

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
July 8, 2021
9:00 AM
CISCO WebEx Virtual Meeting

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> <u>(Executive Committee role)</u>	<u>Present (x) /Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Vacant	<i>Flood Districts</i>	X (Matthew Zeve*)
Alia Vinson	<i>Water Districts (Interim Chair)</i>	X
Alisa Max	<i>Counties (Secretary)</i>	X (John Blount*)
Gene Fisseler	<i>Public (At-Large member)</i>	X
Matthew Barrett	<i>River Authorities (At-Large member)</i>	X
Elisa Macia Donovan	<i>Agricultural Interests</i>	X
Jenna Armstrong	<i>Small Business</i>	X
Paul E. Lock	<i>Electric Generating Utilities</i>	X
Rachel Powers	<i>Environmental Interests</i>	X
Stephen Costello	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Timothy E. Buscha	<i>Industries</i>	X
Todd Burrer	<i>Water Utilities</i>	X
Brian Maxwell	<i>Coastal Communities</i>	X
Christina Quintero	<i>Public</i>	X
Neil Gaynor	<i>Upper Watershed</i>	X

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent() / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Bill Adams	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Colleen Jones	Texas General Land Office	X (Brooke Bacuetes*)
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	X
Kelly Mills	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Jeff Taebl	Houston-Galveston Area Council	X (Justin Bower*)
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	X (Trae Camble*)
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X (Jake Hollingsworth*)

<u>Liaisons from RFPG</u>	<u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Todd Burrer	Trinity Region RFPG	X
Timothy Buscha	Neches Region RFPG	X
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 (Brian Fambrough*)
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X (Jake Hollingsworth*)

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 15

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

Clarissa Perez
Cory Stull
David Abraham
Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs
Fatima Berrios
Hayes McKibben
J. Smith
James Bronikowski
Jill Boullion
John Graziano
Joshua Goldberger
Kena Ware
Laura Atlas
Laura Norton

Lisa Mairs
Liv Haselbach
Margaret Puckett
Mary Anne Piacentini
Matt Lopez
Michael Keck
Morgan White
Reem Zoun
Reid Mrsny
Robert Kosar
Sally Bakko
Stephanie Zertuche
Susan Chadwick
Usman Mahmood

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

All meeting materials were available for the public at:

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Ms. Vinson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Berrios, on behalf of Ms. Max, took attendance and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items (limit of 3 minutes per person)

Ms. Berrios informed Ms. Vinson a late request was submitted by Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs. Ms. Vinson welcomed the public comment.

- Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, The Woodlands Township – Agenda Item 9 – Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs thanked the San Jacinto RFPG for adding the Upper Watershed voting member position, and expressed her support for Dr. Neil Gaynor as the representative.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Announcement of changes to the SJRFPG Membership Representation and update on solicitation to fill vacancy

Ms. Vinson informed the San Jacinto RFPG that the previous Chairman, Mr. Poppe resigned effective July 2, 2021. She expressed her gratitude for his service and leadership to the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group. Ms. Vinson then stated that the SJRFPG would consider appointing a new Chair at the August meeting. Ms. Vinson then asked Ms. Berrios to provide an update on the solicitation process for the Flood Districts vacancy created by Mr. Poppe's resignation.

Ms. Berrios stated the solicitation notice had been distributed to all SJRFPG members, and county clerks within the San Jacinto Region. She then added that the Texas Water Development Board had distributed the notice to all original applicants, and stated the deadline to submit applications is August 6, 2021. Lastly, she mentioned one application had already been received.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Texas Water Development Board Update

Ms. Ingram stated that the Texas Legislature had appropriated an additional \$10 million for distribution among the 15 Regional Flood Planning Groups, which could become available as soon as September 1, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Approval of minutes – June 10, 2021

Mr. Fisseler moved to approve the minutes as revised. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and possible action on potential changes to adopted bylaws

Ms. Vinson, after explaining that 30 days was not enough time to accomplish officer appointments, in the instance of a vacancy, suggested the Bylaws be revised to allow 90 days for such appointments. She explained this would help long term as meetings transitioned to in-person. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Costello moved to revise Article VIII Section 4 of the Bylaws to allow the San Jacinto RFPG to fill officer vacancies within ninety (90) days. Ms. Donovan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Announcement of new Alternate Members and new Non-Voting Members

Ms. Vinson asked Mr. Maxwell if he would like to announce his alternate. Mr. Maxwell accepted and stated his alternate would be Bob Kosar.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Recommendation from Executive Committee to the Regional Flood Planning Group Members for the Environmental Interests and Upper Watershed voting positions, and appointment of new voting members. *The SJRFPG may go into an executive session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code for the consideration of personnel matters, specifically, persons being considered for appointment as new voting members of SJRFPG.*

Ms. Vinson provided a brief summary of the solicitation process for the Environmental Interests voting member position and the Upper Watershed voting member position. Ms. Vinson stated 13 total applications were received, and expressed how hard it had been to make the recommendation since all applicants were qualified. Ms. Vinson stated that the Executive Committee recommended Rachel Powers as the new Environmental Interests voting member and Dr. Neil Gaynor as the Upper Watershed voting member. Mr. Barrett and Mr. Fisseler both expressed their agreement.

Mr. Fisseler moved to make Rachel Powers the new Environmental Interests voting member and Dr. Neil Gaynor the Upper Watershed voting member. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Vinson then opened the floor and allowed Ms. Powers and Dr. Gaynor to introduce themselves. Both Ms. Powers and Dr. Gaynor expressed their excitement to begin working with the SJRFPG and stated their gratitude for the opportunity.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Liaison reports pertaining to other region(s) progress and status:

- a. **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer stated the Trinity Region had launched their website.
- b. **Neches Region** – Mr. Buscha stated there was a meeting on June 17, 2021. He stated the Neches Region had developed their survey, which is consistent with the Region 6 – San Jacinto RFPG’s survey. He also stated the Neches Region would be adding an additional non-voting member for Public Lands and would be meeting next month.
- c. **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco stated there was not much of an update, and stated the Lower Brazos Region was progressing along just like Region 6 – San Jacinto RFPG.
- d. **Region H Water** – Mr. Hollingsworth stated Region H had selected Freese and Nichols Inc (FNI) to continue working into the next planning cycle.

Ms. Vinson informed the attendees that she was deferring agenda item 11 to after agenda item 13, to allow the Technical Consultant to present its updates before the Technical Committee presented its recommendations to the SJRFPG. The meeting then continued to agenda item 12.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update, discussion, and possible recommendations pertaining to the expansion of the Technical Committee with all SJRFPG members as non-voting members

Ms. Vinson stated that the Harris County Attorney’s Office advised it was possible to allow SJRFPG members to become non-voting members at the Technical Committee; however, the meeting would need to be noticed as a Technical Committee/San Jacinto RFPG meeting. Ms. Vinson stated this could become confusing and recommended that the Technical Committee be handled in same manner as the Executive Committee. Ms. Vinson stated that SJRFPG members who are not members of the Technical Committee could attend but could not participate. She then added that the Technical Committee would make recommendations and was not allowed to take action without whole SJRFPG’s approval. Ms. Vinson

mentioned that Freese and Nichols Inc (FNI) will accept any inquiries from the SJRFPG members if they have concerns or questions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Discussion and possible action concerning the development of a Public Engagement Committee to support the Technical Consultant, Freese and Nichols Inc.

Ms. Vinson stated the Public Engagement Committee required a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary upon establishment. Ms. Vinson stated there are many opportunities to volunteer, and encouraged all interested members to volunteer to serve on this committee. Ms. Quintero, Ms. Powers, Mr. Lock and Mr. Burrer all volunteered to participate.

Mr. Fisseler moved to establish the Public Engagement Committee with Ms. Quintero, Ms. Powers, Mr. Lock and Mr. Burrer as members. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Vinson stated the fifth member would be sought in the next SJRFPG meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update and discussion from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant

Mr. Stull began with an overview of upcoming tasks as they relate to the development of the Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Stull mentioned that FNI is coordinating with the GLO to avoid duplicating efforts. Mr. Stull stated that FNI is coordinating with the Project Sponsor to provide input to the TWDB on the allocation of additional funds.

Mr. Stull stated FNI had developed a survey to gather stakeholder and public input. Mr. Stull said the survey would be launched with the website, and added the survey was targeted to the type of participant. Mr. Stull stated that he was primarily focused on Task 2A- existing flood risks analysis and mentioned the TWBD Floodplain Quilt – a data hub. Mr. Stull then presented the interactive web map that will be available on the website. Mr. Stull mentioned that FNI would be using a data hierarchy to determine the best available data, adding that some areas of the Region were not GIS data rich. Mr. Stull mentioned FNI would supplement the Floodplain Quilt with public input.

Mr. Stull stated that FNI was intending to hold the next Public Outreach meeting in late August and would be discussing the meeting with the Public Engagement Committee. Lastly, he mentioned the next tasks FNI would be focusing on were Tasks 3A and 3B – Floodplain Management Practices and Floodplain Management Goals. Mr. Stull then asked Mr. Stokes to provide an update from the Communications Subconsultant progress.

Mr. Stokes stated that both the website and Communications Plan had been completed, and were currently with FNI for review. Mr. Stokes then gave an overview of the website stating they had the capabilities to translate the site to different languages, but at an additional cost. Mr. Stokes mentioned he would look into further accessibility including an audible version for the vision impaired. Mr. Stokes stated with the Communications Plan, the intent was to designate a spokesperson(s) and provide those individual(s) direction on how to respond to media requests. Mr. Stull then opened the floor for questions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Update, recommendations, and possible action from the Technical Committee related to:

a. Data Collection and Existing Flood Risk Analysis

Ms. Vinson asked Ms. Donovan to provide an updates from the Technical Committee meeting. Ms. Donovan stated that the Technical Committee had met to discuss several topics as mentioned by Mr. Stull

in agenda item 11. Ms. Donovan added that the Technical Committee will be revisiting the Technical Guidelines to define minimum standards and to address public concerns.

Ms. Donovan stated the Technical Committee recommended to allow FNI to proceed with survey content and continue targeted outreach until the Public Engagement Committee is established. Mr. Fisseler and Ms. Powers both commented on the survey questions. Ms. Vinson then suggested that all members that had comments on the survey should provide them to FNI for consideration. Mr. Stull then asked that all comments be provided by July 15, 2021. Mr. Fisseler moved to approve the survey content after comments are received by July 15, 2021. Ms. Powers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Donovan also stated that the Technical Committee recommended to allow FNI to use the data hierarchy in the determination of the “best available data.” Mr. Fisseler moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Buscha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Lastly, Ms. Donovan stated the Technical Committee recommended to allow FNI to hold the next Public Outreach meeting in August. Mr. Fisseler moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Blount seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion and possible recommendations pertaining to future public input meeting as required by Texas Water Code §16.062(d) and 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(a)(4).

Ms. Vinson stated a recommendation was made by the Project Sponsor to hold the public input meeting by the end of August. Ms. Vinson added that the Governor’s suspension of certain Texas Open Meetings Act provisions will expire September 1, 2021, and having the meeting in August would allow the Project Sponsor to hold the meeting virtually.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Presentation of 2021 Planning Group key dates and deadlines:

- a. Upcoming planning schedule milestones**
- b. Next SJRFPG planning meeting to be held on August 12, 2021**

Ms. Vinson mentioned that there would be upcoming meetings of the Technical Committee, the Public Engagement Committee, and the Executive Committee meetings, with dates to be determined. She then stated that all meetings prior to September 1, 2021 would be held virtually.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Update and discussion pertaining to the logistics of in-person RFPG meetings

Ms. Vinson stated that for the September SJRFPG meeting, members of the San Jacinto RFPG should be prepared to meet in-person at the Timber Lane Utility District Community Center. Ms. Vinson informed the SJRFPG that other options were being explored, including the Harris-Galveston Area Council building.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Reminder regarding Planning Group member training on Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act

Ms. Vinson provided a reminder that all members are required to complete these trainings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: Consider agenda items for next meeting

- Appointment of new Chair
- Item to address committee membership; add fifth member to the Public Engagement Committee and allow substitutions to existing committees depending on who is appointed Chair
- Public Engagement Committee Update
- Technical Committee Update
- Presentation from GLO – River Basin Study

- Discussion on upcoming Public Outreach meeting

AGENDA ITEM No. 20: Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

No comments were given

AGENDA ITEM No. 21: Adjourn

Ms. Vinson adjourned the meeting at 10:47 am.



Alisa Max, Secretary



Alia Vinson, Interim Chair