

Meeting Minutes
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Thursday, May 30, 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>	X
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>	X
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Amanda Young	<i>Public</i>	X
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	X
Brian McDougal	<i>Small business</i>	X
Doug Canant	<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	()
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	()
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Rhonda Masters/Jet Hays	Texas General Land Office	X
Katie Pietsch Koslan	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()
Lisa Mairs/Helena Mosser	US Army Corps of Engineers	()
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	()
Stephen Costello	Region 6. San Jacinto RFPG Liaison	()

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: **

Risa King, LNVA	Rolando Ayala, FNI
Lincoln Abbott, FNI	Dr. Matthew Berg
Elizabeth Bache, FNI	Hector Olmos, FNI
Shanna Verret, DD3	Jason Afinowicz, FNI
Elizabeth Bache, FNI	Beatriz Estrada, FNI
Lincoln Abbott, FNI	Ethan Coon, ORNL
Flozelle Roberts	Mark Howard, Region 4 RFPG
Dr. Saubhagya Singh Rathore, ORNL	Mary Bernard
James Bronikowski	Dr. Nick Brake, Lamar University

**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

Allen Sims called the meeting to order at 2:01 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: Presentation from Oak Ridge National Laboratories on Neches River modeling.

Ethan Coon presented Neches River modeling on behalf of Oak Ridge National Laboratories. **Exhibit A**

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Update from Freese and Nichols on the ongoing regional watershed study.

Hector Olmos and Beatriz Estrada presented on the Freese and Nichols regional watershed study. **Exhibit B**

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Presentation on modeling from US Army Corps of Engineers.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers presentation was moved to the July 17, 2024 meeting.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.

- a. Discuss Regional Flood management approaches
- b. Identify current projects within the flood planning region
- c. TWDB now accepting public comment on Draft State Flood Plan

Ellen Buchanan voiced concern over other agencies initiating projects within the region which could have a substantial impact on the watershed without communicating with the Regional Flood Planning Group.

Doug Canant proposed presenting current Drainage District 6 projects at a future meeting.

The Group was informed that the public comment period for the State Flood Plan was open and accepting comments.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Update from the Texas Water Development Board.

Katie Koslan reiterated that the public comment period was underway for the State Flood Plan. TWDBs request for volunteers and that the State Flood Plan was receiving public comments until June 17, 2024. TWDB is also soliciting for volunteers to test the pilot Interactive State Flood Plan Viewer if any Group members are interested.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Approve minutes of the January 11, 2024 RFPG meeting.

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

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update from the Sponsor regarding the application for grant funds and contract with TWDB, on behalf of the RFPG.

Scott Hall informed the Group that Lower Neches Valley Authority received the proposed contract from TWDB and is pending review.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker).

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

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons.

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

There were no updates given for Regions 3 and 4. Steve Moon stated San Jacinto RFPG was on the same track as the Neches RFPG.

12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Consider meeting date for next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2024 at 2 pm.

13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting.

Potential agenda items for the next meeting include presentations from USACE, DD6, and potentially Entergy. The Group will also receive a recommendation from the RFPG Technical Committee regarding the selection of a Technical Consultant for the second cycle of regional flood planning.

14. AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM by Allen Sims.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held July 17, 2024 at 2 PM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Steve Moon, CHAIR