

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 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> | () |
| Liv Haselbach | <i>Electric generating utilities</i> | x |
| Ellen Buchanan | <i>Environmental interests</i> | x |
| Phil Kelley | <i>Flood districts</i> | x * Allen Sims |
| Steve Moon | <i>Industries</i> | x |
| Kyle Kingma | <i>Municipalities</i> | x |
| John Beard, Jr. | <i>Public</i> | x |
| Scott Hall | <i>River authorities</i> | x |
| Brian McDougal | <i>Small business</i> | x |
| 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 | () |
| Trey Watson | Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board | () |
| Colleen Jones *Rhonda Masters | General Land Office | x |
| Richard Bagans | Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) | x |
| Jonathan Walling | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality | () |

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 11

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

Other Meeting Attendees:**

Risa King, LNVA

James Bronikowski, TWDB

Rolando Ayala, FNI

Jennifer Bronson Warren

Chris Henry

Marty Kelly, TWPD

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Jason Affinowicz, FNI

Reem Zoun, TWDB

Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE

Stephen Costello

Helena Mosser, USACE

**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 10:11 AM.

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 August 18, 2022 RFPG meeting.

The agenda item was postponed, and will be presented for approval at a future meeting.

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 Technical Consultant

- a. Summary of September 9, 2022 Public Meeting**
- b. Overview of Comments on Draft Regional Flood Plan**
- c. Discussion on Task 12 – Perform Identified Flood Management Evaluations, Identify, Evaluate, and Recommend Additional Flood Mitigation Projects**
- d. Vote on Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs) to Perform under Task 12**

The Technical Consultant gave an overview of the Public Meeting held September 9, 2022. There were 28 attendees and four comments received during the meeting. The comments received highlighted a preference for nature-based solutions, stricter floodplain management/flood protection goals, flood response and flood warning activities for disabled community, and comments from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Group discussed FMEs and scoring methodology to rank FMEs within the Neches flood planning region. Primary FMEs were ranked based on the scoring model.

A motion was made by Liv Haselbach to accept the primary FMEs as listed and seconded by Steve Moon.

| Rank | Score | FME Name | Description | Sponsor | Cost |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 2 | 8.70 | Hardin County SE Area Drainage System | H&H study to identify alternatives for developing a large drainage system to drain Lumberton directly into the Neches River, instead of Pine Island Bayou. | Hardin County | \$1,250,000 |
| 4 | 8.35 | City of Tyler Master Drainage Plan | Perform H&H modeling to identify and define flood risk, develop conceptual alternatives to reduce flood risk, develop OPCC for conceptual alternatives, and rank projects. Conceptual alternatives should evaluate feasibility of nature-based solutions. | City of Tyler | \$2,200,000 |
| 6 | 7.85 | Bridge City Drainage Outfall Improvement Project | Improve and extend three major drainage ditches and extend a neighborhood outfall to reduce structural flooding in residences within the area. | City of Bridge City | \$200,000 |

| | | | | | |
|----|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 17 | 7.15 | City of Jasper Master Drainage Plan | Improve and extend three major drainage ditches and extend a neighborhood outfall to reduce structural flooding in residences within the area. | City of Jasper | \$440,000 |
|----|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: 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. He expressed they are on a very similar path and are a few weeks ahead on picking projects.

Doug Manning, representing Region 4, stated they met the previous week to prioritize their projects. The Sabine RFP will reconvene after the public comment period ends.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider meeting date for next meeting

The Group suggested a Group meeting for November 17, 2022 at 2 PM.

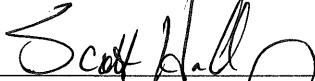
8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

The Group agreed to invite Richard Bixler to present to at the next meeting should his schedule allow. Public comments and FME status will also be reviewed at this next scheduled meeting.

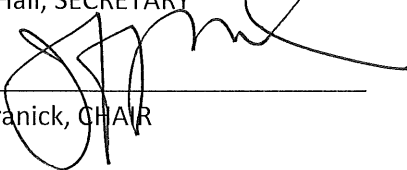
9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM by Scott Hall.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held November 17, 2022 at 2 PM.



 Scott Hall, SECRETARY



 Jeff Branick, CHAIR