Sabine	\$947,600.00
5	Neches	\$1,148,900.00
6	San Jacinto	\$2,446,000.00
7	Upper Brazos	\$961,500.00
8	Lower Brazos	\$1,485,500.00
9	Upper Colorado	\$946,200.00
10	Lower Colorado-Lavaca	\$1,373,700.00
11	Guadalupe	\$961,300.00
12	San Antonio	\$1,295,000.00
13	Nueces	\$1,143,700.00
14	Upper Rio Grande	\$1,081,800.00
15	Lower Rio Grande	\$1,270,000.00



Image: Brent Hanson, U.S. Geological Survey. Public domain.

# Questions? Comments?