

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021 @ 1:00 PM
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

Voting Member	Interest Category	Present(Y) / Absent(N) /Alternate Present(A)
1. Brent Heironimus	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	Y
2. Jeff Branick	<i>Counties</i>	N
3. Liv Haselbach	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	Y
4. Ellen Buchanan	<i>Environmental interests</i>	Y
5. Phil Kelley	<i>Flood districts</i>	Y
6. Steve Moon	<i>Industries</i>	Y
7. Kyle Kingma	<i>Municipalities</i>	Y
8. John Beard, Jr.	<i>Public</i>	N
9. Scott Hall	<i>River authorities</i>	Y
10. Stan Mathews	<i>Small business</i>	N
11. Joseph G. Majdalani	<i>Water districts</i>	Y
Robb Starr	<i>Water utilities</i>	N

Non-voting Member	Agency	Present(Y) / Absent(N) /Alternate Present(A)
Bregan Brown	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Y
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	Y
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	Y
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Y
Colleen Jones	General Land Office	Y
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	Y
Jonathan Walling	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	N

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates present: **8** (*minimum 7 required for quorum*)

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Ryan Ard, LNVA	Jason Afinowicz, Freese & Nichols
Reem Zhoun, TWDB	Michael Reedy, Freese & Nichols
James Bronikowski, TWDB	Tim Buscha, Region 6. Sabine Liason
Morgan White, TWDB	

**Attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the ZOOM meeting.

Meeting materials available for the public at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

1. Call to Order

Dr. Joe Majdalani called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance and a quorum was established after a momentary delay in various voting members joining the meeting via Zoom.

2. Approve minutes of the January 27, 2021 and February 09, 2021 Consultant Selection Review Committee meeting and the February 11, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting

Dr. Joe Majdalani solicited any corrections, additions or revisions to the minutes as presented in the meeting packet. Dr. Liv Haselbach noted a misspelling of her surname under Item 7 in the minutes of the February 11, 2021 RFPG meeting. No other modifications were requested.

Upon a motion by Liv Haselbach, seconded by Ellen Buchanan, and followed by the unanimous vote of all members present, the minutes of the January 27, 2021 and February 09, 2021 Consultant Selection Review Committee meeting and the February 11, 2021 Region 5 Neches RFPG Meeting were approved.

3. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Richard Bagans, TWDB, provided an update on the status of activities ongoing at TWDB as it relates to regional flood planning. Mr. Bagans advised the grant contracts are expected to be offered to the regional sponsors by March 31, 2021.

Mr. Bagans inquired on the status of the regional website. Scott Hall advised the Region 5. Neches website is currently available at <https://NechesFloodPlanning.org>.

Mr. Bagans advised TWDB is currently working on a set of guidance documents detailing the requirements of the regional flood plans following the thirty-nine (39) guidance principles stipulated by Chapter 362 of the Texas Administrative Code. The guidance documents are expected to be out for public comments in the near future.

4. Update on status of TWDB Sponsor contract and Technical Consultant contract

Mike Reedy, Freese & Nichols, introduced himself and Jason Afinowicz, also of Freese & Nichols, who then spoke to the current position of their firm with regard to representing the Region 5. Neches RFPG.

Scott Hall advised LNVA is awaiting offer of a grant contract from TWDB in order to be able to proceed with a contract between LNVA and Freese & Nichols on behalf of the Region 5. Neches RFPG.

5. Update on status on non-voting member solicitations

Ryan Ard, LNVA, advised LNVA issued a solicitation letter to the USACE and has drafted a form letter to be sent to TxDOT and Sabine Neches Navigation District for their consideration of appointment of a representative to the Region 5. Neches RFPG. Scott Hall advised an open solicitation for a Public Lands representative would be posted on the region's website as required. Any feedback received will be reported to the RFPG.

6. Discussion of visions and principles for the watershed

The Chair opened the floor for discussions regarding visions and principles for the watershed. Dr. Liv Haselbach recommended the group emphasize focus on the use of multi-purpose solutions and reliance on "best available data" in its study and recommendations. Various discussion ensued regarding examples of multi-use applications and several members offered input in support of Dr. Haselbach's recommendations.

7. Discussion on existing 39 guidance principles stipulated by Title 31, Part 10 TAC Ch. 362 and potentially editing the Scope of Work to ensure the technical consultant addresses natural and nature-based flood mitigation projects and strategies

Dr. Joe Majdalani opened the floor to discussion. Ellen Buchanan advised after her further review of the guiding principles, modifications to the existing 39 guiding principles provided by Title 31, Pat 10 TAC Ch. 362 did not appear to be necessary. Mr. Bagans then provided a brief overview of the 39 guidance principles.

8. Consider nominating and electing a liaison(s) to Region 6. San Jacinto

Dr. Liv Haselbach voiced willingness to serve as the liaison to Region 6. San Jacinto. Upon motion by Scott Hall, a second by Ellen Buchanan and the unanimous vote of all members present, Dr. Liv Haselbach was selected as the Region 5 liaison to Region 6. San Jacinto.

9. Report from Region 3. Trinity and Region 4. Sabine liaisons

Ellen Buchanan, liaison to Region 3. Trinity, advised Region 3's meeting was cancelled due to the recent freezing weather and no update was available. John Beard Jr. was not in attendance to provide an update regarding Region 4. Sabine.

10. Confirmation of next scheduled meeting(s)

The next regularly scheduled meeting of April 8, 2021 was confirmed.

11. Consider possible agenda items for next meeting

The recommendation was made to give an update on the technical contract with the consultant if we had a signed contract from Texas Water Development Board.

12. Public Comment

Dr. Joe Majdalani opened the floor for public comment. Being no public in attendance the item was closed.


13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM by Dr. Joe Majdalani.

Approved by the Region 5 Neches RFPG at a meeting held on April 8, 2021 at 1:00 PM at a location to duly posted.



Scott Hall, SECRETARY



Jeff Branick, CHAIR