

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
June 10, 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>
Russ A. Poppe	<i>Flood Districts (Chair)</i>	X
Alia Vinson	<i>Water Districts (Vice Chair)</i>	X
Alisa Max	<i>Counties (Chair)</i>	X
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
Sarah P. Bernhardt	<i>Environmental Interests</i>	X (Jill Boullion*)
Stephen Costello	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Timothy E. Buscha	<i>Industries</i>	X
Todd Burrer	<i>Water Utilities</i>	
Brian Maxwell	<i>Coastal Communities</i>	X
Christina Quintero	<i>Public</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 Taebel	Houston-Galveston Area Council	X
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	X
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X (Jake Hollingsworth*)

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

<u>Liaisons From RFPG</u>	<u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Mark Vogler	Lower Brazos RFPG	X (Jeffrey Janecek*)
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: 11

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

Aaron Stuart
Ace Vergara
Alfred Garcia
Andy Palermo
Brian Fambrough
Cory Stull
David Mass
Despina Matzakos
Dylan James
Fatima Berrios
Georgia Nevin
Glenna Sloan
Hayes McKibben
Jacob Ramirez
Jacqueline Jasso
James Bronikowski
Jennifer Mays
Jeremiah Bailey

John Hoang
Justin Bower
Kena Ware
Lily Gastineau
Liv Haselbach
Maggie Puckett
Matt Lopez
Michael Keck
Mohamed Bagha
Morgan White
Reem Zoun
Robert Kosar
Sally Bakko
Stephanie Zertuche
Todd Stephens
Usman Mahmood
Victor Guevara
Unknown: 5

**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

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Max took attendance and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Announcement of new voting members and self-introductions

- a. **Christina Quintero representing the Public**
- b. **Brian Maxwell representing Coastal Communities**

Ms. Quintero introduced herself and expressed that she was very excited to begin working on flood mitigation efforts with the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group since she had experienced flood devastation personally.

Mr. Maxwell, City Manager of the City of Galveston, introduced himself and expressed the importance of flood mitigation efforts, and the challenges that coastal communities face.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Update

Ms. Ingram introduced herself and reported that the TWDB Flood Planning Technical Guidelines had been finalized and posted on the TWDB website. She also stated that a webinar was held to discuss these guidelines. She indicated there was a policy update to sub-subconsultant contracts, and the floodplain quilt templates had been posted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items (limit of 3 minutes per person)

Ms. Max stated there were no registered speakers or written comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Approval of minutes

- a. **April 15, 2021**
- b. **May 13, 2021**

Mr. Costello moved to approve the April meeting minutes as revised. Ms. Vinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Vinson moved to approve the May meeting minutes as revised. Ms. Max seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. Costello abstained from the motion since he was not present during the May meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Announcement of new Alternate Members and new Non-Voting Members

Ms. Max stated that there were no new alternate members or non-voting members. Mr. Poppe announced any members that still had not designated an alternate should do so.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from Executive Committee, discussion, and possible recommendations to the Regional Flood Planning Group Members for the Environmental Interests and Upper Watershed voting positions. 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.

Mr. Poppe stated that the Executive Committee shortlisted 5 applicants that will be interviewed by the Executive Committee in June 2021. Mr. Poppe stated that the Executive Committee would make its formal recommendations to the SJRFPG at the July 8, 2021 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Liaison reports pertaining to other region(s) progress and status:

- a. **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer was not present to provide an update.
- b. **Neches Region** – Mr. Buscha stated that the Neches Region met May 13, 2021 and stated the Regional Flood Planning Group had a brief presentation from the US Army Corps of Engineers related to water control facilities. Their technical consultant, the Freese and Nichols Inc. and Halff Associates team, set up their website.
- c. **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco stated that the Lower Brazos Region met May 13, 2021 and held their Pre-planning Public meeting on June 2, 2021. He also stated their website was live and can be accessed at: [Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group > Home \(lowerbrazosflood.org\)](https://lowerbrazosflood.org).
- d. **Region H Water** – Mr. Hollingsworth, on behalf of Mr. Wade, stated that there were no new updates From Region H Water and stated they had a meeting planned next month.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update and discussion from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant related to:

- a. **Development of the Regional Flood Plan**
Mr. Cory Stull stated the Freese and Nichols Inc. Technical Consultant team made significant progress. He stated that the Pre-planning Public meeting was very successful and significant progress was made on many fronts including data collection efforts, communications efforts, and efforts to develop a technical plan. Mr. Stull summarized that a survey was developed to gather both stakeholder and public input information, and had developed an interactive web-map. Mr. Stull also reported that his team is coordinating with Harris County, TWDB and the General Land Office (GLO), and that Freese and Nichols Inc reviewed the data provided in the Floodplain Quilt developed by the TWDB. He then informed the SJRFPG that the Floodplain Quilt would be supplemented as new data becomes available.
- b. **Development of a Region 6 website**
Mr. Stull stated a framework was developed for the website and indicated the website would help facilitate gathering public input. Mr. Stull then turned the discussion over to Mr. Connor Stokes with Holloway Environmental, the communications subconsultant. Mr. Stokes stated the SJRFPG website would be a stand-alone website, which would contain several tools to gather public input such as the survey and interactive web-map. He stated that documentation from previous meetings would be made available on the website. Mr. Stokes addressed the possibility of adding additional content pending the Regional Flood Planning Group's approval.

Mr. Fisseler suggested to Mr. Stokes the website should maintain consistency in regard to the name of the Regional Flood Planning Group and suggested the use of "San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group". Ms. Vinson then asked if the website would be made available in Spanish and Mr. Stokes stated her comment would be taken into consideration.

c. Progress on developing a community outreach plan including social media outreach.

Mr. Stokes stated that the communications plan and community outreach plan are currently in progress, and stated that they would define clear roles and responsibilities for each group member. He stated the goal of the communications plan was to identify and implement key communication tools that would support the development of the Regional Flood Plan.

d. Development of media engagement guidance

Mr. Stokes explained the plan was to assign a spokesperson(s) that would be responsible for media inquiry requests.

e. Public input and subsequent public meetings

Mr. Stull stated that the Technical Committee would be meeting to address task 2A - Existing and Future Flood Risks Analysis. He stated this would include discussing floodplain management practices and additional floodplain legislation as required by the Texas Administrative Code. He then stated that, in the future, the Technical Committee would be discussing floodplain management evaluations (FMEs), floodplain management projects (FMPs), and floodplain management strategies (FMSs). Lastly, Mr. Stull mentioned that the Regional Flood Planning Group would have the opportunity to recommend best floodplain management practices and minimum standards if desired; however, this was not mandatory for the first planning cycle. He then opened the floor for questions from the Regional Flood Planning Group.

Ms. Boullion asked a question about the definition of a stakeholder versus a member of the public. Mr. Stull stated that a stakeholder would be anyone such as a flood plain administrator, municipality, city, special purpose district or an elected/appointed official. Ms. Max then added that it may be easier to classify the groups as government or regulatory staff, local partners such as non-profits and/or environmental interest groups, and members of the public.

Ms. Quintero expressed concern as to how the data will be captured through surveys, filtered, and prioritized. She suggested potentially color coding the data on the map. Mr. Stull answered that as information is received, the Technical Consultant would be reviewing and logging all concerns to develop priorities, but ultimately stated that this would be an ongoing discussion.

Mr. Poppe stated his gratitude for the interactive map-based survey approach and supported hybrid meetings to help generate public input. Mr. Maxwell and Ms. Costello concurred.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update and follow-up discussion regarding the May 18, 2021, Pre-Planning meeting

Mr. Poppe provided some statistics from the meeting, stating it had lasted approximately 45 minutes, had 84 attendees (not including 11 voting members of the Regional Flood Planning Group). He also stated that the meeting provided Spanish translation and expressed the importance of language accessibility.

Ms. Boullion stated she was happy with the turnout and asked if there was a transcript for the meeting. Mr. Stull stated the Technical Consultant team had that information available and could distribute it.

Ms. Vinson thanked everyone for all their efforts. Mr. Fisseler also expressed his gratitude.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update and discussion pertaining to the logistics of in-person RFPG meetings

Mr. Poppe turned over the discussion to Matt Lopez, a member of the Harris County Flood Control District Team, to provide an update for a potential in-person meeting site.

Mr. Lopez stated he had his geographic information system (GIS) team identify the most central location within the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Regional. He stated Timber Lane Utility District had a community center, less than a mile from the most central location, located at 1904 NapleCHASE Crest Drive, Spring, Texas. He stated that the community center had recently been built and is equipped with all the amenities and technology to conduct the SJRFPG meetings. Discussion ensued as Regional Flood Planning Group members asked questions about the location and building capabilities.

Mr. Fisseler then asked about the accessibility via metro or public transportation. Mr. Lopez stated he had not looked into that criteria, but was primarily focused on centrality.

Mr. Maxwell stated the importance of accessibility for the public and stated the proposed meeting location was ideal for planning meetings; however, he suggested the potential of different meeting locations for future public outreach meetings. Mr. Poppe and Ms. Vinson agreed.

Ms. Vinson said she supported keeping the start time for meetings at 9:00 a.m., although the commute would be pretty lengthy for some members of the Regional Flood Planning Group. Discussion ensued over public transportation accessibility.

Ms. Vinson discussed the Texas Open Meetings Act requirements related to videoconferences. She stated she supported a hybrid approach if possible, since it encouraged attendance. Mr. Maxwell, Ms. Max, and Mr. Kelly Mills agreed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Update, recommendations, and possible action from the Technical Committee related to:

- a. Announcement of officers and known upcoming meeting dates**
- b. Current membership and anticipated workload**
- c. Activities taken since last meeting**

Ms. Donovan stated that the Technical Committee met June 3, 2021 – to appoint officers, define the scope of the committee, and to discuss several items related to development of the Regional Flood Plan. She stated she had been selected as Chair, Mr. Buscha as Vice Chair, and Ms. Max as the Secretary. She stated she would like an additional member so the Technical Committee would maintain accordance with the Open Meetings Act if two members wanted to coordinate on meeting agenda items, for example. Ms. Donovan reported several recommendations to the Regional Flood Planning Group including: proposing to have a standing Regional Flood Planning Group agenda item to receive a briefing from the Technical Committee every month; creating a Public Engagement Committee to work with the technical consulting team to support public engagement activities; proposing not to create any other technical committees at this time due to the timeframe of the first planning cycle; and proposing that all Regional Flood Planning Group members automatically be considered as non-voting members of the Technical Committee. Ms. Donovan then mentioned upcoming Technical Committee meetings.

Ms. Ingram then stated that Harris County staff should refer to its legal team to determine quorum issues and Ms. Max stated she would discuss with the Harris County attorney. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Poppe then opened the floor for volunteers to join the Technical Committee. Mr. Costello expressed his interest in becoming the additional member of the Technical Committee. Ms. Vinson then moved to add Mr. Costello as a voting member to the Technical Committee. Mr. Buscha seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Presentation of 2021 Planning Group key dates and deadlines

a. Upcoming planning schedule milestones

Ms. Max stated that the sponsor was on schedule.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion and possible action to reschedule the July 8, 2021 SJRFPG meeting due to the July 4th holiday

Mr. Poppe asked whether the July meeting should be rescheduled to accommodate potential absences due to the July 4 national holiday. Ms. Vinson suggested that the meeting should remain on July 8 date. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Poppe stated the meeting would remain on the scheduled date.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Reminder regarding Planning Group member training on Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act

Mr. Poppe stated that these are required trainings for voting and nonvoting members, and their alternates.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Consider agenda items for next meeting

- Discussion and update regarding the expansion of the Technical Committee to all Regional Flood Planning Group members as non-voting members
- Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of the Public Engagement Committee
- Technical Committee update
- Update and possible action to appoint new voting members for the Upper Watershed and Environmental Interests positions
- In-person meeting location update and discussion

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

No comments were given.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: Meeting adjourned

Mr. Poppe adjourned the meeting at 10:50 am.



Alisa Max, Secretary



Alia Vinson, Interim Chair