

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 24, 2022**  
**1:30 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>	( )
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	( )
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	x
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
VACANT	<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	( )
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	( )
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	x
Colleen Jones *Rhonda Masters	General Land Office	(*)
Morgan White *Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	(*)
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	( )

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

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

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

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

Billy Ted Smith

Phil Vilardi

Amijare

Helena Mosser, USACE

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Cary Dupuy

Lisa McCracken Mairs, USACE

Jason Afinowicz, FNI

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Risa Barber, LNVA

Don Carona

Douglas Manning, OCDD

Remington Whitt

Molly Villareal

Mark Allen, Jasper County

Stephen Costello, San Jacinto RFPG

Kate Osborn, LNVA

\*\*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**

Chair Jeff Branick called the meeting to order via Zoom at 1:36 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 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. The Technical Memorandum submitted by the Technical Consultant March 7, 2022, has been received and deemed administratively complete. TWDB hopes to have the January Technical Memorandum feedback in April 2022 and the March submission comments in May.

Contract amendments were executed in February with LNVA, Region 5 RFPG Sponsor. Once amended contracts are finalized between LNVA and the Technical Consultant they should be sent to TWDB.

Additional guidance was issued by TWDB via email last week regarding rule requirement: Title 31 TAC §361.50(a), "The RFPGs shall approve each recommended FME, FMS, and FMP by a separate vote..." The key goal of this rule is to ensure that RFPG members are fully aware of all items being considered (FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs) and have the ability to easily modify the list of items to be considered – prior to taking any vote to approve them.

TWDB is still working on a backlog of payment requests for Region 5. Currently there is one outstanding payment request.

**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: Voting member nomination discussion**

Nomination submissions were distributed to the Executive Committee for consideration and the nomination will be placed on the April agenda for consideration by the entire RFPG.

**6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Update from Technical Consultant**

- a. March 7, 2022, Technical Memorandum Submission**
- b. Discuss and potential action on modification and/or additions to the flood mitigation and floodplain management goals, adopted October 14, 2021**
- c. Update on Task 3A (Evaluations and Recommendations on Floodplain Management Practices)**
- d. Update on Task 4A (Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis)**
- e. Update on Task 4B (Identify and Evaluate FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs)**

Rolando Ayala of Freese and Nichols, Inc. informed the board the March 07, 2022, Technical Memorandum was successfully submitted and accepted, as TWDB representatives stated earlier in the meeting.

The RFPG was reminded they may elect to recommend or adopt minimum floodplain management or land use or other standards that impact flood-risk (Task 3A).

The Group revisited Goals 05000001/05000002 and 05000003/05000004 previously submitted by the RFPG. The goals were edited in light of the inability to effectively measure the goals as stated. The revised goals are as follows:

Goal ID	Goal	Short-Term Goal	Long-Term Goal
05000001 05000002	An average of xx% of the new regional infrastructure projects will utilize larger storm events (>100-year) as the basis of their design	An average of 10% between 2023-2033	An average of 25% between 2033-2053

Goal ID	Goal	Short-Term Goal	Long-Term Goal
05000003 05000004	RFPG must consider in all projects, and should incorporate nature-based practices and floodplain preservation in xx% of their new flood risk reduction projects	An average of 10% between 2023-2033	An average of 25% between 2033-2053

A motion was made by Dr. Liv Haselbach to accept the revisions and additions to goals. Ellen Buchanan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Group revisited and discussed Task 3A – Floodplain Management Practices followed by updates on Tasks 4A and 4B from the Technical Consultant. **Exhibit A**

**7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons**

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

Ellen Buchanan was unable to attend the Trinity meeting and there was no representative in attendance to provide an update to the Neches RFPG.

Douglas Manning presented for the Sabine RFPG noting their meeting was held the day prior. They are discussing a lot of the same issues as the Neches group and seem to be keeping about the same pace. They are finalizing submissions to their technical consultants for inclusion in the technical memorandum submission.

Dr. Liv Haselbach was unable to attend the San Jacinto meeting and turned the floor over to Stephen Costello from San Jacinto RFPG. The San Jacinto Technical Committee meets next week and will likely be tackling very similar issues in terms of (Tasks) 3A, 3B, 4, and 5. The Group will meet later in April.

**8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider meeting date for next meeting**

The next RGPG meeting is set for April 20, 2022 at 2 PM.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider possible agenda items for next meeting**

The nomination for the Small Business representative will be placed on the next agenda.

**10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM by Jeff Branick.

*Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on April 20, 2022 at 2 PM.*



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Scott Hall, SECRETARY



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Jeff Branick, CHAIR