

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, June 22, 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>	X
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>	()
Vacant	<i>Public</i>	
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>	X

*Appointed during the course of the meeting.

<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	()
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	()
Rhonda Masters/Jet Hays	Texas General Land Office	X
	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()
Lisa Mairs/Helena Mosser	US Army Corps of Engineers	()
Lisa Collins/Keith Horn	Texas Department of Transportation	X
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	X

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 10

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 11:6

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Risa King, LNVA
Lincoln Abbott, FNI
Rolando Ayala, FNI
Chase Kronzer
Elizabeth Bache

James Bronikowski, TWDB
Dr. Matthew Berg
Ryan Ard, LNVA
Katie Koslan Pietsch

**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 2:05 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: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.

Ellen Buchanan requested Texas Department of Transportation provide details on any impacts to the flood plain as a result of the US-69 Lumberton-Kountze relief route project. Lisa Collins and Keith Horn presented the publicly available environmental constraints map for familiarization and explained the purpose of the project was to primarily allow free flow of traffic during hurricane evacuations. The project is not fully funded at this time, and the concern presented by Ellen Buchanan is that it could potentially impact regional flood planning efforts in the identified areas. Lisa emphasized the project is still in the early phases, and there would be additional studies and changes as the project moves forward. Steve Moon recommended the RFPG stay connected with TXDoT in regards to flood planning activities associated with the project.

4. Agenda Item NO. 4: Draw lots for voting member terms set to expire July 10, 2023.

All voting member terms are set to expire July 10, 2023. Voting members must draw lots, in accordance with the By-Laws, for a staggered second term of either two or five years.

Each member drew straws and received their new term limit as follows:

Steve Moon: 2 years

Robb Starr: 2 years

Scott Hall: 2 years

Liv Haselbach: 2 years

Doug Canant: 5 years

Allen Sims: 5 years

Ellen Buchanan: 5 years

Brian McDougal: 5 years

Brent Heironymous: 2 years

Jeff Branick: 2 years

Kyle Kingma: 5 years

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion and possible action on nominations for the Public interest category voting member.

The nomination and application of Amanda Young for the vacant Public interest category was presented to the Group.

Ellen Buchanan motioned to accept the nomination and received a second from Robb Starr for the appointment of Amanda Young as the Public interest category representative. The term for Amanda Young is five years.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Update from the Texas Water Development Board.

James Bronikowski gave an update for TWDB. He reminded the Group to reference the newsletter sent in late May for additional details regarding second cycle planning and preparation.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Approve minutes of the May 24, 2023 RFPG meeting.

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

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker)

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

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and possible action to designate Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Sponsor for the second planning cycle.

Texas Water Development Board anticipates the second cycle of regional flood planning to begin in late 2023. As detailed in Texas Administrative Code 361.12(a)(1) RFPGs must designate a political subdivision as the planning group sponsor. Lower Neches Valley Authority served as the planning group sponsor for the first cycle, and remains willing to continue in this role should the Group choose to designate LNVA as the second cycle planning group sponsor.

Robb Starr made a motion to designate LNVA as the Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Sponsor for the forthcoming second regional flood planning cycle. The motion was seconded by Liv Haselbach and received Group approval. Scott Hall abstained from voting due to his role as the general manager for LNVA.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update from Technical Consultant.

a. Task 13 – Progress Update

The Technical Consultant presented an overview of the Amended Regional Flood Plan with a summary of updates including additional FMEs, FMPs, and notable updates to the executive summary and chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider and act upon adopting the Amended Final 2023 Neches Regional Flood Plan and authorize submittal to TWDB contingent upon incorporation of comments and inclusion of final required materials.

The Amended Final 2023 Neches Regional Flood Plan was presented for adoption and submission pending edits necessary to adhere to recently issued TWDB guidance and the incorporation of non-substantive updates to address Group comments and content presentation adjustments that do not affect content or technical approach.

A motion was made by Liv Haselbach to adopt the Amended Final 2023 Neches Regional Flood Plan and authorize submittal to TWDB pending the incorporation of comments and updates as requested by the Group. Ellen Buchanan seconded the motion, and with the unanimous approval of all members present the Region 5. Amended Final 2023 Flood Plan was adopted and the Technical Consultant received approval for submission to TWDB.

12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons

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

Trinity RFPG noted they were also meeting today to vote on adopting their Amended Regional Flood Plan.

Stephen Costello gave an update for San Jacinto RFPG and informed the Group they had recently adopted their Amended Regional Flood Plan.

There was no liaison present to provide an update for the Sabine RFPG.

13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Discussion and possible action regarding appointment of Flood Planning Region liaisons.

The Chair opened discussion to appoint liaisons to each neighboring Regional Flood Planning Group that touches the Gulf Coast as required in the by-laws in accordance with 31 TAC 361.11(f)(9).

A motion was made by Robb Starr, and seconded by Jeff Branick to appoint Amanda Young to Region 3. Trinity RFPG, Brent Heironymous to Region 4. Sabine RFPG, and Steve Moon to Region 6, San Jacinto RFPG. The motion was passed unanimously by all members present.

14. AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Consider meeting date for next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 14, 2023 at 2 pm.

15. AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

Potential agenda items for the September 14, 2023 meeting include updates and details regarding future actions, discussion and potential action to authorize the RFPG Sponsor to initiate the second cycle application process and begin the process of identifying, evaluating, and selecting potential technical consultants, and possible authorization of budget adjustments prior to the posted TWDB deadline.

16. AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 PM by Steve Moon.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held September 14, 2023 at 2 PM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Steve Moon, CHAIR