

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning**  
**Group Meeting January 13, 2021**  
**8:30 AM**  
**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
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	
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: \*\***

Morgan White, TWDB

Reem Zoun

Stephanie Castillo

Troy Dorman

Rick Carrera

Stefanie Griffin

Ana Laurel

TW Mountz

Jaime Salazar

Derek Katznelson

Manny Cruz

Megan Ingram, TWDB

\*\*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 welcoming remarks**

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: Roll Call and establish quorum:**

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. 3: Review of written public comments received:**

No written public comments were received.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approval of minutes from previous meeting December 03, 2020**

David Garza opened discussion regarding minutes from previous meeting on December 03, 2020. David Ramirez stated for the record that he was present at the meeting of December 03, 2020.

A motion was made by Jose Hinojosa to approve minutes with correction from previous meeting December 03, 2020. The motion was seconded by David Ramirez. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion and action as appropriate – consideration of a Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPS Mission Statement**

David Garza opened discussion regarding Mission Statement, Hudson Deyoe suggested the following;

“The intent of the Regional Flood Planning Group Region 15 is to minimize the impact of flooding in the Rio Grande Valley while considering the public safety, economic, environmental and societal implications of its recommendation.”

David Garza suggested to change Rio Grande Valley to Region 15 Flood Planning Group Area

Mr. Deyoe asked “The group, produces a plan which I guess is our recommendation , is that what we are doing, making a recommendation?”

Mr. Garza stated that we are making a plan.

No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by David Fuentes to approve Mission Statement. The motion was second by Riazul Mia. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Update form the Texas Water Development Board**

Megan Ingram gave a presentation providing an overview of RFPG Responsibilities: Scope of Work Overview.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and action as appropriate – additional non-voting positions to be assigned by entities**

- a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker) No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.
- b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor
  - i. Non-voting member assigned by Lower Rio Grande Development Council
  - ii. Non-voting member assigned by South Texas Development Council
  - iii. Non-voting member assigned by Middle Rio Grande Development Council
  - iv. Non-voting member assigned by Oklahoma/Texas U.S. Geological Survey
  - v. Non-voting member assigned by International Boundary and Water Commission

As per Jaime Salazar, an email was sent out on December 14, 2020 to all non-voting members. LRGDC is interested and will be assigning someone. STDC and MRGDC has not responded. OTUSGS will be assigning someone. Ramon Macias, Principle Engineer was appointed by IBWC.

This Item will be placed on the next agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 8. Discussion and action as appropriate – additional non-voting and voting membership**

- a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
- b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor
- c. Discussion, nominations, and consideration of individuals to fill two (2) voting positions in the counties interest category
- d. Discussion, nominations, and consideration of individuals to fill the one (1) voting position in the flood districts interest category

As per Jaime Salazar, solicitations were sent out on the TWDB Website and sent out to all clerks within Region 15, it was posted approximately 2 weeks. Deadline was January 1, 2021. As of January 1, 2021, we received three (3) solicitations. Alan Moore, PE, Commissioner Eduardo Gonzalez, Willacy County, and Commission Raul Pena III, Starr County. Carlos Sanchez, PE, City of Harlingen had difficulties submitting but he did attempt to submit before deadline. Carlos Sanchez was given 3 minutes for public comments.

Commissioner Eduardo Gonzalez, Willacy County, and Commission Raul Pena III, Starr County were nominated for Counties interest. Alan Moore was nominated for Flood Districts interest category.

A motion was made by David Fuentes to approve nominations. The motion was second by Riazul Mia. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 9. [For FPRs that have split major river basins into upper and lower] Discuss and consider action regarding non-voting member liaisons designated by each RFPG to coordinate between the upstream and downstream FPRs located within that same river basin (required per §361.11(f)(8)). The RFPG will designate a liaison to become a non-voting member of the RFPG with which it shares a river basin.**

- a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker) No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

Commented [M11]:  
REGION 14 UPPER RIO GRANDE

Vanessa Rosales Herrera was nominated as a non-voting member for Region 14.

A motion was made by Jose Casos to approve. The motion was second by \_\_\_\_\_. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 10. [For FPRs that touch the Gulf Coast] Discuss and consider action regarding non-voting member liaisons designated by each RFPG to coordinate with neighboring FPRs along the Gulf Coast (required per §361.11(f)(9)). The RFPG will designate a liaison to each of its neighboring RFPGs along the Gulf Coast. Each liaison will become a non-voting member of the neighboring RFPG.**

- a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker) No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

Manny Cruz was nominated as a non-voting member for Region 13. Alternate non-voting member would be Rick Herrera.

A motion was made by Jose Casos to approve. The motion was second by David Fuentes. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 11. Discussion and action as appropriate – development of regional flood planning grant application**

- a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker) No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.
- b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Hidalgo County Drainage District will submit application by deadline date of 01-21-21.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 12. Discussion and action as appropriate – update from Planning Group Sponsor as it relates to RFQ and scope of work**

- a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker) No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.
- b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor

As per Jaime Salazar, HCDD1 is following same procedures, we currently have. We have requested approval from Hidalgo County Drainage District Board of Directors. RFQ will be posted on Texas Water Development Board Website, add will be running for 2 weeks in the Monitor, and under [mypublicnotices.com](http://mypublicnotices.com). RFQ will also be sent to clerk's office within Region 15

**AGENDA ITEM NO 13. Discussion and action as appropriate – development of public website**

- a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per

Commented [MI2]:  
REGION 13 NECHES

speaker) No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.  
b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Mr. Salazar has looked into EZ Tasks and Civic Plus. This item will be discussed at a later date.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 14. Receive general public comment** (Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM NO 15. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

Next meeting will be held on February 24, 2021 at 8:30 am

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned by David Garza.

*Approved by the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFGP at a meeting held on February 24, 2021.*

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SONIA LAMBERT, SECRETARY

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DAVID A. GARZA, CHAIR

