

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2023
12:00 PM
Hybrid (in person/virtual) Meeting

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) /Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Brent Heironimus	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	x
Jeff Branick	<i>Counties</i>	x
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	x
Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	x
Phil Kelley	<i>Flood districts</i>	*
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	x
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	()
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
Brian McDougal	<i>Small business</i>	()
Doug Canant	<i>Water districts</i>	x
Robb Starr	<i>Water utilities</i>	x

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Bregan Brown	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	()
Natalie Johnson/Tonya Clarke	Texas Division of Emergency Management	()
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	()
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	()
Colleen Jones	General Land Office	()
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	x
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 10

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Risa King, LNVA	Ryan Ard, LNVA
Lincoln Abbott, FNI	Elizabeth Bache
Rolando Ayala, FNI	Cory Stull
Dr. Matthew Berg	Doug Manning, Sabine RFPG
Reem Zoun, TWDB	James Brownikowski, TWDB

**Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the ZOOM meeting and those physically present.

All meeting materials are available for the public at: <https://nechesfloodplanning.org/>

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Scott Hall called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Public Comment

The floor was opened for public comment. There were none and the item was closed.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Update from Texas Water Development Board

TWDB began their update by extending the deadline to submit stakeholder feedback on methods for ranking Flood Management Evaluations (FME), Flood Mitigation Projects (FMP), and Flood Management Strategies (FMS) in the 2024 State Flood Plan to April 14, 2023. It was reiterated that stakeholders use the online feedback tool for submitting feedback.

The Technical Consultant's request to utilize a portion of Task 13 budget toward receiving and incorporating additional FMXs in the amended Regional Flood Plan remains under consideration and it is expected that an answer will be forthcoming in the following weeks.

Finally, TWDB has issued a request for information to address deficiencies found in the Regional Flood Plan submission no later than April 11, 2023.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker)

There were no registered public comments and the item was closed.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approve minutes of the February 23, 2023 RFPG meeting

The meeting minutes were presented for comments. There being none a motion was made by Robb Starr and seconded by Ellen Buchanan to accept the minutes as set forth. The item passed with unanimous approval.

6. Agenda Item No. 6: Nomination and selection of Officers

The board Chair reaffirmed the slate of officers before proceeding to the selection of Executive Committee At-Large members.

- Chair: Steve Moon
- Vice Chair: Robb Starr
- Secretary: Scott Hall

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Nomination and selection of two (2) Executive Committee at-large members

The Group considered nominations for executive officers after tabling committee assignments during the previous meeting. Ellen Buchanan nominated Liv Haselbach, with a second from Jeff Branick. Allen Simms nominated Jeff Branick with a second made by Robb Starr and affirmed simultaneously by group members Liv Haselbach and Ellen Buchanan. The nominations passed with unanimous approval.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discussion regarding committees and assignment of members

The Group entertained a discussion on the necessity to employ committees. Liv Haselbach motioned to reestablish the Technical Committee and received a second from Robb Starr. Assignments to the Technology Committee include Scott Hall, Doug Canant, Allen Sims, and Ellen Buchanan.

Liv Haselbach then motioned to institute an Engagement/Outreach Committee. Allen Sims seconded the need to stand up an Outreach Committee. Assignments to the Outreach Committee include Brent Heironimous, Kyle Kingma, Robb

Starr, and Live Haselbach. The establishment of both the Technology and Outreach Committees passed with unanimous approval.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update from Technical Consultant

a. Stakeholder Feedback on Potential Flood Project Ranking Methods

b. Task 12 and Task 13 – Progress Update

The Technical Consultant reiterated the extended deadline for stakeholder feedback made by TWDB earlier in the meeting. It was suggested Group members respond individually as well as delivering a combined Group response. Feedback from Group members was asked to be sent to the Technical Consultant by April 7, 2023 for inclusion in the Group response. The Technical Consultant reviewed updates on the City of Tyler Master Drainage Plan, City of Jasper Master Drainage Plan, and Jefferson County Drainage District 6 FMXs.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons

a. Region 3 Trinity

b. Region 4 Sabine

c. Region 6 San Jacinto

Ellen Buchanan gave the update for Trinity RFPG, and mentioned the inclusion of Texas Department of Transportation projects for planning purposes. It was noted this information would be worthy of consideration by the Neches RFPG for future project planning.

San Jacinto RFPG updates were provided by Liv Haselbach. San Jacinto's meeting included updates and comments from the Gulf Coast Hurricane Protection District. Dr. Haselbach recommended Neches RFPG consider the possibility of adding a non-voting member representative from the GCHPD.

Doug Manning gave the update for the Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group. They are still tracking along the same path as the Neches RFPG.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider meeting date for next meeting

The Group suggested a Group meeting for April 25, 2023 at 2 PM.

12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

Liv Haselbach requested the Group discuss the possibility of adding a representative from the Gulf Coast Protection District to the non-voting membership during the next meeting.

13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 PM by Scott Hall.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held April 25, 2023 at 2 PM.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Steve Moon, CHAIR