

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
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>	()
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	x
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	()
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	()
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	()
Colleen Jones	General Land Office	()
Morgan White	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: 10

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Risa Barber, LNVA

Kate Osborn, LNVA

Lincoln Abbot, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Jason Afinowicz, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Andrew Isbell

Richard Bagans, TWDB

James Bronikowski, TWDB

Reem Zoun, TWDB

Rolando Ayala, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Helena Mosser, USACE

Vance Liles

Sarah Foshee
Stephen Costello, RFPG Liaison Region 6
Thomas Mumford
Sylvester Ogidan, RPS Group

Matthew Berg
Cary Dupuy, NPCA
Nayan Muppavarapu, Lamar University

**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

Jeff Branick called the meeting to order at 2:22 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 Chair opened the floor 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 an update on behalf of TWDB. Additional funding is being brought to the TWDB meeting tomorrow for approval. This would allocate an additional \$643,000 in funds for Region 5. The scope of work is still being deliberated and will be released in a few weeks. The main intent is for regions with unmapped stream miles to focus on flood studies and identifying projects for the regional flood plan. A few deliverables required in the Technical Memo were granted a 2-month extension (March); dealing with Task 2. This allows consultants more time to pursue data collection while waiting for release of a data set from the Board sometime in October. Otherwise, everything in the tech memo stays the same. A Payment Request webinar for sponsors will be held this Friday for sponsors. TWDB is hosting the Water for Texas conference next week. Tuesday at 4pm a panel of RFPG chairs will discuss challenges and needs encountered by the RFPGs at the conference.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the August 12, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting and the September 09, 2021 Technical Committee Meetings

The Chair brought the minutes of the August 12, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting and the September 09, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting for review and approval.

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

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

Rolando Ayala of Freese and Nichols, Inc. presented an update on the status of their work with regard to development of the Region 5. Neches plan. Discussion ensued regarding outreach and data collection (Task 1), Existing Flood Risk (Task 2A), Floodplain Management Practices Overview (Task 3A), Overview of Floodplain Management Goals (Task 3B) as well as an interactive survey. **Exhibit A**

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Presentation from Texas General Land Office (GLO East Region Flood Study)

East Region Flood Study presentation delivered by Chris Sallese, DEC Division Manager. The Combined River Basins Flood Study is evaluating flood risks within the predetermine study area, developing cost-effective flood mitigation projects and determining funding sources for identified mitigation projects. The area includes 1.2 million people, 16 counties and covers 10,922 square miles and three major river basins (including the Neches). There have been nine major flood events in this area since 2001. **Exhibit B**

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Reports from Region 3. Trinity. Region 4. Sabine, and Region 6. San Jacinto liaisons

Region 3 update from Ellen Buchanan: The Trinity region is scheduled to meet September 23, 2021.

Region 4 update: No updates.

Region 6 update from Dr. Liv Haselbach: Region 6 is on a similar track with Region 5 and just completed the mentimeter survey to prioritize regional goals. Recommended comparing results to identify disparities and similarities amongst neighboring regions.

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discuss Floodplain Management Standards and Regional Goals

This item was addressed during the Technical Consultant update (Agenda Item 5).

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Confirmation of next scheduled meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 PM, October 14, 2021.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

The Vice Chair opened discussion for future Group meeting agenda items. The following topics were recommended:

1. Vote on Regional goals
2. Vote on process for identifying, evaluations, strategies, and projects


11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM by Joe Majdalani.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on October 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Jeff Branick, CHAIR