

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group**  
**March 03, 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)	X
Gene Fisseler	Public (At-Large member)	X (In-Person)
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	X *Briana Gallagher
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	X
TBA	Small Business	
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	X (In-Person)
Rachel Powers	Environmental Interests	X
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	X
Marcus Stuckett	Flood Districts	*Dena Green
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	
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
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	*Brian Koch
Colleen Jones	Texas General Land Office	
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	*Ryke Moore
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	
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	X
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	
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	
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	*Jeff Janecek
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	

<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.	
Andrew Moore	Halff, Associates	X
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	X
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	X
Rachel Herr	Halff	X

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 13

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

**Attendees:**

In Person: Claudia Garcia, David Brown, Fatima Berrios

Brian Fambrough

Caitlin Heller

Christina Lindsay

Connie Pothier

Craig Kalkomey (WFDD / LJA)

Dena Mahan

James Bronikowski (TWDB)

James Corn

Jh Christi

Lisa Mairs (USACE)

Mariah Najmuddin (Hollaway)

Marlisa Briggs

Matt Lopez (FCD)

Matt Nelson (TWDB)

Mohamed Bagha

Peggy Zahler

Rebecca Andrews

Reem Zoun (TWDB)

Srinivas Chintalapati

Stephan Gage (HCTRA)

Susan Chadwick

Unknown: 3

*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)**

Ms. Berrios stated there were no registered public comments. Mr. Buscha noted that David Brown was present, in person, from the public.

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

Mr. Ryke Moore spoke on behalf of Ms. Ingram and noted the following updates:

- Future conditions proposal was received and presented no concerns; however, the Texas Water Development Board requested a follow up meeting with the Technical Consultants and Project Sponsor to ask clarifying questions before an acceptance letter is sent out.
- Regarding the technical memorandum, Mr. Moore stated that the Texas Water Development Board has reviewed the technical memoranda from all fifteen regional flood planning groups and were awaiting the SJRFPG's March 7 deliverable.
- Mr. Moore continued with the contract amendment for Region 6, stating it was moving along and to defer to Ms. Ingram for any additional questions.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2022**

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the January 13, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett asked a question regarding the description in the minutes of the appointment of Mr. Kosar to the Technical Committee and discussion ensued. Mr. Barrett suggested that he could send the rest of his non-substantive corrections to Ms. Garcia, to which Mr. Buscha agreed. Mr. Fisseler stated a minor comment regarding hybrid meetings and requested that the minutes include the in-person meeting location. Mr. Buscha opened for further comments, and none were given. Mr. Fisseler moved to approve the minutes as revised, and Ms. Vinson seconded. Mr. Buscha announced the motion carried unanimously for approval of the January 13, 2022 meeting minutes.

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

Mr. Buscha asked if there were any announcements for new non-voting members or alternates and Ms. Berrios stated there were no new announcements. Mr. Buscha mentioned that Mr. Stuckett had resigned from Harris County Flood Control District and thanked Ms. Green, his alternate, for joining the meeting. Mr. Buscha stated that the planning group would go through process of re-solicitation for the Flood Districts member. Ms. Max proposed that anyone who previously applied be encouraged to re-apply. Mr. Buscha called for objections, and none were given. Ms. Vinson wanted to remind the group of the vacancy filling process in our bylaws and clarified that the group had to process the notice but agreed with previous submissions being encouraged, if the candidates desired. Mr. Buscha confirmed the notice would be filed as per the bylaws.

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

- **Trinity Region** – Mr. Buscha stated Mr. Burrer was not on the call to give an update.
- **Neches Region** – Mr. Buscha stated Mr. Costello was not on the call to give an update.
- **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco updated that the Lower Brazos would be holding public meetings throughout the basin in early March through April, details on the website. Mr.

Turco continued to update that the next meeting would be on March 24, 2022 and stated he was unable to attend the last meeting.

- **Region H Water** –Mr. Buscha stated that Mr. Wade was not on the call, and he would reach out to the Trinity and Neches liaisons for an update.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update from the Executive Committee, discussion, and possible action regarding the appointment of the Small Business Voting Member Position**

Mr. Buscha advised the members that three candidates for the Small Business voting member position had been shortlisted. After holding three interviews, the Executive Committee recommended that Ms. Connie Pothier be appointed as the new Small Business voting member. Mr. Buscha briefly introduced Ms. Pothier and opened the floor for additional comments. Ms. Pothier gave a brief introduction regarding her background and her small business and expressed her gratitude to serve on the RFPG. Mr. Buscha opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Vinson moved to appoint Ms. Pothier as the Small Business voting member to the RFPG. Mr. Fisseler seconded the motion. Mr. Buscha announced the motion carried unanimously and introduced Ms. Pothier as the new voting member representing Small Businesses.

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

- a. **Public Engagement Committee**
- b. **Technical Committee**

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for volunteers for any committees. Ms. Vinson suggested and moved to fill the vacant seat on the Public Engagement Committee with Ms. Pothier and to hold Mr. Stuckett's vacant seat on the Technical Committee until the Flood Districts member position was filled. Mr. Buscha asked Ms. Pothier if she would be willing to serve on the Public Engagement Committee, and she accepted. Ms. Vinson made a motion to approve Ms. Pothier as a member of the Public Engagement Committee, and Mr. Lock seconded the motion. Mr. Buscha stated the motion carried unanimously. No action was taken with respect to the Technical Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Presentation and updates from the SJRFPG Technical Consultant on future flood risks identification and analysis, and development of the Technical Memorandum due to the TWDB March 7, 2022**

Mr. Buscha yielded the floor to the Technical Consultants. Mr. Stull mentioned the deliverable due to the Texas Water Development Board the following week, gave a brief overview of the discussion topic, and acknowledged his partner technical consultants from Halff Associates, Inc. Mr. Moore began by stating that what he was presenting was not a regulatory product. Mr. Moore restated the scope of work was to define the future hazard floodplain and analyze it. Mr. Moore continued to outline the technical approach to delineating future flood hazard for which the Technical Consultants sought approval. Mr. Moore began with the background to the materials presented (Hazard + Exposure + Vulnerability = Risk) for the future flood risk analysis. Mr. Moore touched on subsidence in our region and on several implications for our coastal region. Mr. Moore explained that storm surge, storm intensity, sea level rise occurring (and projected), and coastal erosion were challenging. Mr. Fisseler questioned about Atlas 14 data and pointed out that future rainfall predictions will be verified as time passes and can be upward or downward as the SJRFPG updates future versions of its regional plan. Mr. Moore stated historical data had been used to make predictions but emphasized additional more up-to-date data would be included as it became available.

Mr. Torres explained the sea level rise conditions and went over the Technical Consultant's recommendation. Ms. Powers stated that the sea level rise was drastic, the midline level should be higher, and that the middle projection was not something the environmental community was confident in. Mr. Torres cited a published report by NOAA on sea level rise and stated they noticed some disconnect as well. Ms. Powers noted about historically vulnerable communities and asked the Technical Consultants to be mindful to protect those communities.

Ms. Bakko offered input from the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) stating that the GCPD would serve as the nonfederal sponsor for the Texas Coastal Study authorized by Congress. The study is intended to look at flooding in natural disasters and the supply chain impact, not just to the region, but to the nation, with Ms. Bakko further stating that small businesses were the backbone of this country. Discussion ensued and Ms. Bakko offered to provide more information at an upcoming RFPG meeting. Mr. Maxwell suggested we should not duplicate or have conflicting efforts within the two groups. Ms. Bakko pointed out the importance of having consistent messages when communicating with state legislators and with Congress due to funding needed to reach goals. Mr. Stull reiterated that the data was constantly changing.

Dr. Gaynor stated that to create a buffer, the concept depended on the slope of the coastal region. Dr. Gaynor mentioned that he had been in communication with the Technical Consultant and that he believes the slope is over-estimated. Discussion ensued regarding slope calculations.

Mr. Torres moved on to subsidence and explained how subsidence impacts had been calculated. Ms. Vinson asked if consideration had been given to the impact of the conversion from groundwater to surface water uses. Mr. Torres stated that it did not, and they were working with Subsidence District reports. Discussion ensued between Ms. Vinson, Mr. Turco, and Mr. Fisseler regarding subsidence and groundwater use. Ms. Puckett stated that the discussion could impact mapping deliverables.

Mr. Moore began the discussion on the recommendations of future 100-year and future 500-year flood extents. Mr. Moore explained the riverine modeling and application of the buffer. Mr. Buscha wanted clarification on the recommendation to apply the buffers to determine future 500-year extents. Further discussion took place regarding future projects, changing elevations and buffers. Mr. Stull stated that the application of the buffers is a simplified solution to account for future conditions. Mr. Stull reminded the group that they were using the best data available.

***At 10:32 a.m., Mr. Buscha called for a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 10:37 a.m.***

Mr. Moore moved to flood exposure analysis and which areas would be exposed in future flood events, which would essentially be a GIS map intersect. Mr. Moore moved on to a recommendation regarding flood exposure and identifying critical infrastructure database. Ms. Puckett provided an overview regarding defining critical infrastructure. Ms. Puckett continued to outline flood map gaps. Ms. Puckett stated the recommendation of focusing consideration on availability of FEMA mapping, base-level engineering, and land cover change. Ms. Puckett stated that the decisions were documented in the memorandum due on March 7, 2022. Mr. Barrett asked if they wanted final comments on the technical memorandum at this time. Ms. Puckett reminded the group that the deliverable was due the following Monday, is in-progress which would continue to be refined. Mr. Buscha reiterated that we are operating with deadlines and milestones and stated that the goal was to move forward to submit the deliverables. Mr. Barrett stated he reviewed the documents and had non-substantive comments and questions that wouldn't affect today's approval. Mr. Barrett asked the group if it was comfortable with him providing comments to the Technical Consultants and no one objected. Discussion regarding a possible meeting

between Mr. Barrett and the Technical Consultants ensued. Mr. Buscha asked the group to review the documents and provide comments to the Technical Consultants so that by the April SJRFG meeting, the Technical Consultants could have replies to the group's comments.

Ms. Puckett continued to present the interactive GIS dashboard. Ms. Puckett mentioned what was added was the Existing Flood Risk layer to the map. Ms. Vinson asked about adding a disclaimer that the map and GIS were not a regulatory product. Ms. Puckett agreed and stated that a disclaimer could be added. Mr. Stull asked Ms. Vinson for the appropriate language to be sent over to them. Ms. Max echoed Ms. Vinson's remark regarding messaging, so people know what it is and what it isn't. Mr. Buscha requested the link for the map be sent out to the group. Mr. Stull reviewed upcoming items and goals. Ms. Puckett reviewed the outreach and engagement efforts. Mr. Stull noted that the SJRFG would have a booth at the upcoming TFMA conference. Dr. Gaynor asked for clarification regarding the technical memoranda and submittals. The Technical Consultants stated that the technical memorandum submitted in January was accepted by the Texas Water Development Board and the supplemental memorandum was due March 7. The Technical Consultants stated that the Task 2B deliverable had been reviewed by the Texas Water Development Board, separately from the February 23 memorandum.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update and recommendation from the Technical Committee and possible action from the RFG as it pertains to:**

- a. Technical approaches to develop deliverables required to be submitted as part of the Technical Memorandum due to TWDB March 7, 2022**
- b. Approval of the Technical Memorandum and authorization of submittal of the completed document and required materials to TWDB**

Mr. Buscha stated that the SJRFG was provided a very detailed briefing and some members recognized there were comments and clarifications needed. Mr. Buscha continued to encourage the group to remember that this was an ongoing development and opened for additional comments and discussion. Ms. Donovan moved to approve the technical memorandum and allow the Technical Consultants to submit it on behalf of the SJRFG. Mr. Costello seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Buscha stated that the next meeting for the Public Engagement Committee would be on March 10<sup>th</sup> and opened for discussion. Ms. Najmuddin with Hollaway Environmental + Communications, noted the importance of the Public Engagement Committee and Mr. Buscha noted that he looked forward to Ms. Pothier's participation.

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

Mr. Buscha requested approval of the presented administrative expenses. Ms. Powers made a motion to approve the administrative expenses, and Ms. Vinson seconded the motion. Ms. Max abstained due to being the project sponsor. Mr. Buscha stated the motion carried.

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

Mr. Buscha stated the next SJRFG meeting would be held on April 14, 2022 and the next Public Engagement Committee meeting would be held on March 10, 2022.

- Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to Be Held on April 14, 2022

**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 that the Project Sponsor was exploring a more central location. Mr. Buscha stated that the SJRFPG would continue to meet at Harris County Flood Control District offices in the meantime.

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

Mr. Buscha reminded the group that whoever hasn't completed the training needs to do so and submit records to Ms. Berrios.

**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 at the April meeting
- Update on Flood Districts position solicitation

**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**

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

---

Alisa Max, Secretary

  

---

Timothy Buscha, Chair