

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Tuesday, April 25, 2023
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
Vacant	<i>Flood districts</i>	
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	X
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Vacant	<i>Public</i>	
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	X
Brian McDougal	<i>Small business</i>	X
Doug Canant	<i>Water districts</i>	()
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	X
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	()
Rhonda Masters/Jet Hays	Texas General Land Office	X
Anita Machiavello	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 6

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 10:6

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Risa King, LNVA	James Bronikowski
Lincoln Abbott, FNI	Dr. Matthew Berg
Rolando Ayala, FNI	Chad Ballard
Helena Mosser, USACE	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

Steve Moon called the meeting to order at 2:13 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

TWDB began their update reminding the Group that all voting member terms are set to expire July 10, 2023. At this time the voting members will draw lots, in accordance with the By-Laws, for a staggered second term of either two or five years.

The Technical Consultant was reminded of the requirement to request funding approval for support of Task 13.

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: Approve minutes of the March 28, 2023 RFPG meeting

The meeting minutes were presented for comments. Liv Haselbach requested the addition of Texas Department of Transportation's future projects comment and San Jacinto RFPG's inclusion of the Gulf Coast Hurricane Protection District's member comments be added to the minutes. With the agreement of all voting members present a motion was made by Liv Haselbach and seconded by Ellen Buchanan to accept the minutes as amended with the addition of the comments regarding TxDOT and San Jacinto RFPG. The item passed with unanimous approval.

6. AGENDA ITEM No. 6: Discussion and possible action regarding the potential addition of non-voting members

During the March meeting Liv Haselbach proposed a future agenda item to discuss the potential addition of a non-voting member to represent the Gulf Coast Hurricane Protection District. As a result of Group discussion, it was determined Allen Sims would provide project updates on behalf of the GCHPD as needed. A motion was then made by Liv Haselbach to withdraw the request to add a non-voting member in lieu of Allen Sims' commitment to provide project updates.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and possible action on the removal and/or resignation of voting members

The Group considered the verbal resignation of voting member John Beard, Jr. from the Public Interest Category. Representatives from the TWDB referenced the by-laws for the process of accepting member resignations. The Group sincerely thanks both Phil Kelley and John Beard, Jr. for their time and efforts as it pertains to the obligations of the Neches Regional Flood Planning Group and their roles.

Liv Haselbach made the motion to accept the resignation of John Beard, Jr. from the Public Interest Category and to initiate the search for filling the vacancy left in his absence. Scott Hall seconded the motion and the Group approved the motion unanimously.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from Technical Consultant

a. Task 12 and Task 13 – Progress Update

The Technical Consultant provided updates on the Cities of Tyler and Jasper master drainage plans. The Group reviewed the Upper Black Fork Creek watershed projects for the City of Tyler and the Sandy Creek Watershed projects for the City of Jasper FMEs. The Technical Consultant is continuing coordination with stakeholders for necessary information to

compile additional project information to include flood exposure data. Some FMEs are being removed based on stakeholder feedback and one has been reclassified as an FME.

Liv Haselbach recommended, and submitted to TWDB, a proposed method for weighting projects according to the number of structures removed per project dollar in response to their solicitation for feedback regarding proposed ranking methods for the state flood plan.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and possible action regarding appointment of Flood Planning Region liaisons

Scott Hall moved the item be tabled until June when the voting member vacancies are filled.

10. Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons

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

Chad Ballard, the Region 3 Small Business Interest Category member introduced himself as the new Trinity liaison to the Neches RFPG.

Doug Manning was unavailable to give an update for Sabine RFPG.

San Jacinto RFPG updates were provided by Liv Haselbach. San Jacinto's meeting included discussions regarding FMXs and ranking methodology.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider meeting date for next meeting

The Group calendared meetings for May 24, 2023 at 2 PM and June 22, 2023 at 2 PM.

12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

Include the appointment for the Flood District vacancy, an update from the Gulf Coast Hurricane Protection District, and an update on projects from TxDOT.

13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM by Steve Moon.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held May 24, 2023 at 2 PM.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Steve Moon, CHAIR