

Meeting Minutes  
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting  
 Thursday, May 24, 2023  
 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>	( )
Jeff Branick	<i>Counties</i>	X
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	X
Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	( )
Allen Sims*	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	( )
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Vacant	<i>Public</i>	
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>	X

\*Appointed during the course of the meeting.

<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	( )
Rhonda Masters/Jet Hays	Texas General Land Office	( )
Richard Bagans	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	Texas Department of Transportation	X
Jacob Donellan	Federal Public Lands	( )
Randy Reece	Sabine Neches Navigation District	( )
Chad Ballard	Region 3. Trinity RFPG Liaison	X
Don Carona/Douglas Manning	Region 4. Sabine RFPG Liaison	X
Stephen Costello	Region 6. San Jacinto RFPG Liaison	X

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 8

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 10:6

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

Risa King, LNVA

Lincoln Abbott, FNI

Rolando Ayala, FNI

James Bronikowski, TWDB

Dr. Matthew Berg

Mary Bernard

\*\*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 2:03 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: Discussion and possible action on nominations for Flood Districts interest category voting member.**

The nomination and application of Allen Sims for the vacant Flood Districts interest category was presented to the Group. Robb Starr informed the group of an additional nomination for the Public interest category scheduled to close May 24, 2023. Liv Haselbach motioned to accept the nomination and received a second from Robb Starr for the appointment of Allen Sims as the Flood Districts category representative.

**4. Agenda Item NO. 4: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.**

Richard Bagans gave an update for TWDB. The Group was commended on the successful submission of the Neches Regional Flood Plan in May. Subsequently TWDB issued a request for information for clarification and corrections. The information was received and accepted by TWDB and will be presented to TWDB in July for approval before it can be adopted. The amended Regional Flood Plan will follow the same course upon submission in July 2023.

The public comment periods for Rule Changes and Flood Plan Ranking have closed. Comments received are under review and will then be presented to the TWDB for final approval.

An email update will be circulated in the near future detailing next steps for the upcoming second cycle of Regional Flood Planning.

Amended Regional Flood Plan submission guidance was sent out last week. The guidance includes a checklist, and Technical Consultants are encouraged to revisit the requirements since some items were updated.

A reminder that all voting member terms are set to expire July 10, 2023. Voting members will need to draw lots, in accordance with the By-Laws, for a staggered second term of either two or five years.

**5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approve minutes of the April 25, 2023 RFPG meeting.**

The meeting minutes were presented for comments. A motion was made by Scott Hall and seconded by Doug Canant to accept the minutes as presented. The item passed with unanimous approval.

**6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items (limit three minutes per speaker)**

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

**7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Receive update on Texas Department of Transportation projects.**

The representative for Texas Department of Transportation, Lisa Collins, answered Group member questions about the steps they are taking as an agency to ensure their projects are not hindering flood mitigation efforts. Funds for drainage projects are available, but not allocated to any particular project at this time. The department will continue to work with the drainage districts to identify crossing projects eligible to receive assistance.

**8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Receive update from Gulf Coast Hurricane Protection District.**

Allen Sims presented an update from the Gulf Coast Hurricane Protection District. The District met in their regular monthly meeting last week. Currently the focus is the levy in Orange County and the Coastal Spine. Movement has slowed since the project's approval, but once funding is appropriated activity should pick up.

**9. AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update from Technical Consultant**

- a. Task 12 and Task 13 – Progress Update**
- b. Vote to Recommend Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs), Flood Management Strategies (FMSs) and Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs) to be included in the Amended Regional Flood Plan due to the TWDB on July 14, 2023**

The Technical Consultant provided updates FMXs to be included in the Amended Regional Flood Plan.

Liv Haselbach motioned to accept the six additional FMEs presented, and the motion was seconded by Doug Canant and unanimously approved by the Planning Group.

Liv Haselbach moved to accept the 21 new FMPs subject to updated information related to the benefit to cost ratios, costs and some modified maps. The motion was seconded by Jeff Branick and approved by all voting members present.

**10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Reports from other Flood Planning Region liaisons**

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

Stephen Costello gave an update for Trinity RFPG. Their next meeting is June 8, 2023 when they will vote on their amended plan.

Doug Manning presented for the Sabine RFPG. They met last week and received updates on FMXs proposed to be added to the Sabine Amended Regional Flood Plan.

**11. AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Confirm next meeting date, June 22, 2023.**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 22, 2023 at 2 pm.

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

Include the nomination and possible appointment to the Public interest category as well as drawing lots for voting member terms.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 PM by Jeff Branick.

*Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held June 22, 2023 at 2 PM.*



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Steve Moon, CHAIR