

Meeting Minutes
Region 5 Neches Flood Planning Group Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
1:00 PM
GoToWebinar 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>	x
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	x
Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	x
Phil Kelley	<i>Flood districts</i>	x
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	x
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	x
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
Stan Mathews	<i>Small business</i>	x
Joseph G. Majdani	<i>Water districts</i>	x
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	x
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	x
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	x
Colleen Jones	General Land Office	x
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	x
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	x

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **12**

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Matt Nelson, TWDB (Meeting Facilitator)
 Brooke Paup, TWDB Board Member
 Reem Zoun, TWDB
 James Bronikowski, TWDB
 Morgan White, TWDB
 Hayley Gillespie, TWDB

Anna Gonzalez, TWDB
 Ryke Moore, TWDB
 Jennifer White, TWDB
 Patrick Lopez, TWDB
 Sephra Thomas, TWDB
 Robert Armstrong

Seyoum Asamenaw
Chad Ballard
James Beach
Stephanie Castillo
Jon Clingaman
Lisa Crossman
Alem Gebriel
Lauren Gonzalez
Danielle Goshen
Jenniffer Hawes
Bret Higginbotham
Kelley Holcomb

Joy Kimbrough
Chin Lien
Justin Lennon
Chris Levitz
Helena Mosser
Michael Reedy
Paul Robinson
Karl Seydler
Derek Stjohn
Allison Wood
Spandana Tummuri

****Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the GoToWebinar meeting.**

All meeting materials are available for the public at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Matt Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance and a quorum was established prior to calling the meeting to order.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information and Instructions

Matt Nelson and Director Brooke Paup welcomed members to the meeting. Matt Nelson provided meeting facilitation information and instructions.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Member Introductions

Each present voting and non-voting member of the Region 5 Neches RFPG introduced themselves.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Regional Flood Planning Overview Presentation

Matt Nelson and Reem Zoun presented an overview of the regional flood planning process.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion of group bylaws and consider adopting group bylaws

Matt Nelson presented the model bylaws provided by the TWDB for the RFPG to consider adopting and opened discussion on adopting group bylaws.

The members discussed and made edits to model bylaws sections regarding replacing "Model RFPG" with "Region 5 Neches RFPG" throughout the document, selecting initial officers, and amending the bylaws.

A motion was made by Jeff Branick to adopt the bylaws, as amended.

The motion was seconded by Robb Star.

The vote to adopt the group bylaws passed by a vote of 12 Ayes and 0 Nays.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider nominating and electing regional flood planning group Chair or Interim Chair

Matt Nelson described the Chair/Interim Chair election process and opened the floor to nominations for the Chair or Interim Chair position.

A nomination of Jeff Branick as the Chair was made by Scott Hall.

The vote to select Jeff Branick as the Chair of Region 5 Neches RFPG passed by a vote of 12 Ayes and 0 Nays.

The group then took a 6-minute recess.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the regional flood planning group

Reem Zoun listed the entities that had expressed interest in serving as the Region 5 Neches RFPG's planning group sponsor. These interested entities included:
Angelina & Neches River Authority

Lower Neches Valley Authority

Reem Zoun opened the floor to public comments.

Kelley Holcomb reaffirmed Angelina & Neches River Authority's interest as planning group sponsor.

Reem Zoun asked if any there was anyone in the audience that represented a political subdivision that was interested in acting as the planning group sponsor. No additional interested entities came forward to express interest.

Reem Zoun opened discussion on selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG.

Members discussed hosting meetings in the upper and lower geographic areas of the basin.

A motion was made by Liv Haselbach to select Lower Neches Valley Authority as the designated planning group sponsor for Region 5 Neches RFPG.

Stan Mathews seconded the motion.

The vote to select Lower Neches Valley Authority as the planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the RFPG passed by a vote of 12 Ayes and 0 Nays.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider additional, region-specific public notice requirements, if any, that might be necessary to ensure adequate public notice in the region per 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(3).

Matt Nelson described existing notice requirements and opened discussion on identifying additional, region-specific public notice requirements.

Matt Nelson opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

No points nor comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

No action was taken. Jeff Branick closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider authorizing the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG

Jeff Branick opened discussion on authorizing the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and to enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG.

No points nor comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by Phil Kelly to authorize the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG.

The motion was seconded by John Beard.

The vote to authorize the RFPG sponsor to apply for grant funds and enter into a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RFPG passed by a vote of 12 Ayes and 0 Nays.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion of necessary additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region

Jeff Branick opened the floor to public comments. Kelley Holcomb with the Angelina & Neches River Authority stated his interest in serving as an additional river authority interest category representative.

Jeff Branick opened discussion regarding additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region.

The members discussed adding positions to represent InFRM, TxDOT, the Big Thicket National Preserve, ship channel interests and/or navigation districts, and the neighboring Gulf Coast regions.

No actions were taken. Jeff Branick closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Receive general public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Jeff Branick opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

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

Jeff Branick opened discussion to consider the date and agenda items for the next meeting. After discussion, Jeff Branick stated that the next meeting will be on January 7, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Potential agenda items may include taking action on adding voting and nonvoting members and selecting the executive committee.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM by Jeff Branick.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on January 7, 2021 at 1:00 PM at a location to be determined.



Scott Hall, P.E., SECRETARY



Jeff Branick, CHAIR

