

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 2021
1:00 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>	(*) Allen Sims
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>	()

<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	()
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	()
Colleen Jones (Shonda Mace)	General Land Office	x
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	x
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

Kate Osborn, LNVA

Dawn Pilcher, LJA Engineering, Inc.

Jason Afinowicz, Freese & Nichols, Inc.

Lisa Mairs, USACE

Max Strickler, USACE

Vance Liles, MTG Engineers, Inc.

Don Carona, liaison Region 4 (Sabine) RFPG

Kayla Wood, MTG Engineers, Inc.

Rolando Ayala, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Zach Stein, HDR

**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:
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

DRAFT

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Jeff Branick called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance, and a quorum was established.

2. AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Update from Texas Water Development Board

Richard Bagans, Texas Water Development Board, gave an update on the newly published technical guidelines, located on the TPWD flood planning website. The Neches RFPG technical contract is under review currently by the Texas Water Development Board.

3. AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Public Comment/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 if the regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code §361.12(a)(4)).

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. There was none, and the item was closed.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the January 27, 2021 and February 09, 2021 Consultant Selection Review Committee meetings and the February 11 and March 11, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meetings

The Chair brought the minutes of the January 27, 2021 and February 09, 2021 Consultant Selection Review Committee meetings and the February 11 and March 11, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meetings for review and approval.

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

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update on the TWDB contract

LNVA has executed the contract with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and separately a contract with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for technical consulting services on behalf of the RFPG. Additionally, the 20% advance funding has been received by LNVA from TWDB.

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Presentation from US Army Corps of Engineers – Dam Operations

US Army Corps of Engineers representative Max Strickler gave a presentation on Dam Operations (USACE Neches River Water Management Briefing). **Exhibit A**

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Presentation from consultant team regarding Flood Plan Schedule, status and preliminary activities

Technical consultant, Freese and Nichols, Inc., presented an update on where we are in the process and outlined a suggested path forward. **Exhibit B**

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update on status on non-voting member solicitations (TxDOT, NPL, Sabine Neches Navigation District

The Chair called for an update on non-voting member solicitations. Scott Hall, RFPG Secretary, confirmed Randy Reece, Sabine-Neches Navigation District, and Martin Gonzales, Texas Department of

Transportation, have agreed to become non-voting members to represent their prospective entities. Mr. Hall confirmed the RFPG is still actively searching for a representative for Public Lands.

9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Report from Region 3. Trinity and Region 4. Sabine liaisons

Dr. Liv Haselbach offered an update on the Region 6 (San Jacinto) RFPG meeting she attended virtually earlier in the day.

Ellen Buchanan reported that Region 3 had not had a meeting since the last RFPG 5 meeting.

John Beard, Jr. deferred his update to the Sabine RFPG representative on the call, Don Carona.

10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion on possible site visits/field trips

Dr. Liv Haselbach spoke on her recent participation in a boat tour of the Neches River on the *Ivory Bill*, and recommended the informative trip to the other members of the RFPG.

The Chair recommended emailing the group members directly to identify individuals interested in site visits and pull together possible locations and dates.

11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Confirmation of next scheduled meeting(s)

The next meeting originally scheduled for June 10, 2021, conflicts with the Texas Water Conservation Association conference that the technical consultant and LNVA representative will both be attending.

Alternate dates were discussed and the next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021 at 1pm.

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

The Chair opened discussion for future Group meeting agenda items.

Dr. Liv Haselbach reiterated the Ivory Bill tour, Sam Rayburn Dam tour and Big Thicket tour as possibilities.

Steve Moon suggested discussing the addition of auxiliary committees as suggested by the technical consultant.

Scott Hall stated a consultant update would be advised along with the standing update from TWDB.

13. AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM by Jeff Branick.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on June 17, 2021 at 1:00 PM at a location to be determined.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Jeff Branick, CHAIR