

Meeting Minutes  
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting  
 Wednesday, July 17, 2024  
 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>	( )
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	( )
Amanda Young	<i>Public</i>	X
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>	( )

<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	X
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	( )
Cydnye Robinson	Texas General Land Office	X
Katie Pietsch Koslan	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	( )
Lisa Mairs/Helena Mosser	US Army Corps of Engineers	X
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	X
	Region 6. San Jacinto RFPG Liaison	( )

**Quorum:**

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 9

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

**Other Meeting Attendees: \*\***

Risa King, LNVA

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Elizabeth Bache, FNI

Shanna Verret, DD3

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Mark Howard, Region 4 RFPG

Remington Whitt, DD6

Dr. Saubhagya Singh Rathore, ORNL

Rolando Ayala, FNI

Cary Dupuy

Erik Grille, Entergy

Jake Frye, Entergy

Spencer Varnado, Geosyntec

Consultants

Dr. Nick Brake, 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**

Allen Sims called the meeting to order at 2:00 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: Presentation from Jefferson County Drainage District 6 on current projects.**

Doug Canant, Chief Operating Officer of Jefferson County Drainage District 6 gave a presentation highlighting recent past, current, and immediate future projects.

**4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Presentation from Entergy on current projects.**

Erik Grille, Entergy Project Manager presented on the Cypress to Legend 500 kV Transmission Line Project.

**5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.**

**a. Discussion about future amendments to the regional flood plan**

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers presentation was canceled due to availability.

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

Katie Koslan mentioned the amendment process guidance was sent out for Groups interested in amending their first cycle Regional Flood Plan. The final financial close for the first cycle is delayed due to staffing shortages at TWDB. Regional Flood Planning Groups are asked to submit technical consultant contracts to TWDB for review prior to execution.

**7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Approve minutes of the May 30, 2024 RFPG meeting.**

The meeting minutes were presented for comments. A motion was made by Ellen Buchanan and seconded by Amanda Young to accept the minutes as presented. The item passed with unanimous approval.

**8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider recommendations from the Technical Committee for the Request for Statements of Qualifications received from firms offering professional engineering consulting services in conjunction with development of the second cycle regional flood plan for the Neches River Basin.**

Allen Sims delivered the favorable recommendation from the Technical Committee to approve Freese and Nichols Inc. as the technical consultant for the second cycle of regional flood planning. Upon a motion by Jeff Branick, with a second from Amanda Young, the Neches Regional Flood Planning Group unanimously approved Freese and Nichols Inc. as their selection for the second cycle of regional flood planning.

- 9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Pre-Planning Public Comment – Public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies to consider during the flood planning cycle/development of the second cycle regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code §361.12(a)(4)).**

There were no comments and the item was closed.

- 10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker).**

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

- 11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons.**

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

There were no updates given for Regions 3 and 6. Doug Manning stated Sabine RFPG had also recently selected Freese and Nichols Inc. as their technical consultant.

- 12. AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Consider meeting date for next meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 04, 2024 at 2 pm.

- 13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting.**

Potential agenda items for the next meeting include presentations from USACE.

- 14. AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 PM by Allen Sims.

*Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held September 04, 2024 at 2 PM.*



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Scott Hall, SECRETARY



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Steve Moon, CHAIR