Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Voting Member	Interest Category	Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*)
Milton Purvis	Agricultural	Present
Jeff Branick	Counties	Absent
Liv Haselbach	Electric Generating Utilities	Present
Ellen Buchanan	Environmental	Present
Allen Sims	Flood Districts	Present
Steve Moon	Industries	Present
Kyle Kingma	Municipalities	Absent
Amanda Young	Public	Present
Scott Hall	River Authorities	Present
Brian McDougal	Small Business	Absent
Butch Wilson	Water Districts	Present
Robb Starr	Water Utilities	Present

Non-voting Member	Agency	Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*)
Kirian Brown	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Absent
Michelle Ellis (Matthew Holloway)	Texas Division of Emergency Management	Absent
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	Absent
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Absent
Cydnye Robinson	Texas General Land Office	Absent
Katie Pietsch Koslan	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	Present
Kathy Sauceda	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Absent
Lisa McCracken Mairs	US Army Corps of Engineers	Absent
Keith Horn	Texas Department of Transportation	Absent
Jacob Donellan	Federal Public Lands	Absent
Randy Reece	Sabine Neches Navigation District	Absent

Liaisons	Entity	Present(x)/Absent( )/ Alternate Present (*)
Jonathan Spellman	Region 3. Trinity RFPG	Absent
Don Carona Doug Manning	Region 4. Sabine RFPG	Alternate Present
Vacant	Region 6. San Jacinto RFPG	Absent
Rolando Ayala	Freese & Nichols, Inc.	Present
Lincoln Abbott	Freese & Nichols, Inc.	Present
Risa King	Lower Neches Valley Authority	Absent
Victoria Dai	Lower Neches Valley Authority	Present

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

The names of meeting attendees were gathered from those who entered information to join the virtual meeting and those who were physically present.

Additional attendees included representatives from HDR (Jennifer Leonard)

All meeting materials are available for the public at: https://nechesfloodplanning.org/

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order, Welcome, and Roll Call

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.
- A quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items.

Discussion/Action Items

- There were no comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Update from Texas Water Development Board.

Discussion/Action Items

- Courtesy info session held June 10, 2026, on draft flood infrastructure fund intended use plan.
- March deliverable administratively complete; April deliverable pending.
- Technical reviews ongoing; comments expected this summer.
- Upcoming chairs conference call and webinar on payment requests planned.
- Soliciting feedback on payment request process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the March 18 and April 28, 2026, meetings.

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting minutes from April 28, 2026, were approved, subject to an amendment requested by Liv Haselback to incorporate the terminology "crossings may flood" for water crossing signs.
- Robb Starr moved, and Ellen Buchanan seconded, to accept the minutes of March 18 and April 28, 2026, as amended.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update from Technical Consultant

a. **Update on Task 3A – Evaluation and Recommendations on Flood Plain Management Practices**
b. **Update on Task 3C – Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals**
c. **Update on Task 4C (Performance of FMEs)**
d. **Update on Task 8 (Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations)**

Discussion/Action Items

Items covered included:

- Chapters 1, 2A, and 2B are compiled and under internal review.
- Recommended standards revised, especially for roadways and floodplain preservation.
- "Property acquisition" goal retitled to "floodplain preservation."
- Goals revised for conservation easements, nature-based practices, and floodplain preservation.
- Discussion on definitions and implementation of "open space" and "nature-based solutions."
- New goals tabled for further review pending nature-based solutions manual.

- Task 4C: Studies in Hardin and Polk Counties; field data collected for drainage improvements.
- Polk County master drainage plan update: three problem areas identified (Corrigan, Pleasant Hill, Indian Springs).
- Leveraging prior studies and models for further analysis.
- Reviewed and compared recommendations from cycle one and other regions.
- Discussion on expanding county regulatory authority, operation and maintenance funding, and use of BLE data for floodplain management.
- Emphasis on prevention, public education, and cross-agency integration (TXDOT and TWDB).
- Additional recommendations may be addressed during future meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider and act upon approving Floodplain Management Practice recommendations.

Discussion/Action Items

- The group discussed and acted on approving amended floodplain management goals and practices.
- The group acknowledged that amendments may be made later based on future discussions and new information, but the current revisions were approved during the meeting.
- Robb Starr moved, and Ellen Buchanan seconded, to accept the minutes of March 18 and April 28, 2026, as presented.
- The motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider and act upon approving the amended floodplain management goals for inclusion in the 2028 Neches Regional Flood Plan.

Discussion/Action Items

- **Floodplain Preservation:**
  The previous "property acquisition" practice was retitled and revised to "floodplain preservation."
- **Conservation Easements:**
  Revised Goal:
  Add conservation easements as a specific goal, with updated language to clarify short-term (10 years) and long-term (30 years) planning horizons.
  Rationale: Supports land conservation and nature-based flood mitigation.
- **Nature-Based Practices:**
  The group discussed and approved language to encourage nature-based practices, conservation easements, and floodplain preservation in all projects. The language was clarified to allow "and/or" (not requiring all three in every project).
  "Must consider in all projects and should incorporate nature-based practices such as conservation easements or floodplain preservation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Public Comment

Discussion/Action Items

- There were none

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Reports from other flood planning region liaisons.

Discussion/Action Items

- Reports from other flood planning regions indicated similar progress and scheduling.
- Upcoming meetings were noted for several regions, and members planned attendance.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.

Discussion/Action Items

- Tentatively ready to consider finalization of goals and recommendations

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider future meeting dates.

Discussion/Action Items

- The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

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

Discussion/Action Items

- Draft chapters to be circulated for review.
- FMXs recommendations, modeling updates, and review of nature-based solutions manual.
- Additional topics: Task 8, Task 5 recommendations, and updates from GLO team.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjourn

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Scott Hall, Secretary

Steve Moon, Chair