

Meeting Minutes
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
 Hybrid (in-person/virtual) Meeting

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

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
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 Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Absent
Lisa McCracken Mairs	US Army Corps of Engineers	Absent
Keith Horn	Texas Department of Transportation	Alternate Present
Jacob Donellan	Federal Public Lands	Absent
Randy Reece	Sabine Neches Navigation District	Absent

<u>Liaisons</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Jonathan Spellman	Region 3. Trinity RFPG	Absent
Don Carona	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	Present
Victoria Dai	Lower Neches Valley Authority	Absent

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

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

Matthew Berg

Doug Manning, Sabine RFPG liaison alternate

Chaitanya Desai, Texas Department of Transportation

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 2:07 p.m.
- A quorum was established.

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

Discussion/Action Items

- There were no registered public comments.

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

Discussion/Action Items

- The technical memo deadline was January 7, 2026. Administrative reviews have been completed, and RFPGs have been notified. TWDB staff expect internal and informal comments to be distributed in the summer of 2026.
- Small communities FAQs have been added to the second cycle flood planning website.
- A Courtesy Information Session is planned for February 27, 2026, at 2:30 pm to provide an overview of the draft 2026-2027 Flood Infrastructure Fund Intended Use Plan. RFP chairs, technical consultants, sponsors, and program administration and reporting teams are invited to attend. Will discuss any major proposed changes from the previous IUP expected. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate during the public comment period.
- Task 5B deadline is March 26, 2026.
- Regional Flood Planning Groups should approve the FMU list as well as the metrics used to determine small and rural communities with limited resources.
- Task 4C: Conduct a subset of evaluations from Task 4A. Identify and assess additional FM projects or strategies for recommendation under Task 5A. Regional groups have flexibility in choosing FMEs; approval is needed at the regular meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the December 18, 2025, and January 21, 2026, meetings.

Discussion/Action Items

- There were no comments or changes regarding the minutes as presented.
- A motion was made by Liv Haselbach and seconded by Ellen Buchanan to accept the December 18, 2025, minutes as presented.
- The motion was approved.
- A motion was made by Ellen Buchanan and seconded by Amanda Young to accept the January 21, 2026, minutes as presented.
- The motion was approved.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update from Technical Consultant

- a. **Update on Task 4C – Performance of FMEs**
- b. **Update on Task 5B – Recommend a list of FMEs to be performed by TWDB**

Discussion/Action Items

- Task 4C – Performance of FMEs: This task authorizes the RFPG to perform a select subset of FMEs within available budget and schedule to identify additional Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs).
 - FMEs focus on areas with limited existing flood data and high flood mitigation need. Evaluations must result in quantifiable flood risk reduction benefits to life and property. Studies include preliminary engineering and feasibility analysis sufficient to elevate FMEs into FMPs.
 - Selection is RFPG-directed, informed by Task 2 flood risk data, Task 3 needs assessment, and RFPG priorities. Emphasis is placed on:
 - Structures and population at risk
 - Critical facilities at risk
 - FMEs likely to convert efficiently into implementable FMPs
 - Reasonable benefit-cost ratios relative to study effort
 - Preference given to leveraging existing or ongoing studies (e.g., Master Drainage Plans, GLO Combined River Basin Flood Study) to avoid duplication.
 - FMEs are ranked and categorized as:
 - Primary (priority for execution)
 - Secondary (performed if time/budget allows)
 - Non-feasible (cost, scope, overlap, or implementation constraints)
- Task 5B - Recommend FMEs to be performed by TWDB: Allows TWDB to perform FMEs for small or rural communities with limited resources. RFPG must submit a prioritized list of FMEs to TWDB by March 26, 2026. FMEs under Task 5B must:
 - Be affirmed by the sponsoring community
 - Include a commitment to active sponsor engagement
- Anticipated outcome:
 - Two TWDB-performed FMEs completed before the Draft Regional Flood Plan deadline (May 26, 2027).
 - RFPG is required to:
 - Vote on the recommended FME list
 - Approve the metrics used to define small/rural community eligibility
- Task 5B FMEs follow the same prioritization logic as Task 4C, emphasizing implementability and measurable risk reduction.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Public Comment

Discussion/Action Items

- No public comments were submitted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Reports from other flood planning region liaisons.

Discussion/Action Items

- Sabine RFPG is following closely to the same schedule as Region 5.
- No update provided from San Jacinto or Trinity RFPGs.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.

Discussion/Action Items

- No updates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider the meeting date for the next meeting.

Discussion/Action Items

- The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider possible agenda items for the next meeting.

Discussion/Action Items

- Election of officers
- Action on Task 5B
- Approve administrative expenses
- TXDoT presentation

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Steve Moon, CHAIR