

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021
1:00 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>	x
Jeff Branick	<i>Counties</i>	()
Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	x
Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	x
Phil Kelley	<i>Flood districts</i>	x
Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	x
Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	x
John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	x
Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	x
Stan Mathews	<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	General Land Office	x
Morgan White	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	x
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	()

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

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Ryan Ard, LNVA

Risa Barber, LNVA

Kate Osborn, LNVA

Mike Reedy, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

**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:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

1. AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Joe Majdalani called the meeting to order at 2:05 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 Chair opened the floor for public comment. There was none, and the item was closed.

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

Morgan White, Texas Water Development Board, gave an update regarding the legislature's recent appropriation of additional funding to support the first round of regional flood planning. Approximately \$10 million dollars will be made available September 1, 2021, and will be used to enhance the first set of regional flood plans. TWDB is currently working to process survey responses and develop a methodology to distribute the money among the various regions. TWDB will reach out to RFPG sponsors to coordinate contract amendments.

4. AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the June 17, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting and July 13, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting

The Chair brought the minutes of the June 17, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting and July 13, 2021 Technical Committee Meeting for review and approval.

Upon a motion by Brent Heironimus and seconded by Ellen Buchanan the minutes were accepted with unanimous board approval.

5. AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Update from consultant team

Mike Reedy of Freese and Nichols, Inc. presented an update on the status of their work with regard to development of the Region 5. Neches plan. Discussion ensued regarding public outreach meetings to be coordinated by the Consultant in both the upper basin and lower basin. John Beard, Jr. suggested hosting a meeting in Port Arthur at the Civic Center in addition to a meeting in Beaumont to cover the lower basin. Discussion was also had on the function of natural features in the planning process. **Exhibit A**

6. AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Reports from Region 3. Trinity. Region 4. Sabine, and Region 6. San Jacinto liaisons

Region 3 update from Ellen Buchanan: The Trinity region has closed their survey and reopened it to continue to encourage participation.

Region 4 update from John Beard, Jr.: No new updates.

Region 6 update from Dr. Liv Haselbach: Stephen Costello has replaced Tim Buscha as the Region 6 liaison to Region 5. Liv noted the GLO presentation made to Region 6 would be beneficial for this RFPG.

7. AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discuss Floodplain Management Standards and Regional Goals

Ellen summarized Trinity's goals and suggested they would be a good fit for the Neches RFPG. **Exhibit B**

8. AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Confirmation of next scheduled meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 PM, September 22, 2021.

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


The Chair opened discussion for future Group meeting agenda items. The following topics were recommended:

1. GLO presentation regarding their recently completed study
2. TXDOT presentation regarding median barriers

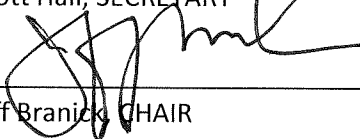
10. AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM by Joe Majdalani.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFG at a meeting held on September 22, 2021 at 2:00 PM.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Jeff Branick, CHAIR