

**San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2021
12:00 PM
CISCO WebEx Virtual Meeting**

Roll Call:

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present / Alternate Present</u>
Elisa Macia Donovan (Chair)	Agricultural	X
Neil Gaynor	Upper Watershed	X
Alisa Max (Secretary)	Counties	X
Jenna Armstrong	Small Business	X
Stephen Costello (Vice Chair)	Municipalities	X

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 5

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 5:3

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Voting: None

Non-Voting: Megan Ingram, Hope Zubek

Alfred Garcia
Brooke Bacuetes
Cory Stull
Danielle Goshen
Fatima Berrios
James Bronikowski
Justin Bower
Kena Ware
Mac Martin

Margaret Puckett
Matt Nelson
Peggy Zahler
Rebecca Andrews
Reid Mrsny
Sally Bakko
Stephanie Zertuche
Susan Chadwick
Usman Mahmood

**Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the Webex meeting.

All meeting materials are available for the public at: [Flood Planning Group Meeting Schedule | Texas Water Development Board](#)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Ms. Donovan called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Max took attendance and a quorum was present.

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

Ms. Berrios stated that there was a last-minute comment from Ms. Danielle Goshen

- Danielle Goshen, Galveston Bay Foundation – Agenda Item 6, 7 & 8 – Ms. Goshen stated that Galveston Bay Foundation, the Bayou Land Conservancy, the Citizens Environmental Coalition, and Katy Prairie Conservancy all wanted to ensure nature-based and equitable solutions are incorporated into the Regional Flood Plan with an emphasis on equity. She then shared nine total recommendations which all pertained to nature-based solutions.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approval of Meeting Minutes for the July 28, 2021 Technical Committee meeting

Mr. Costello moved to approve the minutes as revised. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. Mr. Gaynor abstained from the vote since he was not present during the last meeting. All other members were in favor, thus the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Nomination, discussion, and possible action relating to the composition of the Technical Committee

Ms. Donovan welcomed Mr. Gaynor to the Technical Committee. Mr. Gaynor thanked Ms. Stephanie Zertuche for volunteering him to be part of the Technical Committee. Ms. Donovan stated that Mr. Buscha was no longer part of the Technical Committee, indicating there would be a vacancy for the Vice Chairman role. Ms. Donovan also noted Ms. Max would be resigning her role at the end of this Technical Committee meeting and her role as secretary. Mr. Costello volunteered himself to be Vice Chair. Ms. Armstrong moved to make Mr. Costello the new Vice Chair and Ms. Max seconded the motion. All Technical Committee members voted in favor of the motion except Mr. Costello, who abstained from voting, thus the motion carried. Ms. Donovan then deferred filling the Secretary position to the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Receive presentation from Technical Consultant on Task 3B (Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals) and Discuss Feedback related to Floodplain Management Goals.

Mr. Stull provided an overview of the presentation stating he would focus on Tasks 3B, 4A, and 4B. Mr. Stull provided a timeline and stated his goal was to have a draft of the Floodplain Management Goals approved in October by the RFPG. He stated the first item in his presentation would be to identify goal and sub-goals categories. Mr. Stull stated that the TWBD had established SMART – (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time-bound) goals that all RFPG were bound to. He then added goals could evolve and grow in subsequent planning cycles. Mr. Stull stated that moving forward he wanted to develop a framework to collect goal feedback that he would then categorize into most prominent and important goals. The goal categories identified are: Protect Life safety, Protect Property, Improve Data, Improve Policy and Regulation, Improve Flood Infrastructure, Expand Education and Outreach, Expand Funding. Mr. Stull then opened the floor for any additional goal categories.

Ms. Donovan suggested to include future data forecasting and modeling as a sub-goal to ensure climate change was considered when modeling. Mr. Stull stated it could be incorporated into the Improve Data category. Ms. Max made a recommendation stating she was unsure where home buyouts, removing

homes from the floodplain, and creating affordable housing would fall into the Management Goals. Mr. Stull stated that it could fit in Improve Flood Infrastructure. Mr. Costello added it could be included in either Protecting Life or Protecting Property. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gaynor suggested to enhance the resilience of different critical infrastructure such as water and wastewater facilities, utilities, transportation. Mr. Gaynor was not sure if this would fit under the Improving Flood Infrastructure category. Mr. Stull stated that he wanted to include them under Protect Property, and stated that transportation and mobility would be more closely related to life safety and emergency access response. Mr. Gaynor then referenced to an issue during Tropical Storm Imelda where barges broke free and Interstate-10 had to be temporarily shut down to protect life.

Mr. Stull suggested to change the name of the Improve Flood Infrastructure category to something broader such as Mitigation Projects or Flood Damage Reduction. Mr. Stull recommended that the Technical Committee think about the Flood Infrastructure category more broadly to include what was discussed. Mr. Costello stated something as broad as Flood Damage Reduction could encompass protection of life and property. Mr. Stull stated he would like to develop a framework to present these categories and goals to the entire SJRFPG. Ms. Donovan stated that Flood Damage Reduction was too broad and stated all categories could fit under that. Mr. Stull agreed and stated the category could be named Flood Mitigation Projects Strategies to allow both structural and non-structural initiatives and projects. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Stull went through each goal category and asked the Technical Committee members for additional sub-goals that could be added into each category. After thorough discussion for the Protect Property category, Mr. Stull indicated the subgoal “remove floodplain from structures” would be changed to “reduce flood risks from structures.”

Ms. Max recommended to increase and encourage the purchasing of flood insurance since it increases funding to the area and also readily becomes available to residents. Ms. Max stated she was not sure if her recommendation fell under Expand Funds or Expand Education and Outreach category. Mr. Stull stated that Ms. Max’s recommendation fit more appropriately under Education and Outreach.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Demonstrate Exercise to Refine Goals and Consider Recommendations on Method for Future RFPG Input and Discussion.

Mr. Stull continued to the Mentimeter demonstration and asked several questions, which the Technical Committee members all responded to using the Mentimeter website or phone app. The exercise was welcomed by all members, who agreed it was a great way to collect member input. Ms. Donovan then asked if the members of the SJRFPG still needed to reach out to all their constituents to gather feedback for the proposed goals, or if that has been bypassed. Mr. Stull then stated, it was only delayed allowing FNI to develop a framework to effectively gather that information. Mr. Costello stated that it would expedite the meeting if the whole SJRFPG members did not vote on categories and sub-goals. Ms. Max stated that the Technical Committee member had narrowed it down and could ask the members to vote and prioritize the goals/sub-goals. Mr. Stull agreed and stated he would refine the goals, and FNI would include the sub-goal categories in a document that would be distributed to all SJRFPG members to gather feedback from their community and constituents. Ms. Donovan stated she had no objection in the proposed structure to gather feedback and allow all RFPG members to be part of the process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Receive Presentation from Technical Consultant on Process for Identifying FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs (Task 4B) and Consider Recommendations to RFPG on Approach.

Mr. Stull presented the draft identification process to identify FME, FMPs and FMSs. He stated the process was developed by the TWDB so there was not much latitude and stated that FNI will identify several projects that may have not been funded either through FIF or CDBG funds. Ms. Donovan noted there were other sources of project funds such as FEMA and Emergency Watershed Protection, and asked they also be considered.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update from TWDB on the Potential for Changes to the Technical Guidelines and Discussion of Flexibilities within the Guidelines

Ms. Donovan stated that Technical Guidelines could not be changed, however there is some room for flexibility to the Scoring Criteria. Ms. Ingram echoed what Ms. Donovan had stated and mentioned that TWDB would be providing some future guidance for the Scoring Criteria. Ms. Ingram then stated that all recommended projects would be scored into 16 different categories, and mentioned that the TWDB scoring would not completely correlate to how the projects are scored by the RFPGs.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update and Discussion on In-Person Meeting Location

Ms. Max stated that all meetings after September 1, 2021 would require an in-person component. She then stated that only the Chair of the Technical Committee would need to be present, and all other members can be virtual. Ms. Max then emphasized that all members would need to have their cameras on and be audible when speaking.

Ms. Donovan then stated that the Trini Mendenhall and the Freese and Nichols location had been previously proposed. Ms. Berrios then confirmed that the Trini Mendenhall location was available, and the Freese and Nichols facility was a back-up location. Ms. Berrios then stated she would work with Ms. Donovan to finalize a location for the hybrid meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Next Key Milestones and Important Dates

Mr. Stull stated that the public meeting was coming up on August 31, 2021 and stated the next Technical Committee meeting would be scheduled for the end of September.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Consider Agenda Items for the next Technical Committee Meeting

- Reiteration of Goals and finalizing RFPG feedback
- Appoint new secretary

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Call to Order

Ms. Donovan adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm. Ms. Max moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Costello seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.



Alisa Max, Secretary



Elisa Macia Donovan, Chair