

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 26, 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>	( )
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	( )
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)	x
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 12:7

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

Mark Evans

Rolando Ayala, FNI

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Cary Dupuy

Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE

Jason Afinowicz, FNI

Risa Barber, LNVA

Douglas Manning, OCDD

Stephen Costello, San Jacinto RFPG

Sandra Ramos

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Michael Reedy

\*\*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**

Scott Hall called the meeting to order at 1:04 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. There were none and the item was closed.

**3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approve minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting**

Mr. Hall brought the minutes of the April 20, 2022 RFPG meeting for review and approval.

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

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

Richard Bagans gave the update for TWDB. TWDB staff have provided informal comments for the March submission of the Technical Memorandum deliverables.

There was a TWDB hosted conference call for Technical Consultants this past Tuesday where opportunity was given to ask questions regarding the Tech Memo submissions. There is also a Chairs conference call starting during this meeting.

The contract amendment with FNI is being routed internally through TWDB for review. Once complete TWDB will advise the Sponsor (LNVA).

Guidance was given to group FMEs, FMPSs, and FMPs logically when presenting them within the Flood Plan.

Draft Plans should be submitted prior to August 1, 2022. A reminder to adhere to public posting requirements.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker)**

There were none, and the item was closed.

**5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Update from Technical Consultant**

- a. **Update on Task 9, Flood Infrastructure Funding Analysis**
- b. **Discuss Draft Chapters**
  - i. **Task 1 – Planning Area Description**
  - ii. **Task 3 – Floodplain Management Practices, Flood Mitigation and Flood Management Goals**
- c. **Discuss TWDB Informal Comments on the Technical Memorandum**
- d. **Update on Task 8, Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations**
- e. **Update on Task 11, Outreach and Data Collection to support Task 1-9**

- f. Updated on Task 4, Identified FMEs, FMSs, FMPSs**
- g. Discuss Task 5, Recommendation of FMEs and FMSs**

Rolando Ayala provided an update for the Technical Consultant. Task 9, Infrastructure Financing Analysis goals were discussed along with common sources of federal flood project funding. The Flood Information Clearinghouse was mentioned as a new 'one-stop-shop' for flood mitigation funding for Texas communities. The group looked at the challenges in accessing funding and suggestions for competitive funding applications. Mr. Ayala reminded the group that a draft of chapter one had already been disseminated to the group and that chapter three was forthcoming for review. The Technical Consultant has received the informal comments from TWDB regarding both Technical Memorandum submissions. Identified discrepancies are being reworked prior to submission of the Draft Regional Flood Plan. The Planning Group reviewed Task 8: Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations before discussing additional outreach activities to continue information gathering. The Technical Consultant briefed the Group on newly identified FMXs and their Task r relationship.

**6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: 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 in the near future, and had no new updates.

Douglas Manning presented for the Sabine RFPG noting their meeting was the Monday prior. They are also reviewing their Technical Memorandum feedback from TWDB. Sabine RFPG is also evaluating how they will evaluate and rank projects moving forward.

Dr. Liv Haselbach noted Stephen Costello from San Jacinto RFPG was no longer on the call, and she has been unable to attend any San Jacinto RFPG meetings recently. Dr. Haselbach did note they were having public meetings and progressing.

**7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider meeting date for next meeting**

The next RGPG meeting is set for June 22, 2022 at 1 PM.

**8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting**


No items were given.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM by Scott Hall.

*Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on June 22, 2022 at 1 PM.*

  
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Scott Hall, SECRETARY

  
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Jeff Branick, CHAIR