

Meeting Minutes  
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting  
 Wednesday, December 15, 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>	( )
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	x
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	x
Colleen Jones *Lisa Mairs	General Land Office	x
Morgan White	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	( )
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	x

**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

Lincoln Abbot, Freese and Nichols

Jason Afinowicz, Freese and Nichols

Douglas Manning

Stephen Costello, RFPG Liaison Region 6

Richard Bagans, TWDB

Dawn Pilcher

Rolando Ayala, Freese and Nichols

Helena Mosser, USACE

David Brown

Don Carona

Chris Henry  
Matthew Berg  
James Bronikowski  
Cary Dupuy  
Pam Langford

Allen Sims  
Andrew Isbell  
Phil Vilardi  
Flozelle Roberts

\*\*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**

Vice Chair Dr. Joe Majdalani called the meeting to order via Zoom at 2:00 PM and turned the meeting over to Secretary Scott Hall who was physically present at the meeting. 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. Two conference calls were held last week. The chairperson call offered an opportunity to share and collaborate amongst the regions. Clarification of guidelines and discussion regarding the submittal of the technical memorandums were brought up during the technical consultants' conference call.

Mr. Hall assumed the responsibilities of chairing the remainder of the meeting from Dr. Majdalani in an effort to comply with new open meetings requirements. New rules stipulate the meeting chair must be physically present at the meeting location where the public may attend.

**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 October 14, 2021, Region 5 Neches RFPG meeting and the November 29, 2021, Technical Committee Meeting**

Mr. Hall brought the minutes of the October 14, 2021 RFPG meeting and the November 29, 2021 Technical Committee meeting for review and approval.

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

**6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Discussion and potential action to authorize the Planning Group Sponsor (Lower Neches Valley Authority) to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB, to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget.**

Texas Water Development Board has amended the original contract with LNVA increasing the funding by \$643,100.00 bringing the new total committed funds amount to \$1,792,000.00 along with three (3) additional task requirements and revised deadlines as outlined in the draft contract amendment.

Upon a motion by Dr. Liv Haselbach and seconded by Robb Starr the RFPG authorized the Planning Group Sponsor (Lower Neches Valley Authority) to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB, to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget.

**7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and potential action to authorize the Planning Group Sponsor to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant subcontract with the technical consultant, Freese and Nichols, Inc., to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget.**

Texas Water Development Board has amended the original contract with LNVA increasing the funding by \$643,100.00 bringing the new total committed funds amount to \$1,792,000.00 along with three (3) additional task requirements and revised deadlines as outlined in the draft contract amendment.

Upon a motion by Dr. Liv Haselbach and seconded by Robb Starr the RFPG authorized the Planning Group Sponsor to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant subcontract with the technical consultant, Freese and Nichols, Inc., to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget.

**8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from Technical Consultant**

- a. Consider approval of January 7, 2022, Technical Memorandum
- b. Discuss and potential action on modification and/or additions to the flood mitigation and floodplain management goals, adopted October 14, 2021
- c. Overview of March 7, 2022, Technical Memorandum

Rolando Ayala of Freese and Nichols, Inc. presented the Technical Memorandum (**Exhibit A**) for review by the Group and answered all questions.

The Group then worked through potential changes to approve Goal 05000001 and 05000002 and settled on the following language "When achievable, design new regional projects to the 100-year storm event and 10%/25% of new regional projects to the 500-year storm event."

The technical consultant then identified the required deliverables for submission of the March 7, 2022 Technical Memorandum.

Upon a motion by Dr. Liv Haselbach and seconded by Steve Moon, and the unanimous approval of all voting members in attendance, the RFPG authorized the Technical Consultant to submit the Technical Memorandum to the Texas Water Development Board including the changes to goal 05000001 and 05000002.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Reports from Region 3. Trinity. Region 4. Sabine, and Region 6. San Jacinto liaisons**

In an effort to carry out the remainder of the agenda while maintaining a quorum this item was tabled.

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

The next Existing Flood Risk Public Meeting is set for January 11, 2021.

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

The next RGPG meeting is set for January 27, 2022 at 2 PM.

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

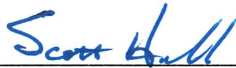
Mr. Hall opened discussion for future Group meeting agenda items. The following topics were recommended:

1. Revisit Goals 3 & 4

**13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM by Scott Hall.

*Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on January 27, 2022 at 2:00 PM.*



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Scott Hall, SECRETARY



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Jeff Branick, CHAIR

