

**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

Risa Barber, LNVA

Kate Osborn, LNVA

Jason Afinowicz, Freese & Nichols, Inc.

Don Carona, liaison Region 4 (Sabine) RFPG

Rolando Ayala, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Zach Stein, HDR

MPTX

Tim Buscha

Landon Erickson

Rhonda Masters

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.

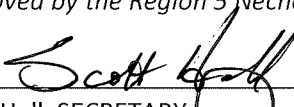
Ellen Buchanan gave a recap on the Sandy Land Sanctuary tour with Dr. Liv Haselbach.

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.*

  
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Scott Hall, SECRETARY

  
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Jeff Branick, CHAIR