

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
January 13, 2022
9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

Roll Call:

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

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () /</u> <u>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* Brooke Bacuetes
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	
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	X
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X
Sally Bakko	Gulf Coast Protection District	X
TBA	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	

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

<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	
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	X

<u>Technical Consultant Team Members</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Cory Stull	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X
Maggie Puckett	Freese and Nichols Inc.	
Hayes McKibben	Freese and Nichols Inc.	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

Attendees:

Caroline McCabe	Matt Lopez (FCD)
Claudia Garcia (Harris County Engineering)	Megan Ingram (TWDB)
Craig Kalkomey (LJA)	Michael Keck
Danielle	Moore, Andrew (Halff)
James Bronikowski (TWDB)	Peggy Zahler
Jill Boullion	Rachel Herr
Justin Bower	Rebecca Andrews
Kena Ware (Harris County Engineering)	Reem Zoun (TWDB)
Lance LaCour	Sam Hinojosa
Lisa Mairs	Stephan Gage
Liv Haselbach	Susan Chadwick
Mariah (she/her)	William Dougherty Jr
Marlisa Briggs	

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Ms. Vinson, Vice Chair of the SJRFPG, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. as the presiding officer due to Mr. Buscha's inability to attend in-person.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Max took attendance, and a quorum was determined to present.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limit of 3 Minutes Per Person)

Ms. Berrios stated there were no requests for public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Ms. Ingram stated she was very grateful to the group for submittal of its Technical Memorandum. She stated that the TWDB would be reviewing the Technical Memorandum for administrative completeness in the coming weeks.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2021

Ms. Vinson opened the floor for comments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett, Mr. Gaynor, and Mr. Fisseler provided minor comments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Fisseler moved to approve the minutes as revised. Mr. Buscha seconded the motion, which carried with Mr. Costello abstaining given he had not been in attendance at the meeting.

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

Ms. Berrios, on behalf of Ms. Max, stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had selected Eric Stevens as its new non-voting member representative.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(S) Progress and Status:

- **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer stated that the next meeting would be convened on February 17, 2022, and the Region was following the same deliverables schedule as the SJRFPG.
- **Neches Region** – Mr. Costello stated the Neches Region was also following a similar timeline. Ms. Haselbach added that the Region had also submitted its Technical Memorandum and had held a public meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. She stated the next meeting would be January 27, 2022.
- **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco was not present to provide an update. Mr. Wade offered that its next meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2022.
- **Region H Water** – Region H will be meeting on February 2, 2022

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from Project Sponsor Regarding the Solicitation Process for the Small Business Voting Member Position

Ms. Berrios stated that five applications had been received and that the Executive Committee would be meeting to shortlist and interview applicants later in January and February.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Officer Elections – Discussion, Possible Action and Consideration of Nominations to the SJRFPG Executive Committee, Including At-Large Members.

Ms. Vinson explained that the Bylaws require an annual election of officers, along with the two At-large members that are part of the Executive Committee. She then asked if any of the members currently on the Executive Committee did not want to be considered for re-election. Mr. Buscha thanked the SJRFPG and stated he would like to continue to serve as the Chair should the SJRFPG wish. The remaining members

shared the same sentiments and affirmed their willingness to be considered for re-election. After brief discussion, Mr. Costello moved to re-elect the current Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and two At-large members of the Executive Committee for another year. Mr. Gaynor seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding the Membership of all Advisory Committees

a. Technical Committee

b. Public Engagement Committee

Ms. Vinson opened the floor for volunteers to serve on both the Technical Committee and Public Engagement Committee. She asked the Chairs of both committees to make a brief statement encouraging members to join their respective committees. Ms. Vinson, seeing that Ms. Donovan was not present, asked for a member of the Technical Committee to speak. Mr. Costello, Vice Chair, stated that serving on the Technical Committee is very interesting and rewarding since the committee gets the opportunity to dive into the technical discussions with the technical consultant. He added the meetings are not a big-time commitment. Ms. Vinson added that she wanted to recommend Mr. Brian Maxwell to serve on the Technical Committee. Mr. Buscha reported that he had reached out to Mr. Maxwell, but Mr. Maxwell does not want to commit to serve on the committee. Mr. Bob Kosar, Mr. Maxwell's alternate, volunteered to serve on the Technical Committee. Mr. Costello moved to approve appointing Mr. Kosar to the Technical Committee. Ms. Powers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Vinson then asked Mr. Burrer to discuss the Public Engagement Committee. Mr. Burrer echoed what Mr. Costello stated, highlighting that service on the committee is not time consuming. Ms. Max then suggested deferring this agenda item to the next meeting when the new Small Business Voting Member would be appointed. Mr. Fisseler and Ms. Vinson agreed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update and Discussion on Presentation Requests on Behalf of the SJRFPG

Ms. Vinson asked Ms. Berrios to provide an update on the presentation for use by members of the SJRFPG. Ms. Berrios walked through the updated standard presentation, indicating that it reflects all current members of the SJRFPG, and includes the additional tasks required by the amended contract with TWDB. She stated the presentation could be tailored to respective speaking requests, adding this was a good basis to begin with. Ms. Vinson stated the purpose of having a presentation for all members to use was to ensure that consistent messages would be provided on behalf of the SJRFPG. She stated the presentation was open to comments from all the members and that revisions should be sent to the Project Sponsor.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Presentation and Updates from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant

Mr. Stull stated that the focus of his presentation would be to discuss future flood risk conditions and to propose a method for use by SJRFPG to predict flood risks for the Regional Flood Plan. He introduced a partner from Halff Associates, Andrew Moore, who assists with the presentation. Mr. Moore introduced his Halff colleagues Rachel Heart and Jason Becker. Mr. Moore stated that hazard, exposure, and vulnerabilities were the key components to identifying risk and noted that coastal and riverine flooding were both threats in Region 6. Mr. Moore stated future flood risks would be estimated, however, the best available data would be used to make these estimates. Mr. Moore recommended that the current FEMA 500-year floodplain serve as the anticipated future 100-year flood inundation extent. For determination of the future 500-year inundation extent, he recommended that the region be broken into three different zones, with a buffer based on each zone's topographic characteristics.

Mr. Stull then introduced Jacob Torres who would provide an overview for the proposed future 500-year condition. Mr. Stull stated that the basis for this future risk inundation mapping is additional data documentation required to be included in the Technical Memorandum due to be submitted to the TWDB in March. He asked that the Technical Committee meet and further discuss the methodologies presented. Mr. Stull requested that the February SJRFPG meeting be moved to the last week in February to allow incorporation of comments by the Technical Committee.

Ms. Vinson then opened the floor for comments and questions about the presentation. Mr. Buscha asked why flooding would increase as a result of population growth, pointing out that county development regulations in effect require installation of stormwater detention capacity with new development. Mr. Moore stated that he did not intend to state flooding would increase, rather that population would increase. Mr. Buscha then asked if the flood maps would be revisited in future cycles as new data became available. Mr. Stull answered stating that, yes future flood risks would be revisited in future planning cycles. Mr. Stull also stated that conversations would continue regarding whether minimum standards be recommended or adopted. Mr. Fisseler summarized his understanding that the future risk estimates would be best guesses which would be updated as new and better data becomes available. Mr. Fisseler added that risks may increase or decrease based on new data and trends changing in future planning cycles. Mr. Stull agreed with his understanding, stating that refinement of the 500-year floodplain would continue over time. Mr. Stull stated more studies would be conducted and be included in the Regional Flood Plan.

Mr. Barrett asked if there were any outliers found when comparing the approach described by Mr. Moore for developing the future 100-year flood inundation extent and previous modeling efforts, and added if modeling existed in certain areas, why not use those models to establish the future inundation extents. Mr. Moore stated that in general things lined up with the previous modeling, and stated that not all tributaries have been studied, but rather models focused on the main streams. Mr. Barrett recommended supplementing the approach described by Mr. Moore with modeling where available and appropriate to ensure most conservative prediction of future inundation.

Ms. Powers then asked if non-riverine flooding was being considered in this analysis since significant flooding has occurred in no-riverine settings. Mr. Stull replied that they would be considered and emphasized that the FEMA prepared Flood Insurance Rate Maps were based on riverine studies which are the most valuable resource at hand. Mr. Stull then mentioned a couple of studies such as MAAPNext that were underway and stated pluvial flooding would be taken into consideration. He then stated that the best way to include these areas would be to input that data into the interactive web map. Ms. Powers added that it was extremely important to communicate to the public that coastal and riverine settings were not the only flood risks.

Ms. Max stated that Atlas 14 also reinforced the use of the presented methodologies, stating that the proposed future 100-year floodplain was nearly identical to the current 500-year map. She stated that until additional studies are available, she felt it was very logical to use this method since there was precedent. Mr. Gaynor inquired about the schedule for the upcoming meetings and suggested that meetings be held last week of January and the second week in February to discuss the future flood risks. Mr. Stull stated if two meetings were being requested, they would need to be very close together to allow incorporation of comments by the Technical Committee. Mr. Stull stated a late January meeting would be certain, however, a second meeting should be convened only if needed. Ms. Vinson then stated that given the timeline and additional meeting requests, she recommended that the February SJRFPG meeting be

cancelled and that the next meeting of SJRFPG be held on March 3rd. She asked Mr. Buscha for his comments. Mr. Buscha stated he agreed so long as the Technical Consultant agrees.

Mr. Burrer reiterated what Mr. Buscha pointed out about population growth and agreed with Ms. Powers' concerns with pluvial flooding. Ms. Vinson asked the Technical Consultant and Project Sponsor to determine the Technical Committee meeting timeline and inform the SJRFPG once it was determined. She reiterated that March 3, 2022, would be the only SJRFPG meeting during the months of February and March.

Ms. Vinson then provided a five-minute recess at 10:41 a.m.

Ms. Vinson continued the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and reminded all voting members to turn on their cameras. She summarized that the Project Sponsor would be sending out the presentation materials for review and stated that the March 10th meeting of SJRFPG is canceled and is rescheduled for March 3, 2022. She reminded the group that the February SJRFPG meeting is cancelled.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Approval and Certification of Administrative Expenses Incurred by the Project Sponsor for the Development of Regional Flood Plan

Ms. Vinson stated that the Project Sponsor requests reimbursement of administrative expenses. Mr. Buscha, as Chair of the SJRFPG, moved to approve the administrative expenses. Mr. Fisseler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Presentation Of 2022 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:

- **Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones**
- **Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to Be Held on March 03, 2022**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Update and Discussion Pertaining to In-Person RFPG Meeting Location(S)

Ms. Vinson stated that meetings would continue to be hybrid and that the Harris County Flood Control District building on the Northwest Freeway would continue to be used until further notice.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Reminder Regarding Planning Group Member Training on Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act

Ms. Vinson stated the member group trainings were required and that, per the bylaws, all members need to complete them within 90 days of becoming members.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Executive Committee shortlisting and interviews (Small Business Voting Member appointment)
- Additional Public Engagement Committee member
- Consideration of future conditions flood risk analysis approach
- Technical Memorandum submittal to TWDB due March 7, 2022

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

Ms. Berrios stated there were no requests to make public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Alisa Max

Alisa Max, Secretary

Timothy Buscha

Timothy Buscha, Chair