

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 2021
1:00 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>	x
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	()
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	()
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
Stan Mathews	<i>Small business</i>	()
Joseph G. Majdalani	<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	Texas Division of Emergency Management	()
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	x
Colleen Jones	General Land Office	x
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	x
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	(*) Cynthia Gandee

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**

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Ryan Ard, LNVA	Zach Stein, HDR
Risa Barber, LNVA	MPTX
Kate Osborn, LNVA	Tim Buscha
Jason Afinowicz, Freese & Nichols, Inc.	Landon Erickson
Don Carona, liaison Region 4 (Sabine) RFPG	Rhonda Masters
Rolando Ayala, Freese and Nichols, Inc.	Danielle Goshen

Amanda Hafemeister
William McDonald

Mike Reedy, Freese and Nichols, Inc.
Ryke Moore

**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:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Jeff Branick called the meeting to order at 1:20 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance, and a quorum was established.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Public Comment

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

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

Richard Bagans, Texas Water Development Board, gave an update and mentioned TWDB was continuing to review subcontractors. He reiterated that sub-subcontractors/contracts would no longer need TWDB review/approval. The Neches RFPG technical contract remains under review pending requested modifications from the TWDB.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the May 13, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meetings

The Chair brought the minutes of the May 13, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meetings for review and approval.

Upon a motion by Dr. Liv Haselbach and seconded by Ellen Buchanan the minutes were accepted with unanimous board approval.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update from consultant team

Technical consultant, Freese and Nichols, Inc., presented an update to the RFPG and previewed methods for obtaining feedback from the public and identified stakeholders. **Exhibit A**

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider establishing committees recommended by the consultant and nominating members thereto

Upon the recommendation of the technical consultants the RFPG Chair established a working committee to coordinate directly with the technical consultant in ongoing developments. Members of the Technical Consultant Working Committee include Ellen Buchanan, Joe Majdalani, Scott Hall and Liv Haselbach.

Upon a motion by Jeff Branick and seconded by Robb Starr the committee was established with unanimous approval by all group members present.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Update on status on non-voting member solicitations (NPL representation)

The Chair called for an update on non-voting member solicitations. Scott Hall confirmed the RFPG received a nomination from Jacob Donellan, Texas A&M Forest Service. There being no objections Mr. Donellan will serve as the National Public Lands non-voting representative for the RFPG.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Report from Region 3. Trinity, Region 4. Sabine, and Region 6. San Jacinto liaisons

Ellen Buchanan reported that Region 3 had the US Army Corps of Engineers and Living Waters of the US present at their most recent meeting. They are in about the same place as RFPG 5 in the process.

John Beard, Jr. was not in attendance and Don Carona updated the RFPG as the Sabine RFPG representative. He stated his group was a little further behind in the planning process and he had no new updates.

Dr. Liv Haselbach delivered an update, along with Tim Buscha, on the Region 6 (San Jacinto) RFPG meeting. Region 6 has established a technical committee for their technical consultant coordination, and have already begun receiving feedback from their public outreach efforts.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Confirmation of next scheduled meeting(s)

The next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2021.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

The Chair opened discussion for future Group meeting agenda items.

Dr. Liv Haselbach asked if the RFPG should consider a coastal/Bolivar peninsula representative.

Ellen Buchanan gave a recap on the Sandy Land Sanctuary tour with Dr. Liv Haselbach.

Ellen Buchanan also recommended having state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon speak to the group.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM by Jeff Branick.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on August 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Jeff Branick, CHAIR