

Meeting Minutes
Region 11 Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
November 3, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority River Annex (905 Nolan Street, Seguin, TX 78155)
or
GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Doug Miller Melissa Reynolds*	<i>Agricultural</i>	X
John Johnston	<i>Counties</i>	X
Lon Shell	<i>Counties</i>	X
Bobby Christmas	<i>Electric Generating Utilities</i>	
Annalisa Peace Vanessa Puig-Williams*	<i>Environmental</i>	X
Beth Parker Doug Sethness*	<i>Flood districts</i>	*
Kevin Stone	<i>Industries</i>	
Joseph Pantalion Laurie Moyer* John Espinoza**	<i>Municipalities</i>	**
Ken Gill	<i>Municipalities</i>	
Dr. Kimberly Meitzen	<i>Public</i>	X
R. Brian Perkins Charlie Hickman*	<i>River Authorities</i>	X
Ray Buck Jonathan Letz*	<i>River Authorities</i>	X
Gian Villarreal Tami Norton*	<i>Small Business</i>	X
Ronald (Ron) Fieseler	<i>Water Districts</i>	X
Steven Fonville	<i>Water Utilities</i>	X

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Sue Reilly Beth Bendik*	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Jim Guin	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Jami McCool Kristin Lambrecht*	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Allen Nash	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Kris Robles Teresa Williams*	General Land Office	X
Morgan White Richard Bagans*	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X

Joel Klump Brittney Wortham-Teakell*	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Don Durden	Public	
Suzanne Scott	Region 12 Liaison	
Patrick Brzozowski Scott Hartl*	Region 10 Liaison	

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 12

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 15: 8

Other Meeting Attendees:

Lauren Willis, GBRA (Facilitator)

Jay Scanlon, Freese & Nichols, Inc.

Adam Conner, Freese & Nichols, Inc.

Velma Danielson, Blanton & Associates

Vanessa Escobar, Blanton & Associates

Tom Hegemier, Doucet Engineers

Daniel Harris, Scheibe Consulting

James Bronikowski, TWDB

Reem Zoun, TWDB

Virginia Condie, San Marcos River Foundation

James Fancher

Keshav Gnawali, City of Kyle

Kathy Roecker, City of Kyle

Pratibha Sapkota, San Antonio River Authority

Dianne Wassenich

Joyce Yannuzzi, Senator Campbell's Office

Lisa Mairs

Daniel Meyer, Plum Creek Conservation District

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Chairman Doug Miller called the meeting to order at 2:28 PM. Lauren Willis called roll of the planning group members to record attendance and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome

Chairman Miller welcomed members to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes from the October 6, 2021 Region 11 RFPG Meeting

Chairman Miller opened discussion on approving the minutes from the October 6 Region 11 RFPG Meeting.

A motion was made by Ron Fieseler to approve the October 6, 2021 Region 11 RFPG Meeting minutes with the correction of names misspelled. John Johnston seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Region 11 Guadalupe RFPG Chair Updates

Chairman Miller provided updates from the November 2nd statewide Regional Flood Planning Grant Amendment webinar hosted by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The Executive Committee will review the RFPG member travel reimbursement costs.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Updates

Morgan White provided updates regarding the webinar held on grant contract amendments. Morgan will be out of the office until the beginning of the year with Ryke Moore being the TWDB contact.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Guadalupe Region 11 RFPG Sponsor Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Updates

Lauren Willis provided the RFPG with an updated contact list with Mr. Steven Fonville's contact information added.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion on Regional Flood Planning Grant Contract Amendment between TWDB and GBRA to incorporate additional funding provided by the legislature.

Jay Scanlon reviewed the additional scope of work added in the amendment and how the schedule is impacted. Lauren Willis discussed the budget between the additional scope of work categories.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discussion regarding Region 11 RFPG Technical Consultants work and schedule.

Velma Danielson updated the RFPG on public participation & outreach and reviewed the summary of data/information received to date by the technical consultants. Jay Scanlon discussed the technical memorandum and reviewed the regional flood plan schedule. Data was presented for the following; buildings in the 100-year floodplain, critical facilities in the 100-year floodplain, locations where roads flood, low water crossings, agricultural and rangeland at risk, communities not participating in NFIP, social vulnerability index (SVI), FEMA claims, current adequate mapping, and Hazard Mitigation Action Plans (HMAP) Participation. A preliminary list of potential Flood Management Strategies (FMS), Flood Management Evaluations (FME) and Flood Mitigation Projects (FMP) was presented.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 1st at 2pm and will be held hybrid. The Executive Committee will meet at on December 1st at 12:30pm and will be held hybrid. The Executive Committee will review the RFPG member travel reimbursement costs associated with the grant contract amendment.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Public General comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Doug Miller provided instructions for public comments. Two public comments were received.

1. Mr. Alan Montemayor – Chairman, Alamo Group of the Sierra Club spoke of Green Infrastructure and Nature Based Solutions being made a priority. Mr. Montemayor provided a written letter (Exhibit A).

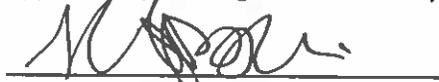
2. Mrs. Virginia Condie – Executive Director, San Marcos River Foundation commented on two items (1) most of the San Marcos river miles aren't within the City limits making the floodplain management jurisdiction fall within the County. The county is having an issue with grazing practices and it would be nice for the counties to have more jurisdiction with regards to management of these issues and (2) there's an issue with breakaway structures being built or placed within the floodway. During this last high flow event (12,000 cfs) tents, picnic tables, tubes, port o'potties, etc. ended up in the river way.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn

Brian Perkins made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by John Johnston. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 PM by Doug Miller.

Approved by the Region 11 Guadalupe RFPG at a meeting held on December 1, 2021.



Brian Perkins, SECRETARY



Doug Miller, CHAIR

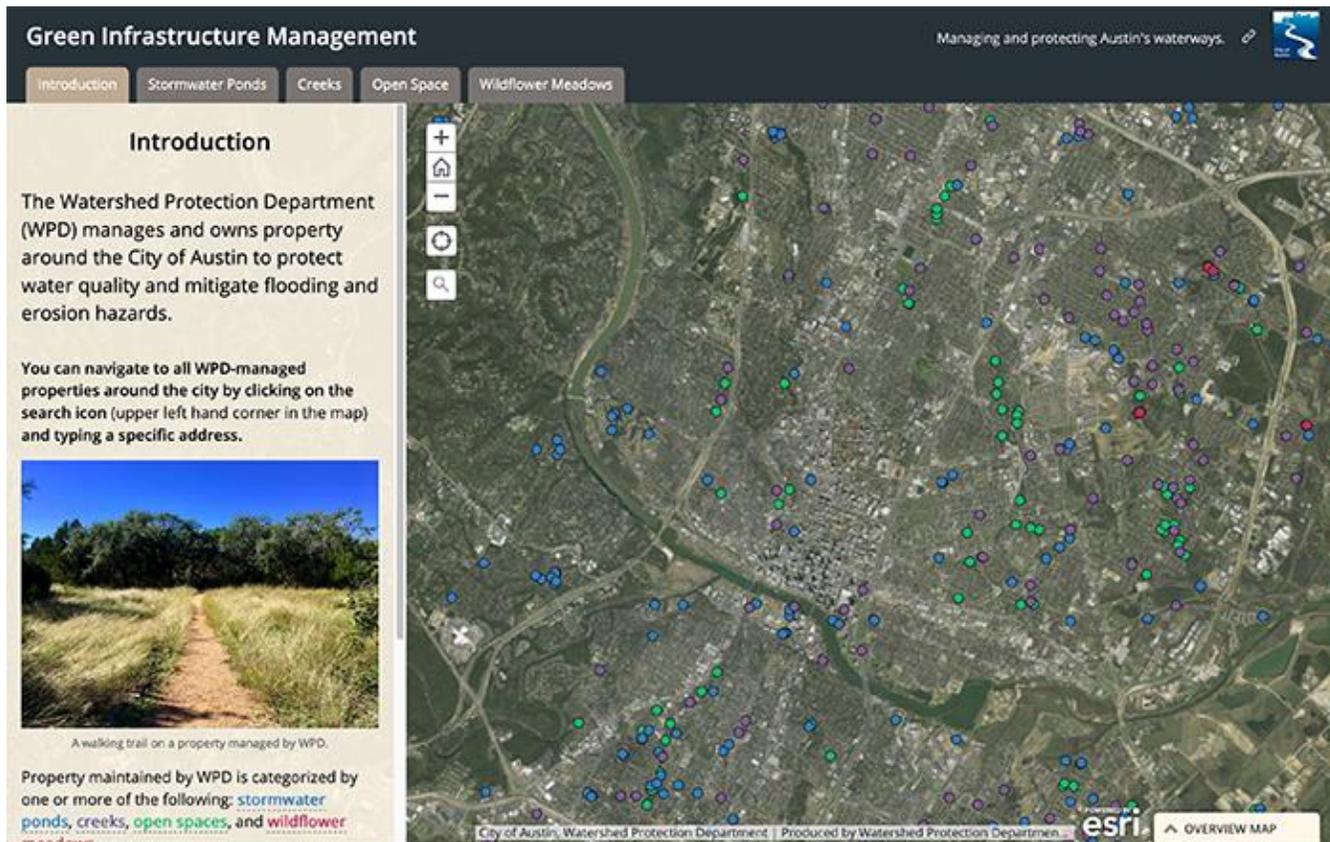
November 3, 2021

Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group Members,

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club appreciates the work that the Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group has undertaken and requests that Green Infrastructure (GI) and Nature Based Solutions (NBS) be a priority not only in the discussions but also as projects are recommended to the State for funding.

Region 11 has long focused on flood control projects being placed within floodplains where concrete is often the preferred building material. It is time to modernize and use a watershed approach even if this requires modifying regulations. Applying GI/NBS for flood water management is a modern approach to keep floodwaters within our communities so our natural flood plains can sustain us as our climate changes and populations swell. Relying solely on traditional channel enlargement and grey infrastructure (concrete) to mitigate our flood water is irresponsible in our current state of radical climate swings. GI/NBS will provide much needed resiliency to meet these future climate change conditions.

Traditional concrete flood control channels create a concrete divide in the community, provide no ecological services to the area, increase local summer temperatures, transmit urban debris downstream, are eyesores and do nothing to mitigate floodwater quality. In addition, the production of this concrete releases approximately 1 ton of carbon dioxide for every ton of concrete.



Let us move forward in a more sustainable manner using GI/NBS in a watershed approach as shown in the image above.

Research has shown that a one-acre wetland can hold about three acre-feet of water, approximately 1 million gallons. Impervious concrete surfaces absorb and re-radiate heat while wetlands actually cool the surrounding environment due to evapotranspiration.

GI/NBS such as mini urban wetlands and regional rain gardens scattered throughout our city core would greatly reduce the urban heat island effect within our city that degrades the quality of life for our citizens and adds to the possibility of future drought.

GI/NBS are sustainable engineering practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to promote adaption and resilience. Such solutions use natural features and processes in efforts to combat climate change, reduce flood risks and improve water quality.

Research has shown that GI/NBS also offer significant monetary benefits beyond the small increase gained in tax base, especially when compared to long term maintenance and replacement costs. Other benefits include economic growth, green jobs, increased property values and improvement to public health.

The decisions you make and the projects you undertake will greatly affect the quality of life for citizens in the area. We ask that Green Infrastructure/Nature Based Solutions be a priority in the recommendations from this committee.

Thank You for your time and consideration,

Alan Montemayor

Chairman, Alamo Group of the Sierra Club