

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
June 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: <https://bit.ly/419TiKc>

Harris-Galveston Subsidence District: 1660 West Bay Area Blvd., Friendswood, TX 77546

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> <u>(Executive Committee role)</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Timothy E. Buscha	Industries (Chair)	X (In-Person)
Alia Vinson	Water Districts (Vice Chair)	X (In-Person)
Erwin Burden	Counties (Secretary)	X
Gene Fisseler	Public (At-Large member)	X (In-Person)
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	X (In-Person)
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	*Mary Anne Piacentini
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X (In-Person)
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	X
Vacant	Environmental Interests	
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	X (In-Person)
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	X
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	*Bob Kosar
Christina Quintero	Public	X
Neil Gaynor	Upper Watershed	X (In-Person)

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Hope Zubek	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Santiago Franco	Texas General Land Office	X
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	X
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	*Steven Johnston
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	
Sally Bakko	Gulf Coast Protection District	X (In-Person)
Lisa Mairs	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	X

<u>Liaisons from RFPG</u>	<u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Todd Burrer	Trinity Region RFPG	X
Stephen Costello	Neches Region RFPG	
Michael Turco	Lower Brazos RFPG	X

<u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Mark Vogler	Lower Brazos RFPG	X
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	

<u>Technical Consultant Team Members</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Cory Stull	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X (In-Person)
Maggie Puckett	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X (In-Person)
Brian Edmondson	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X (In-Person)
Andrew Moore	Half, Associates	X (In-Person)
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	X
Rachel Herr	Half, Associates	X (In-Person)
Connor Stokes	Hollaway Environmental + Communications	

<u>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Fatima Berrios	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-Person)
Claudia Garcia	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-Person)

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 13

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 15: 8

Attendees:**

Remote:

Alan Black
Chase Kronzer
Dena Green
Ericka Reyes (FNI)

Gary Bezemek (HCFCD)
Hanadi Rifai
Jim Robertson
Joe Myers

Peggy Zahler
Susan Chadwick
Tony Pathyil

***Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information on the WebEx meeting registration.*

All meeting materials were available for the public at: [Meetings - San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning \(sanjacintofloodplanning.org\)](http://sanjacintofloodplanning.org)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Mr. Buscha called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Berrios took attendance and a quorum was determined to be present.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limit of 3 Minutes Per Person)

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for any registered comments. None were heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Ms. Ingram stated that the Texas Water Development Board did not have any updates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2023

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes and none were heard. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Fisseler seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and announced that the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Announcement of New Alternate Members and New Non-Voting Members

Mr. Buscha announced that there were no new member announcements.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s) Progress and Status and other Related Entities:

- a. **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer stated that the Trinity Region was amending their Regional Flood Plan and that the Chair of the Trinity Region would be presenting at the Waterboard Association Conference upcoming in the next two weeks.
- b. **Neches Region** – Mr. Costello was not available to provide an update.
- c. **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco stated there were no new updates.
- d. **Region H Water** – Mr. Wade was not available to provide an update.
- e. **Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)** – Ms. Bakko stated that HB 2416 was passed by the State Legislature which creates Gulf Coast Protection trust fund. The Legislature included \$550 million for the GCPD through the GLO, providing hope to leverage essential federal dollars needed. GCPD would enter into a project partnership agreement once the federal funding is available. Ms. Bakko continued to update that \$625 Million allocated to the Flood Infrastructure Fund would benefit projects identified in the State Flood Plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: First Planning Cycle Committee Meeting Minutes Closeout – Update and discussion regarding finalizing previous Committee Meeting Minutes, for record

Mr. Buscha provided an update stating there was no requirement to close-out the previous Committee Meeting minutes. There will be an opportunity during the second planning cycle to reconcile meeting minutes. Discussion ensued. No action was taken.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Voting Member Terms for the Second Planning Cycle – Drawing for 2-yr/5-yr terms to be held

Mr. Buscha explained the approach for drawing voting member terms. Terms were drawn as indicated in the table below. Mr. Burden made the motion to approve the drawn lots and Ms. Pothier seconded. After a vote was taken, Mr. Buscha announced that the motion passed.

2-year Term	5-year Term
Counties	Electric Generating Utilities
Public #1	Public #2
Coastal Communities	River Authorities
Municipalities	Upper Watershed
Industries	Environmental Interests
Small Business	Water Districts
Flood Districts	Water Utilities
Agricultural Interests	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update, discussion, and possible action on the solicitation process for the Environmental Interest Voting Member Representative Vacancy

Mr. Buscha yielded the floor to Ms. Vinson, the presiding officer of the Executive Committee meeting held on June 7, 2023. Ms. Vinson announced that the Executive Committee met and interviewed two candidates for the Environmental Interest voting category. Ms. Vinson announced that the Executive Committee unanimously voted to recommend Dr. Hanadi Rifai for the Environmental Interest voting member category. Ms. Vinson briefly introduced Dr. Rifai and gave an overview of her qualifications. Discussion ensued. Mr. Fisseler motioned to approve Dr. Rifai as the Environmental Interest voting member and Mr. Burden seconded. Mr. Buscha took a vote and announced that the motion passed. Dr. Rifai accepted the nomination and thanked the group.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Presentation and Update from the Technical Consultant on the development of the Regional Flood Plan; discussion, and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to:

a. Adoption of the Amended Regional Flood Plan due to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on July 14, 2023 and authorization to submit the plan and required materials to the TWDB contingent upon incorporation of any necessary, non-substantive comments or changes

Mr. Stull provided an update on the progress of amending the Regional Flood Plan. Ms. Puckett provided an outline of the Technical Consultant’s update. Ms. Puckett stated financing surveys were sent out to sponsors since the RFPG’s last meeting in April, to identify the funding gaps between sponsors and state/federal sources as of May 19, 2023. Ms. Puckett stated additional FMX submittals have been documented as public comments to earmark them for the second cycle, due to not being able to incorporate them into the amended Plan because they were submitted past the deadline.

Ms. Puckett gave a brief overview of the submittal process for the amended Regional Flood Plan, due to the Texas Water Development Board on July 14, 2023. She gave an overview of the meeting materials distributed to RFPG members for review, which were included in the amended Regional Flood Plan. Ms. Puckett also noted the timeline of how materials were distributed for review and what the changes consisted of. Ms. Puckett discussed inclusion of non-substantive changes outstanding to the amended Regional Flood Plan. Ms. Puckett opened the floor for adoption of the Plan. Discussion ensued. Mr. Fisseler made a motion to adopt the amended Plan and Mr. Gaynor seconded. After a vote was taken, Mr. Buscha announced the motion passed to adopt the amended Regional Flood Plan.

Ms. Puckett announced that the story map on the website would be updated along with the e-reader to reflect the amended Regional Flood Plan. Ms. Puckett gave an overview of upcoming milestones for the RFPG.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Presentation and Update from the Technical Consultant on the ongoing outreach activities; discussion and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to ongoing efforts.
Mr. Stull announced that current outreach would continue. The bulk of the update was covered during the previous agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Approval and Certification of Administrative Expenses Incurred by The Project Sponsor for The Development of Regional Flood Plan
Mr. Buscha stated he certified the Administrative Expenses presented by the Project Sponsor. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the administrative expenses and Ms. Petersen seconded. After taking a vote, Mr. Buscha announced the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Presentation of 2023 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:
a. **Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones**
b. **Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held on August 10, 2023**

Mr. Buscha reviewed the upcoming timeline and milestones. Mr. Buscha announced that he would write a letter to Judge Hidalgo recommending that Harris County continue to serve as Project Sponsor. He opened the floor to objections and/or comments and none were heard. Mr. Buscha gave an overview of the timeline for the State Flood Plan adoption in September 2024, and related future amendments. Mr. Buscha announced that the RFPG will meet in August, then October and December.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Update and Discussion Pertaining to In-Person RFPG Meeting Location(s)
Mr. Buscha announced that the RFPG will meet at the Houston-Galveston Subsidence District in August. Mr. Buscha previously announced that the United Way would be available to meet at starting in October.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting
Mr. Buscha identified the following items for the next agenda:

- Project Sponsor vote in August
- Project Sponsor Administrative Expenses

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person
Mr. Buscha opened the floor to any public comments. None were heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Adjournment
Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



Erwin Burden, Secretary



Tim Buscha, Chair