

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
April 14, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: <https://bit.ly/3Bf1JZm>

Harris County Flood Control District: 9900 Northwest Fwy., Houston, TX 77092 – Rm. 100

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 (In-Person)
Alia Vinson	Water Districts (Vice Chair)	X
Alisa Max	Counties (Secretary)	*Erwin Burden
Gene Fisseler	Public (At-Large member)	*Mike Turco
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	X *Briana Gallagher
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	X
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	X
Rachel Powers	Environmental Interests	X *Jill Boullion
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	X
Marcus Stuckett	Flood Districts	*Dena Green
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	X
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	X *Bob Kosar
Christina Quintero	Public	X
Neil Gaynor	Upper Watershed	X *Stephanie Zertuche

<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
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Karla Freyre Stripling	Texas General Land Office	X
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	X
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	X
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	*Alfred Garcia
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	*Jake Hollingsworth
Sally Bakko	Gulf Coast Protection District	X
Eric Stevens	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	X

<u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Mark Vogler	Lower Brazos RFPG	X
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	*Jake Hollingsworth

<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.	X
Hayes McKibben	Freese and Nichols Inc.	
Mariah Najmuddin	Hollaway Environmental	X
Connor Stokes	Hollaway Environmental	X
Andrew Moore	Halff, Associates	X
Rachel Herr	Halff, Associates	X
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	X
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	X

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 15

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

Attendees:**

In Person: Claudia Garcia (HCED), Fatima Berrios (HCED)

James Bronikowski (TWDB)

John Graziano

Lisa McCracken Mairs (USACE)

Marcus Stuckett

Patti Joiner Knudson

Peggy Zahler

Rebecca Andrews

Stephan Gage (HCTRA)

Susan Chadwick

Walter Morris (Knudson)

***Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information on the WebEx meeting registration.*

All meeting materials were available for the public at: [Meetings - San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning \(sanjacintofloodplanning.org\)](https://sanjacintofloodplanning.org)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

In lieu of Ms. Max, Secretary, Ms. Berrios took attendance. A quorum was determined to present.

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

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for registered public comments. Mr. Graziano, a member of the public, expressed that he wanted to comment at the end of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Ms. Ingram wanted to congratulate the group and the Technical Consultants for the successful submission of the Technical Memorandum submitted in March. Ms. Ingram stated that the Texas Water Development Board was compiling informal comments for the February and March Technical Memoranda which would be provided soon.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 03, 2022

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the March 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett provided minor suggested corrections to the meeting minutes, which Ms. Vinson agreed with. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the minutes, as revised. Ms. Powers seconded. Mr. Buscha stated the motion carried.

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

Mr. Buscha announced new non-voting members or alternates:

- For the Counties position, Ms. Max's alternate to be Mr. Ewin Burden, Assistant Director, RRD at Harris County Engineering Department
- The new Texas General Land Office representative to be Ms. Karla Freyre-Stripling
- The new Houston-Galveston Area Council representative to be Mr. Justin Bower and Mr. Steven Johnston as his alternate

Mr. Buscha noted that Ms. Max would be retiring from Harris County Engineering Department at the end of May. Mr. Buscha stated the Project Sponsor would begin the solicitation process for the Counties Voting Member position.

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

- **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer reported being invited to an upcoming tour for the tunnel built in the region
- **Neches Region** – Mr. Buscha stated Mr. Costello would be late to join the call and he would provide his update later in the meeting
- **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Vogler stated that the Lower Brazos got through public meetings and things were moving along well
- **Region H Water** –Mr. Buscha stated that he would meet with Mr. Wade later in the week

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from the Project Sponsor regarding the solicitation of the Flood Districts Voting Member Position

Ms. Berrios advised the members that the solicitation closed April 8, 2022. She stated the Project Sponsor received two applications, so no shortlisting meeting was needed. Ms. Berrios stated the tentative

interviews were scheduled for April 25, 2022 and the recommendation from the Executive Committee would be made during the May SJRFPG meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion, and Possible Action Regarding the Membership of Advisory Committees

a. Technical Committee

Mr. Buscha stated that the Technical Committee was not at the full membership of five. Mr. Buscha noted that with the departure of Mr. Stuckett, the group wanted to include a Flood Districts member and deferred to the group. Ms. Donovan mentioned that Ms. Green, Mr. Stuckett's alternate, wished to join the Technical Committee and noted that at the last Technical Committee meeting Ms. Green's comments had to be treated as public comments. Ms. Donovan suggested Ms. Green be appointed to be a member of the Technical Committee. Ms. Vinson stated that the SJRFPG could appoint Ms. Green as the interim member until the new Flood Districts Voting Member was appointed. Ms. Donovan made the motion to appoint Ms. Green as the interim member of the Technical Committee, seconded by Ms. Vinson. Mr. Buscha announced the motion carried unanimously to appoint Ms. Green and Ms. Green acknowledged she would be willing to serve.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update from the Technical Consultant on:

a. Technical Approach for conducting the Needs Analysis (Task 4A)

b. Minimum Standards (Task 3A)

c. Process for Recommending Potentially Feasible FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs (Task 5)

d. Public Engagement, Communications and Outreach Plan, and the Upcoming Public Meeting

Mr. Buscha yielded the floor to the Technical Consultants. Mr. Stull, with Freese and Nichols, Inc., briefed the group on the agenda and briefly discussed the premise of the discussion. Mr. Moore, with Halff Associates, reviewed the task requirements and goals for Task 4A: Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis. Mr. Moore described Task 4A as a two-pronged approach: 1) to find where the flood risk knowledge gaps are and 2) to find where the greatest known flood risks are. Mr. Moore went on to describe in detail, the requirements in the Task 4A Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis:

TWDB Technical Guidance for Task 4A

1. the areas in the FPR that the RFPG identified as the most prone to flooding that threatens life and property;
2. the relative locations, extent, and performance of current floodplain management and land use policies and infrastructure located within the FPR, particularly within the locations described in paragraph (1) of this subsection;
3. areas identified by the RFPG as prone to flooding that don't have adequate inundation maps;
4. areas identified by the RFPG as prone to flooding that don't have hydrologic and hydraulic models;
5. areas with an emergency need;
6. existing modeling analyses and flood risk mitigation plans within the FPR;
7. flood mitigation projects already identified and evaluated by other flood mitigation plans and studies;
8. documentation of historic flooding events;
9. flood mitigation projects already being implemented; and
10. any other factors that the RFPG deems relevant to identifying the geographic locations where potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs shall be identified and evaluated.

Figure 1 Taken from the SJRFPG April 14, 2022 Meeting Materials

Mr. Moore described the approach for the deliverables using location maps depicting studies and projects. Mr. Moore defined Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs) as a drainage area. Mr. Moore stated that within FEMA HUC 12, were a total of 115 HUCs are being used for comparison of information against each other. Mr. Moore explained the scoring and ranges within the HUCs. Mr. Moore stated the information gathered related to existing conditions and demonstrated with map graphics including tabular information. Discussion ensued. Mr. Moore went on to criteria number ten which included the Social Vulnerability

Index (SVI). Mr. Moore went over the next steps and mentioned the comments received today would be incorporated.

Mr. Buscha announced a five min recess at 10:28 a.m. and indicated we would get a brief from Mr. Costello upon our return. Mr. Buscha reconvened the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: (Continued)

Mr. Costello updated that the Neches region was following the same path as the SJRFPFG, but said he would aim to attend their technical committee meeting

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: (Continued)

Mr. Stull overviewed task 3A: Floodplain Management Practices and the inventory of existing practices the Technical Consultants have identified.

Ms. Puckett mentioned the goals discussed last fall with the SJRFPFG were a compliment to Task 3A – Minimum Standards. Ms. Puckett reviewed the guidance for the Task 3A and the difference between recommending or adopting the minimum standards. Ms. Puckett stated it was recommended not to adopt the minimum standards, but instead to recommend floodplain management standards for consideration by regulatory entities. Ms. Donovan stated the Technical Committee had agreed not to provide a recommendation, as they determined that this was a decision for the SJRFPFG, not just the Technical Committee. Discussion ensued. Ms. Puckett explained the list of potential minimum standards.

Preliminary List of Identified Standards

1. Participation in the NFIP
2. Defining Region-wide No Adverse Impact Policy
3. Establish Minimum FFEs
4. Encourage use of Best-Available Rainfall (Atlas-14)
5. Compensatory Storage in the 1% Floodplain (100-year)
6. Compensatory Storage in the 0.2% Floodplain (500-year)
7. Development of Detailed H&H Analysis Criteria/Requirements
8. Incentivizing the Preservation of the Floodplain

Figure 2 Taken from SJRFPFG April 14, 2022 Meeting Materials

Ms. Puckett continued reviewing potential minimum standards. Discussion ensued. Mr. Buscha reminded the group to send over suggested language changes to the Technical Consultants. MS. Puckett explained the schedule of the draft plan, that would be distributed to the group.

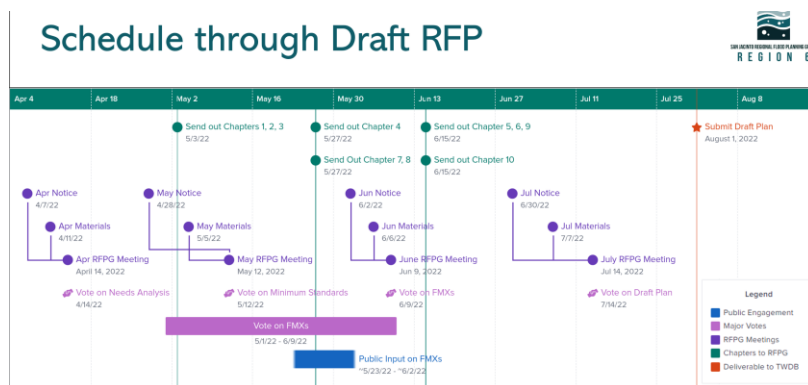


Figure 3 Taken from the SJRFPFG April 14, 2022 Meeting Materials

Ms. Puckett clarified the roll-out of the draft chapters for discussion. Ms. Puckett stated that voting on the chapters would be distributed between several SJRFPG meetings. Ms. Puckett reviewed the recap of the FMXs and the recommendation process.

Ms. Puckett stated plans of utilizing the GIS dashboards for reviewing the data for SJRFPG consideration. Ms. Puckett explained the Texas Water Development Board's guidance issued in March.

Ms. Najmuddin recapped what was discussed such as metrics, goals, and comments with the Public Engagement Committee. Ms. Najmuddin explained the recommendations for the public engagement meetings such as three meetings: one virtual open house style meeting and two open house style in-person meetings. Mr. Buscha wanted clarification about the limits of member participation – two from each committee, and no more than six from the full SJRFPG. Mr. Buscha asked for coordination with the Project Sponsor, so no quorum issue would exist at those public meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update and recommendation from the Technical Committee and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to the technical approach for conducting the Needs Analysis (Task 4A)

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for discussion on the Technical Committee's recommendation regarding the approach for conducting the Needs Analysis, as presented by the Technical Consultants under agenda item ten. Discussion ensued. Mr. Costello motioned to approve the Technical Committee's recommendation and Dr. Gaynor seconded. Mr. Buscha announced that the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update from the Public Engagement Committee, discussion, and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to the development of the Communications and Outreach Plan

Mr. Buscha deferred to Mr. Burrer for the public outreach meeting recommendation from the Public Engagement Committee and noted that there was no action in this item.

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

Mr. Buscha presented the requested administrative expenses for approval. Mr. Costello made the motion to approve, and Ms. Powers seconded. Mr. Buscha announced the motion carried to approve the expenses.

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

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to be held on May 12, 2022

Mr. Buscha stated the schedule was indicated in the meeting materials.

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

Mr. Buscha stated that the meeting would continue to be hybrid and the Project Sponsor would continue to seek a meeting location where all the voting members would be invited to attend in-person.

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

Mr. Buscha reminded the group that any member who hasn't completed the training needed to do so and to submit records to the Project Sponsor.

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

Mr. Buscha identified the following items for the next agenda:

- Identify possible presentation by Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) at the May 12 meeting
- Update on Flood Districts Voting Member position vacancy
- Goals for adoption of FMXs voting

Ms. Vinson suggested to move the GCPD's presentation to a future meeting. Ms. Bakko stated she would coordinate to move the presentation to the June meeting.


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

Mr. Buscha opened the floor to Mr. John Graziano, Manger at Lovin' G Ranch. Mr. Graziano stated that he and other ranchers had concerns about eminent domain. Mr. Graziano complimented Mr. Moore on his presentation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: Adjourn

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Alisa Max, Secretary



Timothy Buscha, Chair