

Meeting Minutes
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Wednesday, January 27, 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>	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>	()
Joseph G. Majdalani	<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	()
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	(*)
Morgan White *Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	(*)
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 11

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Kate Osborn, LNVA

Lincoln Abbot, Freese and Nichols

Jason Afinowicz, Freese and Nichols

Lisa Mairs, USACE

Risa Barber, LNVA

Ryke Moore, TWDB

Rolando Ayala, Freese and Nichols

Allen Sims, Drainage District 7

Helena Mosser, USACE

Douglas Manning
Don Carona
Matthew Berg

Stephen Costello, RFPG Liaison Region 6
Chris Henry
Cary Dupuy

****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

Chair Jeff Branick called the meeting to order via Zoom at 2:03 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 was none, and the item was closed.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Update from Texas Water Development Board

Richard Bagans gave the update. The Technical Memorandum was submitted by the Technical Consultant, and was accepted and deemed administratively complete. The March Tech Memo is still due and will address more of the planning process. TWDB has three reimbursement requests pending for Neches RFPG and should have two of those released for processing pending final review today. Contract Amendments are backed up and will likely be held up for at least another week.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker)

There was none, and the item was closed.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approve minutes of the December 15, 2021, Region 5 Neches RFPG meeting

The Chair brought the minutes of the December 15, 2021 RFPG meeting for review and approval.

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

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Selection of officers

The Chair opened the floor for discussion and consideration of election of officers for the Neches RFPG. Dr. Liv Haselbach made a motion to nominate Jeff Branick to continue his role as the Group chairperson. Ellen Buchanan then asked the group to consider keeping the entire slate of 2021 officers for a second term. The board members were in agreement and upon a motion by Ellen Buchanan and a second by Dr. Liv Haselbach the Group voted unanimously in approval to maintain the current slate of officers.

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

- a. **January 7, 2022, Technical Memorandum Submission**
- b. **Summary of January 11, 2022, Existing Flood Risk Public Meeting**
- c. **Discuss and potential action on modification and/or additions to the flood mitigation and floodplain management goals, adopted October 14, 2021**
- d. **Update on Task 2A and Task 2B**
- e. **Discuss Mitigation Needs Analysis**

Rolando Ayala of Freese and Nichols, Inc. confirmed the Technical Memo was submitted to TWDB on January 7, 2022. The RFPG has been given the notice to proceed for Task 5. Expect a detailed technical review with informal comments in late spring 2022.

An Existing Flood Risk public meeting was held January 11, 2022. There were several board members present. The local media was also present and ran a short blurb on television. FNI will work with John Beard, Jr. to schedule an additional public meeting in Port Arthur. The intent is to hold a third Existing Flood Planning Meeting in February along with scheduling a Technical Committee meeting before meeting in February to vote on the Tech Memo submission to TWDB.

Existing/Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses included identifying additional flood prone areas, gap analysis and population projection methodology (Tasks 2A/B).

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**

Sabine RFPG has also submitted their Technical Memorandum in accordance with TWDB guidelines. There were no crossover items, but it was mentioned the Sabine group was having issues with the prioritization of available data with much of the available data being several years old.

Trinity RFP has not met since the last Neches RFPG meeting.

San Jacinto has a Technical Committee meeting scheduled for February 3, 2022.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider date of next Existing Flood Risk Public Meeting

The next Existing Flood Risk Public Meeting will be determined after John Beard, Jr. contacts the facility.

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

The next RFGG meeting is set for February 25, 2022 at 10 AM.


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

The Chair discussed nominations and process for submission for vacant Group voting position in the small business category.

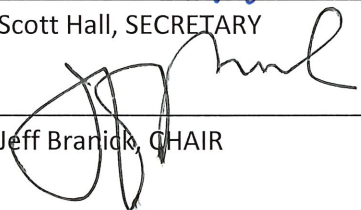
12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM by Jeff Branick.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on February 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Jeff Branick, CHAIR