

Meeting Minutes
 Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
 Thursday, August 21, 2025, 2:30 p.m.
 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>	Present
Jeff Branick*	<i>Counties</i>	Present
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	Present
Ellen Buchanan**	<i>Environmental interests</i>	Present
Allen Sims	<i>Flood districts</i>	Absent
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	Present
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	Absent
Amanda Young	<i>Public</i>	Absent
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	Present
Brian McDougal**	<i>Small business</i>	Present
VACANT	<i>Water districts</i>	Absent
Robb Starr	<i>Water utilities</i>	Present

*Voting members attended virtually but were not counted toward the quorum.

**Voting members attended virtually and were counted toward the quorum.

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent ()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Bregan Brown	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Absent
Michelle Ellis (Matthew Holloway)	Texas Division of Emergency Management	Absent
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	Present
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Absent
Rhonda Masters	Texas General Land Office	Present
Katie Pietsch Koslan	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	Present
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Absent
Lisa Mairs/Helena Mosser	US Army Corps of Engineers	Absent
Lisa Collins/Keith Horn	Texas Department of Transportation	Absent
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 *Doug Manning	Region 4. Sabine RFPG	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	Present

Quorum:

Quorum: **No**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 5

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 12:7

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Shanna Verret

Cary Erickson

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

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 2:31 p.m.
- A quorum was NOT 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

- A technical conference call will be held in September 12, 2025, to review the new FME program and the tech memo checklist. Submit any questions by September 5, 2025.
- TWDB has made minor changes to the Exhibit C Technical Guidelines, available now on TWDB's website.
- A third amendment to the 2023 RFPs would align with the 28-29 FIF cycle, but this is unnecessary since the 2029 State Flood Plan will align with that cycle. Therefore, the TWDB does not anticipate a second amendment to the 2024 State Flood Plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the July 23, 2025, meeting.

Discussion/Action Items

- This item was tabled due to lack of quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update from Technical Consultant

- a. Outreach Updates**
- b. Update on Task 1 (Planning Area Description)**
- c. Update on Task 2B (Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses)**
- d. Update on Task 3A (Evaluation and Recommendations of Floodplain Management Practices)**
- e. Update on Task 3B (Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis)**
- f. Update on Task 3C (Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals)**
- g. Update on Task 4A (Identification and Evaluation of Potential FMXs)**

Discussion/Action Items

- Outreach Efforts: Traylor & Associates continued stakeholder engagement through updated contact lists, QR code flyers, and presentations to local and regional entities. Additional outreach is planned with COGs, judge associations, and city/county officials.
- Task 1 – Ongoing Mitigation Projects: A detailed list of active projects was presented, including acquisitions, drainage improvements, and planning studies across multiple jurisdictions.
- Task 2B – Future Conditions Flood Risk: The team is using TWDB's recommended Scenario 3 to model future flood conditions, incorporating rainfall, sea level rise, and land use changes.

- Task 3A – Floodplain Management Practices: Reviewed and proposed updates to standards, including stronger language for roadway design, compensatory storage, and low-impact development.
- Task 3B – Needs Analysis: Identified areas most prone to flooding or lacking adequate data, to inform future mitigation planning.
- Task 3C – Goals Review: Reviewed Cycle 1 goals and proposed updated targets for Cycle 2, including increased percentages for infrastructure design, critical facility protection, and public outreach.
- Task 4A – Identification of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs: Outlined the process for reviewing and updating the list of flood management evaluations, strategies, and projects. A revised list will be submitted with the January 2026 Technical Memorandum.
- The Group discussed the need to improve public engagement and considered reactivating the Communications and Outreach Committee.

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

- Region 3. Trinity: Trinity: No representative was present. It was noted that Region 3 is currently on a similar planning timeline as Region 5.
- Region 4. Sabine: Doug Manning (alternate) was present. Sabine RFPG is also working with Traylor & Associates and held a recent meeting on August 11, 2025.
- Region 6. San Jacinto: No liaison was present. However, Steve Moon attended the San Jacinto RFPG meeting on August 14, 2025, and reported a strong emphasis on public engagement. San Jacinto RFPG has developed a comprehensive communications strategy.

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

Discussion/Action Items

- Liv Haselbach reported that the Southeast Texas Flood Coordination Study held a meeting earlier that day and emphasized the importance of public participation in the second cycle survey. The Study will also host its fourth annual “Big Flood Meet” on October 23, 2025.
- Members discussed the need to improve outreach and engagement, particularly in underrepresented areas of the basin. There was strong support for reactivating or forming a Communications and Outreach Committee to help increase stakeholder and public involvement. Concerns were raised about the lack of participation from some municipalities and the need to better communicate the benefits of contributing to the planning process. Suggestions included presenting at city council and commissioners court meetings, leveraging local media, and engaging with industrial community advisory panels.

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

Discussion/Action Items

- Future scheduled meetings:
 - September 18, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.
 - October 16, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.

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

Discussion/Action Items

- Nominations for voting member vacancies

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Adjourn

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Scott Hall, SECRETARY

Steve Moon, CHAIR