

Meeting Minutes  
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting  
 Wednesday, June 22, 2022  
 1:00 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>	( )
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>	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>	* Ernie Crochet
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	x
Morgan White *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: 10

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

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

Mark Evans

Rolando Ayala, FNI

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Don Carona

Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE

Jason Afinowicz, FNI

Kate Osborn. LNVA

Matthew Berg

Ryke Moore, TWDB

Risa Barber, LNVA

Douglas Manning, OCDD

Stephen Costello, San Jacinto RFPG

Sandra Ramos

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Michael Reedy

Eric Wright

Chris Henry

\*\*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**

Ellen Buchanan called the meeting to order at 1:03 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: Update from Texas Water Development Board**

Richard Bagans gave the update for TWDB. He began with the technical consultant conference call held in late May. TWDB was available on the call and answered any lingering questions stemming from TWDB comments received on the Technical Memorandum submissions from each region. Consultants on the call requested an additional conference call before the draft is due in August. There is another call scheduled for next week for Technical Consultants.

He noted the scheduling for the meeting at which public comments will be received regarding the draft regional flood would be best suited for August/September based on the mandatory public notice requirements.

The amended contracts have been executed between TWDB and Region 5 sponsor, LNVA, as well as the subcontract with the Technical Consultant.

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

The floor was opened for registered speakers. There were none and the item was closed.

**5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update from Technical Consultant**

**a. Task 7 – Flood Response Information and Activities**

**b. Task 4 – Newly Identified FMEs, FMs, and FMPs**

**c. Task 5 – Recommendation of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs**

The Technical Consultant began with discussion on Task 7 – Flood Response Information and Activities – including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery actions. Previous flood response activities were listed along with the year they were implemented and by which entity. Hazard Mitigation action plans have been instituted in several jurisdictions within Region 5 already.

The Technical Consultant identified nearly 200 FMEs related to county and city master drainage plans, flood mapping updates, project planning and feasibility assessments. FMSs included education, flood warning, property acquisition, regulations, infrastructure and more throughout the Region. Five FMPs were also presented in some detail to the Group.

Task 5 discussions centered on recommendation of the aforementioned FMXs to determine if there are any actions identified that the RFPG should not support and to encourage inclusion of identified FMXs being there is no obligation required by the RFPG to take action or provide financial commitments associated with FMX sponsorship.

A motion was made by Liv Haselbach to approve all FMPs, and seconded by Robb Starr. The motion passed with unanimous consent of all Group members present.

**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**

Ellen Buchanan called for reports from surrounding Flood Planning Groups. There was no representative online representing Trinity. Ellen attended a portion of their last meeting and reported they were still roughly one meeting behind the Neches RFPG. Douglas Manning spoke on behalf of the Sabine RFPG and stated they recently approved their FMPs during their most recent meeting. Liv Haselbach informed the Group San Jacinto RFPG was reviewing their chapter 1 and have a list out for the FMXs.

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

The next RGPG meeting is set for June 22, 2022 at 9 AM. The Public Meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2022, 2 PM at Lamar University.

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

During the next meeting approval of the draft Regional Flood Plan will be considered.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM by Ellen Buchanen.

*Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on July 22, 2022 at 9 AM.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Hall, SECRETARY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Branick, CHAIR