

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2022
2:00 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>	()
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>	x
Joseph G. Majdalani	<i>Water districts</i>	()
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	()
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	x

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 8

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Risa King, LNVA	Ryan Ard, LNVA
Ryke Moore, TWDB	Jason Affinowicz, FNI
Rolando Ayala, FNI	Stephen Costello
KHorn	Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE
Dr. Matthew Berg	Lincoln Abbott, FNI
Doug Manning, Sabine RFPG	

**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

Jeff Branick 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: Approve minutes of the November 17, 2022 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.

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: Update from Texas Water Development Board

TWDB is in the process of receiving all of the Regional Flood Plans with several regions having already adopted their plans. TWDB offered a congratulations on reaching the two-year anniversary of beginning the flood plan development process and moving toward the next milestone, submission of the amended regional flood plan. Submission requirements were sent directly to consultants previously, and noted the hard copy requirement was reduced from five to two required copies.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Update from Technical Consultant

- a. Task 4 – Newly Identified FMEs**
- b. Task 5 – Recommendation of Newly Identified FMEs**
- c. Task 12 – Progress Update**

The Technical Consultant informed the Group the City of Beaumont provided six new FMEs for consideration and recommendation. Dr. Liv Haselbach made the motion to recommend the newly identified City of Beaumont Drainage Studies FMEs as one item. The motion was seconded by Ellen Buchanan. The motion passed with unanimous approval. Following the recommendation of newly identified FMEs the Technical Consultant provided an update on Task 12 to the Group.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider and act upon adopting the Final 2023 Neches Regional Flood Plan and authorize submittal to TWDB contingent upon incorporation of comments and inclusion of final required materials

The Technical Consultant reviewed edits made to the Draft Regional Flood Plan with the Group prior to a motion made by Dr. Liv Haselbach to adopt the final 2023 Neches Regional Flood Plan. The motion was seconded by Steve Moon and unanimously approved by the Group members.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons

- a. Region 3 Trinity**
- b. Region 4 Sabine**
- c. Region 6 San Jacinto**

Stephen Costello presented an update for San Jacinto RFPG. San Jacinto met last week to consider action items relating to their final Regional Flood Plan and authorize the submission of their Regional Flood Plan.

Doug Manning gave an update for the Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group. Their Group met the day prior and authorized submittal of the Final Sabine Regional Flood Plan.

There was no update provided for the Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider meeting date for next meeting

The Group suggested a Group meeting for February 23, 2023 at 12 PM.

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

Items to be considered for the February meeting include nominations for Water Utilities category vacancy as well as officer and committee selections.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM by Jeff Branick.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held February 23, 2023 at 12 PM.

, SECRETARY

, CHAIR