

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group**  
**October 14, 2021**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Roll Call:**

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> <u>(Executive Committee role)</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Timothy E. Buscha	<i>Industries (Chair)</i>	X
Alia Vinson	<i>Water Districts (Vice Chair)</i>	X
Alisa Max	<i>Counties (Secretary)</i>	X
Gene Fisseler	<i>Public (At-Large member)</i>	Mike Turco*
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>	
Marcus Stuckett	<i>Flood Districts</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>
Hope Zubek	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	
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
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Jeff Taebl	Houston-Galveston Area Council	X
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	X Alred Garcia
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
	Gulf Coast Protection District	

<u>Liaisons from RFPG</u>	<u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent( )/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	
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 14

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

Andy Palermo  
 Ashley Thomas  
 Bob Kosar  
 Brock Crenek  
 Connor Stokes  
 Cory Stull  
 Darren McDivitt  
 Fatima Berrios  
 Jason Becker  
 Kena Ware

Liv Haselbach  
 Maggie Puckett  
 Megan Ingram  
 Michael Keck  
 Peggy Zahler  
 Rachel Herr  
 Rebecca Andrews  
 Reid Mrsny  
 Sally Bakko  
 Susan Chadwick

\*\*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. Buscha called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call**

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. Sally Bakko, Director of Policy and Governmental Relations – City of Galveston – Ms. Bakko stated that she was speaking in the capacity as a member of the Gulf Coast Protection District. She stated the Gulf Coast Protection District will be the non-federal sponsor for the Gulf Coast Storm Surge Suppression Project, which was included in the Gulf Coast Study Chief Report that will be reviewed by the U.S. Congress. She then expressed the importance of partnering with the SJRFGP and proceeded to request that the SJRFGP designate the Gulf Coast Protection District as a nonvoting member.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update**

Ms. Ingram stated TWDB has started drafting the contract amendments for additional funding. She stated she anticipates the contract amendments to be sent out to the regional flood planning groups late October or November.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of minutes September 9, 2021**

Mr. Barrett and Ms. Powers both stated minor comments to the meeting minutes. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the minutes as revised. Ms. Max seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

- Ms. Max stated her new alternate would be Mr. Brock Crenak since her former manager John Blount had retired.
- Mr. Barrett stated he has designated Briana Gallagher as his alternate.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Nomination, discussion, and possible action to add a fifth member to the Public Engagement Committee**

Mr. Buscha requested volunteers to serve on the Public Engagement Committee. After receiving no response, he deferred the item to next month's meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discussion and possible action on Regional Flood Planning Group Membership, including the consideration of the addition of new non-voting members**

Ms. Max stated that it would benefit the SJRFGP to add both the Gulf Coast Protection District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as new non-voting members. Mr. Buscha stated adding both entities may increase public participation and networking opportunities, so he encouraged the addition. Ms. Vinson reminded everyone that a 2/3 vote was required for approval of the new non-voting members. Ms. Armstrong moved to add both entities as non-voting members. Ms. Vinson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

**a. Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer stated that there were no updates from the Trinity Region

**b. Neches Region** – Ms. Haselbach stated the Neches Region would be meeting later today to review their draft floodplain management goals.

**c. Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco stated he unfortunately could not attend the previous meeting and invited Mr. Wade to provide an update. Mr. Wade, also the Chair of the Lower Brazos Region, stated the region would be meeting on October 28, 2021, to identify its floodplain management goals.

**d. Region H Water** – Mr. Wade stated that on November 3, 2021, the Region H Water Planning Group would be meeting in person.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Presentation and updates from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant regarding schedule and development of the regional flood plan.**

Mr. Stull stated that he would be presenting the draft floodplain management goals and would go over the process of how to identify Flood Management Strategies (FMSs) and Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs). He then asked Ms. Puckett to present the current minimum criteria across the region. Ms. Puckett shared the minimum criteria and stated reviewing the minimum criteria would help the RFPG determine the floodplain management goals and facilitate implementation of those minimum criteria. Mr. Stull then provided the draft floodplain management goals and emphasized that the goals could be revised if needed during this first planning cycle or next planning cycle. Mr. Stull then presented each goal, one by one, and asked for member feedback. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Vinson asked if there were a possibility for SJRFPG members to submit feedback to the floodplain management goals, so it could be considered for inclusion in the Technical Memorandum, or if Mr. Stull was seeking SJRFPG approval of the proposed goals during today's meeting. Ms. Donovan stated the Technical Committee had discussed the goals extensively and had planned to have the goals approved today. Mr. Stull echoed Ms. Donovan and stated ideally, it would be best to approve the goals today, however he stated he could delay the approval until November. Ms. Ingram reminded everyone the goals were not finalized when submitted through the Technical Memorandum, and highlighted the possibility of revisions. Ms. Powers expressed her gratitude for the Technical Committee and acknowledged its hard work. Mr. Buscha then asked Mr. Stull to continue presenting the goals so the RFPG could move onto the next agenda item, which addressed the approval of the floodplain management goals.

Mr. Stull then asked Ms. Puckett to provide the technical consultant updates. Ms. Puckett stated that the technical consultant had begun working on Task 4B – *Identification and Evaluation of Potential FMEs & Potentially Feasible FMSs and FMPs*, and stated the technical consultant will be categorizing tasks by FMSs, FMPs, and FMEs. Ms. Puckett stated the technical consultant was working on the draft Technical Memorandum as well. She stated there was the potential of the Technical Committee meeting in late October if needed to address additional concerns pertaining to the floodplain management goals. She stated she anticipated to have the Technical Memorandum approved by the RFPG in December. Ms. Puckett also mentioned that the SJRFPG website had more survey responses and thanked the SJRFPG members who had sent emails for public participation. She then asked Mr. Stokes, from the Communications consultant to provide an update.

Mr. Stokes stated Hollaway Environmental, the communications consultant, had set up social media platform profiles – Twitter and Facebook. He stated they were developing a content calendar to provide meeting information or other content approved by the RFPG.

Mr. Buscha then called a 10-minute recess at 10:30 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update and recommendations from the Technical Committee and possible action from the RFPG as it relates to:**

**a. Floodplain Management Goals**

**b. Process for Identifying Potentially Feasible FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs**

Mr. Buscha called the meeting back to order at 10:41 am and asked Ms. Donovan to provide updates from the most recent Technical Committee meeting. Ms. Donovan stated Mr. Stull and Ms. Puckett had provided a good update on the discussion the Technical Committee had in its previous meeting. Ms. Donovan then stated that the Technical Committee had received several comments and recommendations from several entities on the floodplain management goals. Ms. Donovan opened the floor for Mr. Barrett, who provided his comments and concerns on the floodplain management goals.

Mr. Barrett stated his opinion that some of the goals may be too aggressive and be potentially unfeasible. He also asked if there were any negative consequences for failing to meet a goal, and upon confirmation that there were not, noted that the aggressive goals might not be an issue. Ms. Vinson then stated she was concerned with certain goals since project funding may depend on what is included in the Regional Flood Plan submitted to the TWDB. Both Ms. Vinson and Mr. Barrett stated their concerns with the goal with proposed 100% nature-based projects, noting it was difficult to incorporate nature-based features in 100% of projects.

Mr. Buscha stated since several members had concerns, he recommended to deferring the approval of the draft floodplain management goals for the meeting until November. He stated that all members should submit comments to Freese and Nichols Inc. by Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Mr. Buscha then asked Ms. Donovan and Mr. Stull to present how FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs would be identified. Ms. Donovan stated Freese and Nichols Inc. developed a flow chart to identify FME, FMS, and FMP and asked the RFPG to approve the identification process. Mr. Barrett asked if FMSs could be non-structural and Mr. Stull stated yes. Ms. Puckett stated that TWDB has included non-structural projects for FMSs and FMPs. Mr. Buscha and Ms. Ingram agreed and confirmed Ms. Puckett's comments. Ms. Powers moved to approve the identification process. Mr. Stuckett seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update and recommendations from the Executive Committee, and possible action from RFPG as it relates to the approval of administrative costs**

Mr. Buscha stated the Executive Committee met to discuss how the SJRFPG would handle payment reimbursements through the Project Sponsor for all voting members that incurred travel costs due to SJRFPG activity. Mr. Buscha stated article 13 of the Bylaws provided guidance on what expenses are eligible for reimbursement. He then stated that the Executive Committee would be reviewing a reimbursement policy for the SJRFPG's consideration.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Approval and certification of expenses incurred by the Project Sponsor for the development of Regional Flood Plan**

Mr. Buscha stated there was no action on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Discussion and potential action to authorize the Planning Group Sponsor to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB, to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget.**

Mr. Buscha stated that the SJRFPG received additional funds from the TWDB for the development of additional FMPs and FMEs. Mr. Buscha stated action on this item would be deferred until next month when the draft contract amendment is available.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion and potential action to authorize the Planning Group Sponsor to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Regional Flood Planning Grant subcontract with the**

technical consultant, Freese and Nichols, Inc., to incorporate additional funding for the first cycle of regional flood planning, including necessary revisions to the contract scope of work and budget.

Mr. Buscha deferred action on this item until next month until the draft contract amendment is received.

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

- a. Upcoming planning schedule milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG planning meeting was to be held on November 11, 2021 (later changed after the meeting was concluded to November 18, 2021 due to Veteran's Day).

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Update and discussion pertaining to the logistics of in-person RFPG meetings, and possible action regarding in-person meeting location**

Mr. Buscha stated there was no new guidance, so he stated the SJRFPG would continue to use a hybrid approach at the Inframark Facility.

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

Mr. Buscha reminded all members who have not completed their trainings to complete them and submit their certifications to the Project Sponsor.

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

- Standing Items
- Item for Administrative Costs
- Approval of Floodplain Management Goals

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

Ms. Berrios stated no public comment requests had been received.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 21: Adjourn**

Mr. Buscha adjourned the meeting at 11:41 am.



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Alisa Max, Secretary



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Timothy Buscha, Chair