

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2022**  
**10:00 AM**  
**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>	(*) Allen Sims
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	()
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	x
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	(*) Ryan Ard
VACANT	<i>Small business</i>	()
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	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	x
Colleen Jones *Rhonda Masters	General Land Office	(*)
Morgan White *Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	(*)
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 9

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 11:6

**Other Meeting Attendees: \*\***

Chris Henry

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Matthew Berg

Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE

Cary Dupuy

Rolando Ayala, FNI

Douglas Manning

Mary Bernard

Brian McDougal

\*\*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**

Chair Jeff Branick called the meeting to order via Zoom at 10:05 AM. 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 floor was opened for public comment. There was none, and the item was closed.

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

Richard Bagans gave the update. The Technical Memorandum submitted by the Technical Consultant in January is proceeding through TWDB and is under heavy content review with informal comments projected to release in April.

The Group will vote to approve and submit the extended Technical Memorandum later during this meeting in order to make the March 07, 2022 submission deadline.

There is a Chair conference call scheduled for next Wednesday as well as a Consultant conference call on Monday.

Previously TWDB had called into question the methodology used for Future Conditions, this method has since been approved by TWDB staff.

Contract amendments were executed earlier this week. Groups may begin amending subcontracts to reflect changes in funding and scope of work.

TWDB is still working on a backlog of payment requests for Region 5. Things are still moving slowly, but staff is working on getting them through.

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

There was none, and the item was closed.

**5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approve minutes of the January 27, 2021, Region 5 Neches RFPG and the February 17, 2022, Technical Committee meetings**

Upon a motion by Brent Heironymous and seconded by Ellen Buchanan the revised minutes were accepted with unanimous board approval.

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

- a. Consider approval of March 7, 2022, Technical Memorandum Submission**
- b. Public Outreach Approach**

Rolando Ayala of Freese and Nichols, Inc. presented progress on the March 07, 2022 Technical memorandum to the Group. Upon a motion by Liv Haselbach and seconded by Brent Heironymous the Group approved the technical consultant to move forward with the submission to TWDB.

The technical consultants are working with John Beard, Jr. to schedule a presentation to the Port Arthur City Council in an effort to expand public outreach.

**7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons**

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

San Jacinto meets next Thursday. Liv Haselbach referenced a comment from a City of Houston representative regarding the use of streets as flood volume storage. This would present a major obstacle to emergency personnel during flood events should streets be inaccessible to residents in need of medical assistance or other emergent issues during a flood event.

Ellen Buchanan missed the Trinity RFPG meeting due to a scheduling conflict with the Neches RFPG Technical Committee meeting. They have recently sent out an email to their stakeholders with their preliminary map requesting additional feedback if anyone is aware of flood prone areas not captured on the map.

**8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider date of next Existing Flood Risk Public Meeting**

The next Existing Flood Risk Public Meeting is tentatively scheduled for the next available Port Arthur City Council meeting in March.

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

The next RGPG meeting is set for March 24, 2022 at 1:30 PM.

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

The Chair reminded the Group that nominations were due by March 17, 2022 for the vacant voting position.

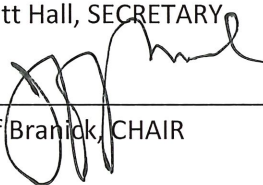
Liv Haselbach recommended revisiting the tabled discussion regarding identified goals during the next meeting.

**11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM by Jeff Branick.

*Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on March 24, 2022 at 1:30 PM.*

  
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Scott Hall, SECRETARY

  
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Jeff Branick, CHAIR