

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

**Roll Call:**

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> (Executive Committee role)	<u>Present (x) / Absent ( ) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Marcus Stuckett	<i>Flood Districts</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>	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>	
Rachel Powers	<i>Environmental Interests</i>	X
Stephen Costello	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Timothy E. Buscha	<i>Industries (Chair)</i>	X
Todd Burrer	<i>Water Utilities</i>	X
Brian Maxwell	<i>Coastal Communities</i>	X * Bob Kosar
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	X
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Colleen Jones	Texas General Land Office	X
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	X
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Jeff Taebel	Houston-Galveston Area Council	X* Justin Bower
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	X* Alfred Garcia
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X
<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	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	
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  
Brooke Bacuetes  
Caroline McCabe  
Connor Stokes  
Cory Stull  
Danielle Goshen  
Diane Scoggins  
Fatima Berrios  
Glenna Sloan  
Hayes McKibben  
Jill Boullion  
Kena Ware  
Lisa Mairs  
Liv Haselbach  
Lowry Crook

Maggie Puckett  
Marlisa Briggs  
Mary Anne Piacentini  
Megan Ingram  
Michael Keck  
Peggy Zahler  
Rebecca Andrews  
Reid Mrsny  
Richard Bagans  
Rose Sobel  
Ryke Moore  
Sally Bakko  
Stephanie Zertuche  
Susan Chadwick  
Usman Mahmood  
Unknown: 7

\*\*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 9:00 am.

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

Ms. Max took roll call and a quorum was established.

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

Ms. Berrios stated there were no registered public comments.

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

Ms. Ingram stated TWDB will start contract amendments in late September 2021 after Texas Water Development Board approval. Ms. Ingram stated that a Chairs Conference will be held on September 15, 2021 and a Project Sponsor Conference will be held on September 24, 2021 – specifically to go over the payment request process.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2021**

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for any changes and revision suggestions to the meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett stated he had several minor editorial comments. Ms. Vinson asked if any of the comments were of substance, which Mr. Barrett confirmed they were not. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the meeting minutes as revised. Mr. Fisseler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Max stated that Mr. Fisseler had redesignated his alternate to be Mr. Turco.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Recommendation from the Executive Committee to the Regional Flood Planning Group Members for the representation of the Flood Districts voting membership position, and possible appointment. 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. Buscha stated that after going through the process to fill the Flood Districts representative, the Executive Committee recommends Mr. Marcus Stuckett as the Flood Districts representative. Ms. Vinson stated Mr. Stuckett is a great appointee based on his technical background and a great attitude. Ms. Vinson moved to approve Mr. Stuckett as the new Flood Districts voting-member representative. Mr. Fisseler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Nomination, discussion, and possible action pertaining to the composition of the Public Engagement Committee and Technical Committee**

Mr. Buscha stated that all SJRFPG committees should have a minimum of five members to avoid quorum issues, and stated the Public Engagement Committee still needed a fifth member. Ms. Vinson asked to defer the item until the new member, Mr. Stuckett was in attendance.

Mr. Fisseler noted that Mr. Stuckett had joined the meeting and asked Mr. Stuckett if he wanted to say a few words to introduce himself to the SJRFPG. Mr. Stuckett stated he was grateful for the opportunity and is looking forward to serving. Ms. Vinson then stated there are two committees with opportunities to serve, each having one vacancy – the Technical Committee and Public Engagement Committee. Mr. Stuckett volunteered to serve on the Technical Committee. Ms. Donovan moved to appoint Mr. Stuckett to the Technical Committee. Ms. Vinson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Buscha then opened the floor and asked if any member would be willing to volunteer to become the fifth member of the Public Engagement committee. Mr. Buscha added that participation on the Public Engagement committee was essential as it supported outreach and communications for the development of the Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Burrer stated that the current members were Ms. Quintero, Ms. Powers, Mr. Lock, and himself. Mr. Burrer stated the committee was not time consuming, however he projected the committee to become more involved moving forward. Ms. Vinson suggested to defer the agenda item to next month. Ms. Max stated that almost all voting members are already serving on a committee, and encouraged voting members who are not on a committee to volunteer.

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

- a) **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer stated that the Trinity Region is holding in-person meetings only, and added he had no updates.
- b) **Neches Region** – Mr. Buscha acknowledged Mr. Costello was not in attendance at this moment and asked Mr. Turco to provide his update.
- c) **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco stated the Lower Brazos Region had begun to hold their meeting in Hybrid mode. Mr. Turco added the Lower Brazos region will be meeting soon and would report next month.
- d) **Region H Water Planning Group** – Mr. Wade stated their next meeting would be Wednesday, November 3, 2021 and added it will be 100% in-person. Mr. Wade stated that during their next meeting the Group would be planning their pre-planning meeting for the next planning cycle.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Presentation and updates from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant**

**a. Floodplain Management Goals**

**b. SJRFPG member Mentimeter input**

Mr. Stull began his presentation by stating there would be an interactive feedback exercise using Mentimeter during his presentation. Mr. Stull stated the activity would help with the development of Floodplain Management Goals. Mr. Stull then provided an update stating the second Public Engagement meeting held on August 31, 2021 had been successful. Mr. Stull stated the SJRFPG website was receiving increased traffic after the public meeting. Mr. Stull stated the distribution email list had over 1100 people. He then stated Freese and Nichols Inc. (FNI) was working to drive more public participation to the website.

Mr. Stull stated that the Technical Committee had met last month and stated FNI received feedback and recommendations on the draft Floodplain Management Goals. He stated his goal was to identify what goals were most important to the SJRFPG as they developed the draft Floodplain Management Goals.

Mr. Stull asked how the SJRFPG would like FNI to develop the Floodplain Management Goals, emphasizing that goals were required to be SMART goals – specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. Mr. Stull provided some examples of the draft goals. Mr. Stull stated FNI had developed goal categories that would fit all subsequent goals the SJRFPG members had, but wanted to hear their feedback.

Mr. Stull then moved on to the Mentimeter activity. Mr. Stull presented a series of questions that were answered by all SJRFPG members. All questions asked pertained to what goals the SJRFPG members considered important and also focused on the major challenges faced by the San Jacinto region. Mr. Stull stated this feedback would be helpful for the Technical Committee as they developed the draft Floodplain Management Goals.

Mr. Barrett and Ms. Vinson stated that several of the goal options that were presented were interrelated. Mr. Stull stated that the SJRFPG should not have too many goals in the first planning cycle, and would need to select the most important to ensure all goals were “SMART”. Mr. Stull also emphasized that the drivers of these overarching goals would need to be defined as projects and be implementable.

Mr. Stull opened the floor for comments or question. Ms. Vinson stated that since the San Jacinto Region was so diverse, not all goals would be applicable across the region, and added there are significant amount of communities that live in unincorporated areas. Mr. Stull agreed and stated that the presented goals were not proposed, but were examples. Mr. Stull stated that the Floodplain Management Goals will be updated. Mr. Buscha then reminded all SJRFPG members that they needed to represent the entire region and not just the communities they lived in. Mr. Buscha emphasized that rural areas were very different.

Mr. Fisseler stated that the SJRFPG members and Technical Consultant should not make assumptions that the overarching goals would address specific subsequent goals. Mr. Stull stated that, although the goals are interrelated, there are goals they would need to focus on.

Mr. Buscha gave a 10-minute recess at 10:32 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update, recommendations, and possible action from the Technical Committee**

The meeting returned to open session at 10:42 a.m. Ms. Donovan stated that the Technical Committee would be meeting on September 29, 2021 to further discuss the development of the Floodplain Management Goals. Ms. Powers asked how members of the public would be able to make recommendations to the Floodplain Management Goals. Mr. Stull stated the survey on the SJRFPG website was a great way to make those recommendations, however this was a dynamic and evolving process. Mr. Stull stated proposed goals would be written in the Technical Memorandum but would not be finalized until the submittal of the final Regional Flood Plan. Ms. Donovan then encouraged all SJRFPG members that had specific concerns to send recommendation of goals to the Technical Consultant. Mr. Fisseler asked where the survey was located. Mr. Stull replied stating it was on the SJRFPG website. Mr. Barrett then asked if FNI would be drafting goals for the Technical Committee meeting, and Mr. Stull replied yes.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Evaluation and discussion of the August 31, 2021 Public Input meeting as required by Texas Water Code §16.062(d) and 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(a)(4)**

Mr. Stull began by stating the Public Input meeting was well attended, however he added there were more registrants than actual attendees. Mr. Stull stated FNI would send out a blast email to all those registrants to encourage participation in future meetings and to encourage use of the San Jacinto RFPG website. Ms. Armstrong asked if there was a way to target specific areas that were not participating. Ms. Puckett replied yes, confirming those areas were identified. Mr. Fisseler stated FAQs would be a useful tool to answer questions from the public, noting most public comments received during the Public Input meeting involved questions. Ms. Powers mentioned that it was difficult to generate public comments because no real information was provided during the Public Input meeting. Ms. Powers stated TXDOT had held a meeting that was very informative in the beginning, then addressed all public comments. Ms. Max stated the SJRFPG was bound by the Open Meetings Act, which limited participation at the August 31, 2021 meeting. Mr. Buscha concluded the discussion by stating that communication with the public needed to improve.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Presentation of 2021 Planning Group key dates and deadlines:**

- a. Upcoming planning schedule milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG planning meeting to be held on October 14, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Update and discussion pertaining to the logistics of in-person RFPG meetings, and possible action regarding in-person meeting location**

Mr. Buscha stated that the Inframark facility would continue to be used short-term and until further guidance was given. Ms. Max then stated SJRFPG committees also needed to think about how they would continue to meet and stated chairs should get with Ms. Berrios for potential meeting locations.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Reminder regarding Planning Group member training on Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act**

Mr. Buscha reminded everyone of the trainings.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Presentation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Galveston District: Metropolitan Houston Regional Watershed Assessment**

The presentation for the Metropolitan Houston Regional Watershed Assessment was provided by Caroline McCabe and Lisa Mairs. Mr. Costello stated it would be beneficial for the Technical Consultant to utilize the information that was presented. Ms. McCabe stated she would be happy to share the information. Mr. Costello asked in how many regional planning groups were they participating as non-voting members. Ms. Mairs replied five. Mr. Buscha then thanked Ms. McCabe and Ms. Mairs for their presentation.

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

- Discussion and possible action to add the Army Corps of Engineers as a non-voting member
- Regular standing items for committee updates
- Project sponsor administrative costs

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

No public comments

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: Adjourn**

Mr. Buscha adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.



Alisa Max, Secretary



Timothy Buscha, Chair