

Meeting Minutes
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Thursday, January 11, 2024
 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>	()
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	X
Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
Allen Sims	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	()
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	()
Amanda Young	<i>Public</i>	X
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	X
Brian McDougal	<i>Small business</i>	()
Doug Canant	<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	()
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	()
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	()
Rhonda Masters/Jet Hays	Texas General Land Office	()
Katie Pietsch Koslan	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	()
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()
Lisa Mairs/Helena Mosser	US Army Corps of Engineers	X
Lisa Collins/Keith Horn	Texas Department of Transportation	()
Jacob Donellan	Federal Public Lands	()
Randy Reece	Sabine Neches Navigation District	()
Chad Ballard	Region 3. Trinity RFPG Liaison	()
Don Carona/Douglas Manning	Region 4. Sabine RFPG Liaison	X
Stephen Costello	Region 6. San Jacinto RFPG Liaison	()

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 7

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Risa King, LNVA

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Elizabeth Bache, FNI

Shanna Verrey, DD3

Anita Machiavello, TWDB

Dan Zell

Rolando Ayala, FNI

Dr. Matthew Berg

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Michael Kelly, TWDB

Reem Zoun, TWDB

**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

Robb Starr called the meeting to order at 2:20 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: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.

a. Second Planning Cycle Update/Grant Application Status

Information pertaining to the Second Planning Cycle was shared with the Group:

- a. Grant applications are due by February 22, 2024.
- b. Second Cycle Funding for Region 5: \$2,394,700.00.
- c. Contract execution between Sponsor and TWDB anticipated May/June 2024 timeframe.
- d. Draft Regional Flood Plan due February 26, 2027.
- e. Final Adopted Regional Flood Plan due January 10, 2028.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Update from the Texas Water Development Board.

Michael Kelly was present for TWDB and provided the following updates:

- a. The Neches amended RFP was deemed acceptable by TWDB.
- b. Confirmation of second cycle details shared in previous agenda item.
- c. There is a webinar scheduled for January 17, 2024 to review grant application guidelines.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approve minutes of the November 16, 2023 RFPG meeting.

The meeting minutes were presented for comments. A motion was made by Doug Canant and seconded by Ellen Buchanan to accept the minutes as presented. The item passed with unanimous approval.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider authorizing the RFPG sponsor to begin the procurement process for a technical consultant in accordance with state procurement laws and the sponsor's procurement requirements on behalf of the RFPG for the second cycle of regional flood planning.

A motion was made by Dr. Liv Haselbach and seconded by Amanda Young to authorize the RFPG Sponsor, Lower Neches Valley Authority, to begin the procurement process for a technical consultant for the second cycle of regional flood planning. The item passed unanimously with Scott Hall, LNVA General Manager, abstaining.

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

There were no registered public comments and the item was closed.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Nomination and selection of Officers.

The Group considered nominations for executive officers. A motion was made by Ellen Buchanan to nominate Steve Moon for Chair/President. Dr. Liv Haselbach seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the voting membership.

A motion was made by Dr. Liv Haselbach nominating Allen Sims as Vice-Chair/Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Ellen Buchanan and approved unanimously by the Group.

Dr. Liv Haselbach made a motion to approve Scott Hall as Secretary which was seconded by Ellen Buchanan and approved unanimously by the voting members.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Nomination and selection of two (2) Executive Committee at-large members.

Consideration was given for two Executive Committee at-large members. Ellen Buchanan and Dr. Liv Haselbach were selected to serve as Executive Committee at-large members.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Committee assignments (RFQ, Communications, Technical, etc.)

Dr. Liv Haselbach motioned to approve Doug Canant, Amanda Young, and Allen Sims to serve on the RFQ Committee. Scott Hall seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Group.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Discussion and potential action regarding administrative expenses to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for reimbursement including a not to exceed amount for administrative expenses associated with the first cycle of regional flood planning.

Anticipated future administrative expenses were submitted for consideration to the Group. The Group approved an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00 for reimbursement for any remaining first cycle administrative expenses. A motion was made by Liv Haselbach to approve and seconded by Amanda Young. With the unanimous approval of the Group the NTE amount of \$6,000.00 was approved.

12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update from Technical Consultant.

The Technical Consultant was present for the meeting and had no official update.

13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons.

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

The Sabine RFPG is conducting regular business and their next meeting is scheduled for February 05, 2024.

There were no updates from the Trinity or San Jacinto RFPGs.

14. AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Consider meeting date for next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2024 at 2 pm.

15. AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting.

Potential agenda items for the next meeting include providing details and supporting materials for presentation to the Plant Managers Forum by Dr. Liv Haselbach, discussing regional flood management approaches, and a presentation on current projects within the flood planning region.

16. AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM by Robb Starr.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held May 30, 2024 at 2 PM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Steve Moon, CHAIR