

Meeting Minutes
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Wednesday, April 20, 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>	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>	()
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	x
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	()
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
VACANT	<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 *Rhonda Masters	General Land Office	*
Morgan White *Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	* Anita Machiavello
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:**

Brian McDougal

Rolando Ayala, FNI

Matthew Berg

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Cary Dupuy

Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE

Jason Afinowicz, FNI

Barbara Emmons

Risa Barber, LNVA

KHorn

Douglas Manning, OCDD

Stephen Costello, San Jacinto RFPG

Kate Osborn, LNVA

Mary Bernard

Ryan Ard, LNVA

**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 at 2:05 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 floor was opened for public comment. The Chair recognized Mary Bernard with Big Thicket Biosphere Reserve, a conservation organization in Hardin County. Ms. Bernard recognized the Regional Flood Planning group for the work being done to improve flood management, and took the opportunity to recommend pursuing planning measures that enhance the natural functions of flood plains, like nature-based applications that contribute to flood resiliency.

There being no additional speakers the Chair thanked Ms. Bernard for sharing her comments and moved to the next agenda item.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approve minutes of February 25, 2022 and March 24, 2022 meetings

The Chair brought the minutes of the February 25 and March 24, 2022 RFPG meetings for review and approval.

Upon a motion by Ellen Buchanan and seconded by Robb Starr the minutes were accepted with unanimous board approval.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approval and certification of administrative expenses incurred by the project sponsor

The Group was presented with documented administrative expenses incurred by the Group sponsor, Lower Neches Valley Authority, to date totaling \$13,571.00. The Chair called for any questions, being none, the motion was made by Dr. Liv Haselbach to certify and approve the expenses as presented. Allen Sims seconded the motion which carried with unanimous approval with Scott Hall abstaining from the vote.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consider and act upon nominations for Small Business interest category voting member

The Chair brought forth the nomination for a new group member to fill the vacated Small Business category. The nomination submission for Mr. Brian McDougal was previously shared with the board. There being no additional nominations received Mr. McDougal's nomination was approved via a motion from Dr. Liv Haselbach and seconded by Brent Heironymous and unanimous Group approval.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Update from Texas Water Development Board

Anita Machiavello gave the update for TWDB. TWDB staff have provided informal comments for the January Technical Memorandum deliverables, and are working to provide the informal comments for the March 7th Technical Memorandum deliverables by May 2022.

A reminder to send the fully executed subcontract to TWDB along with ammendemnts and any other required information.

The Chair and Technical Consultant conference calls are scheduled for May 25th at 1 PM and May 24th at 10 AM, respectively.

TWDB also reiterated the draft Regional Flood Plan must be made available for public inspection online and a hard copy of the draft plan must be made available for public inspection in at least three publicly accessible locations within the region for at least 30 days prior to the first meeting at which the planning group will take public input related to the RFPG's draft Regional Flood Plan and 30 days following the first meeting.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker)

There was none, and the item was closed.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from Technical Consultant

- a. **Update on Task 4A (Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis)**
- b. **Update on Task 4B (Identify and Evaluate FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs)**
- c. **Update on Task 5 (Recommend FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs)**

Rolando Ayala of Freese and Nichols, Inc. began with an update on Task 4A and 4B. The group identified areas where the greatest flood risk knowledge gap exists as well as identified areas of the greatest known flood risk. FNI identified FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs based on review and evaluation of previous flood studies, master drainage plans, capital improvement projects, hazard mitigation action plans, FIF applications, CDBG-MIT applications and other available resources. The Group reviewed the process for recommending FMEs and FMPs. *Exhibit A*

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons

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

Scott Hall opened the floor for updates from neighboring RFPGs. Ellen Buchanan stated Trinity was scheduled to meet the following day and set to present FMEs, FMPs, and FMSs.

Dr. Liv Haselbach noted Stephen Costello from San Jacinto RFPG was on the Zoom. Mr. Costello informed the Group they were slightly behind Region 5, but would be scheduling two public meetings in May.

Douglas Manning presented for the Sabine RFPG noting their meeting was set for the following week.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider meeting date for next meeting

The next RGPG meeting is set for May 26, 2022 at 1 PM.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

No items were given.

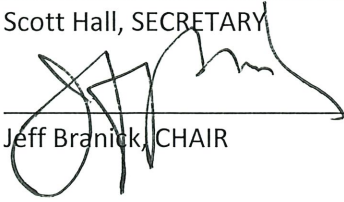
12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 PM by Jeff Branick.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on May 26, 2022 at 1 PM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Jeff Branick, CHAIR

