

Meeting Minutes
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Wednesday, November 17, 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>	()
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	x
Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	x
Phil Kelley	<i>Flood districts</i>	()
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>	()
Joseph G. Majdalani	<i>Water districts</i>	x
Robb Starr	<i>Water utilities</i>	()

<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	()
Colleen Jones *Rhonda Masters	General Land Office	()
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: 7

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

Other Meeting Attendees:**

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Risa King, LNVA | Ryan Ard, LNVA |
| James Bronikowski, TWDB | Jason Affinowicz, FNI |
| Rolando Ayala, FNI | Stephen Costello |
| Helena Mosser, USACE | Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE |
| R. Patrick Bixler, University of Texas | Lincoln Abbot, FNI |
| Barbara Emmons | Dr. Matthew Berg |
| Mary Bernard | Doug Manning, Sabine RFPG |

**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

Joe Majdalani called the meeting to order at 2:07 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: Approve minutes of the August 18, 2022 and September 21, 2022 RFPG meetings, the September 15, 2022 Technical Committee meeting, and the September 09, 2022 Public Comment meeting.

The meeting minutes were presented for comments. There being none a motion was made by Ellen Buchanan and seconded by Steve Moon to accept the minutes as set forth. The item passed with unanimous approval.

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 Texas Water Development Board

TWDB received all 15 Draft Regional Flood Plans and responded to the individual RFPGs with pertinent comments in mid-October. Consultants will be reviewing and coordinating with the RFPG to formulate responses or make necessary adjustments to the plans prior to submittal on January 10, 2023. The RFPG must formally adopt the plan prior to Technical Consultants submittal to TWDB.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Guest Presentation – R. Patrick Bixler

Mr. Bixler presented his work on social vulnerability and the correlation with flood hazard exposure. SVI and SVI in relation to flood events may have different driving factors, and as a result he anticipates further study starting with the systemic literature review currently underway followed by ‘expert’ interviews and comments from the flood planning group and the general public.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Update from Technical Consultant

a. Overview of Comments on Draft Regional Flood Plan

i. Public Comments

ii. TWDB Comments

b. Task 4 – Newly Identified FMEs

c. Task 5 – Recommendation of Newly Identified FMEs

d. Task 12 – Progress Update

The Technical Consultant provided a copy of responses to comments received from TWDB and others. The City of Beaumont recently provided the Consultant with additional FMEs for consideration. With guidance from TWDB the Group suggested identifying a method to combine the four projects so they meet the threshold for consideration and then reevaluate as necessary. The Group was advised of the need to reallocate funding amongst the tasks, and the Group agreed to address the issue at the next meeting.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons

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

Ellen Buchanan stated Trinity RFPG remained on a very similar timeline to the Neches RFPG. Trinity recently disseminated an email requesting additional data from stakeholders.

Doug Manning, representing Sabine, stated they met the day prior and reviewed goals and redefined goals in an effort to make them more measurable.

Stephen Costello presented an update for San Jacinto RFPG. San Jacinto is a few weeks behind Neches RFPG and still reviewing and drafting comment responses.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Guest Presentation – R. Patrick Bixler

This item was a duplication of agenda item six and was removed.

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

The Group suggested a Group meeting for December 15, 2022 at 2 PM.

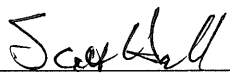
11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

Items to be considered for the December meeting include adopting the Regional Flood Plan as well as reviewing proposed budget allocation adjustments for particular tasks.

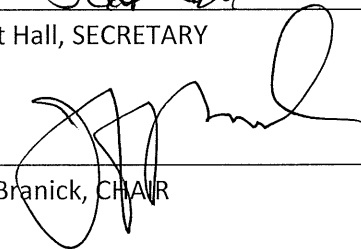
12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 PM by Joe Majdalani.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held December 15, 2022 at 2 PM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Jeff Branick, CHAIR