

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

Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: <https://bit.ly/3NnM1A7>
Houston Advanced Research Center: 8801 Gosling Rd., The Woodlands, TX 77381

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 (In-Person)
Vacant	Counties (Secretary)	
Gene Fisseler	Public (At-Large member)	X (In-Person)
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	X (In-Person) *Briana Gallagher (In-Person)
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	*MaryAnne Piacentini
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	X
Rachel Powers	Environmental Interests	X
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	
Dena Green	Flood Districts	X (In-Person)
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	X *Bob Kosar
Christina Quintero	Public	X
Neil Gaynor	Upper Watershed	X (In-Person)

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Hope Zubek	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	
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	X *Alfred Garcia
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	*Trae Camble
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	
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	
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 (In-person)
Maggie Puckett	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X (In-person)
Hayes McKibben	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X
Andrew Moore	Halff, Associates	X (In-person)
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	X
Rachel Herr	Halff, Associates	X
Mariah Najmuddin	Hollaway Environmental + Communications	X (In-person)

<u>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Fatima Berrios	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-person)
Claudia Garcia	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-person)

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 11

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

Attendees:**

In Person: Erwin Burden (HCED), Peter Marchetti (Halff), John Graziano, Shane Porter (Atkins)

Remote:

Call-in User_2

Chris Fenner (Stewart Consulting Group)

Cristian Ayala

Jason Becker

Marcus Stuckett

Reem Zoun (TWDB)

Susan Chadwick

Tanner Helweg

Tina Petersen

Unknown: 1

***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

Ms. Berrios took attendance. A quorum was determined to be present. Mr. Buscha recognized the in-person voting members in attendance.

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 would listen and comment at the end of the meeting, if he deemed appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Ms. Ingram stated there were no updates from the Texas Water Development Board.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the May 12, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett and Ms. Bakko offered minor comments. Ms. Vinson made the motion to approve the minutes, as revised. Mr. Fisseler seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and stated the motion to approve the May 12 meeting minutes carried.

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

Mr. Buscha announced Lisa Mairs as the alternate for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

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

- **a. Trinity Region** – Mr. Buscha stated Mr. Burrer was not on the call.
- **b. Neches Region** – Mr. Buscha stated Mr. Costello was not on the call.
- **c. Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco updated that the Lower Brazos met on May 26 and were aligned with SJRFP, in terms of actions and schedule.
- **d. Region H Water** – Ms. Vinson stated Mr. Wade was unavailable.
- **e. GCPD** – Ms. Bakko updated that the GCPD's Executive Director and two board members will attend the ICEC conference in The Netherlands. Ms. Bakko also announced that the US House of Representatives passed HR7776 (Water Resources Development Act of 2022), which authorizes the Texas Coastal Study Storm Protection System project. No information was provided on when the Senate will consider its version of the bill.

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

Mr. Buscha stated that on June 1 the Executive Committee met and interviewed Mr. Erwin Burden. The Executive Committee agreed to bring the recommendation for Mr. Burden to be named as the new Counties representative voting member. Ms. Vinson stated the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to recommend Mr. Burden. Mr. Barrett stated support for the recommendation. Mr. Buscha opened for comments. Ms. Vinson moved to appoint Mr. Burden to fill the Counties voting member position and Mr. Fisseler seconded. Mr. Buscha announced the motion carried. Mr. Burden accepted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion, and Possible Action for the appointment of the new Secretary

Mr. Buscha identified the duties of the Secretary. Mr. Buscha stated that, in accordance with the bylaws, a new Secretary must be elected by the group within 90 days of the seat being vacated. The Chair

delayed formal discussion until adequate time is available to give full consideration and discussion to the matter. In the meantime, as provided by the bylaws, Mr. Buscha appointed Mr. Burden to serve as interim Secretary until a formal nomination process can be held and voted on by membership at the August monthly meeting. Mr. Burden accepted.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update from the Technical Consultant regarding progress of the regional flood plan and:

a. Possible action to recommend identified FMXs

b. Updates on ongoing public engagement and communications efforts

Mr. Buscha stated that meeting materials were distributed prior to the meeting and yielded the floor to the Technical Consultants. Mr. Stull, with Freese and Nichols, Inc. introduced Chris Fenner with Stewart Consulting Group to go over Task 9: Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis. Mr. Fenner stated the goal of the task was to provide relevant and useful information on how the various sponsors could find strategic federal and state funding partners to help bring projects forward to completion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Stull opened the floor to comments and there were none. Mr. Stull reminded the group to be aware of a funding survey that has been sent out and for stakeholders to be on the lookout for it.

Mr. Stull reiterated that a lot of information has been provided to the members regarding FMXs. Mr. Stull stated there are more than 500 FMXs included in the plan for recommendation. Ms. Puckett stated a central objective of the flood planning process is to identify (and recommend) actions and solutions. Ms. Puckett stated that the Technical Consultant provided a tabular list of projects and one page project summaries (one-pagers), to accompany the GIS dashboard. Ms. Puckett reviewed updates to the FMX list which included responding to comments from sponsors. Ms. Bakko stated her concern for the Galveston Bay Storm surge project description and Ms. Puckett acknowledged Ms. Bakko's comments. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Puckett stated considerations for FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs. Ms. Puckett stated the goal was to vote to recommend the list of FMXs. Ms. Piacentini inquired about timing and Mr. Stull clarified. Ms. Vinson added that the objective today was to approve recommendation for the plan and the plan amendment was currently underway, meaning the list was not final. Ms. Puckett guided the SJRFPG through the one-pager contents. Discussion ensued regarding Benefit Cost Ratio methodology and draft plan amendment process.

Mr. Buscha asked for a motion to recommend the FMX list presented by the Technical Consultants. Concerns were raised that a vote recommending the list included in the regional flood plan should not be construed that the SJRFPG recommends implementation of all the FMXs. Rather, a recommendation to include the list is simply to give the FMXs the opportunity for access to state funding should the FMXs receive final approval in the jurisdictions responsible for their approval. There was a consensus that a disclaimer be included in the report stating that the recommendation to include the list of FMXs is not an endorsement of their implementation. Ms. Vinson made the motion to recommend the list as reflected on the spreadsheet, subject to non-substantive changes and finalizing fields of information. Dr. Gaynor seconded. Mr. Fisseler suggested we include an agenda item in a future meeting for review of this and other such disclaimer language. Mr. Buscha clarified that the disclaimers would be documented in the draft plan that the SJRFPG would be voting on in July. Mr. Buscha called for a vote to recommend the list of FMXs and Mr. Buscha stated the motion carried.

Mr. Moore, with Halff, Associates, gave a brief overview of Task 7: Flood Response Information and Activities. No comments were made.

Ms. Najmuddin recapped the successful public engagement efforts of the three open house-style meetings. Ms. Najmuddin reviewed the metrics and reviewed lessons learned. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Approval and Certification of Administrative Expenses Incurred by The Project Sponsor for the Development of Regional Flood Plan

Mr. Buscha confirmed the Project Sponsor expenses. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the Project Sponsor expenses. Ms. Powers seconded. The vote was taken and Mr. Buscha stated the motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Presentation of 2022 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to be held on July 14, 2022

Mr. Buscha stated that at the July meeting, the SJRFPG would be approving the draft Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Stull added that future milestones would be distributed to the RFPG.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Update and Discussion Pertaining to In-Person RFPG Meeting Location(s)

Mr. Buscha stated that future RFPG meetings would continue to be hybrid and the Project Sponsor would continue to seek a centralized meeting location where all the voting members would be invited to attend in-person. Mr. Buscha requested to have the July meeting at HARC. Mr. Buscha noted that an upcoming Public Engagement Committee meeting was to be scheduled.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Reminder Regarding Planning Group Member Training on Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act

Mr. Buscha reminded the group that anyone who hasn't completed the training needs to do so and submit records to the Project Sponsor. Mr. Buscha requested alternate members from the Flood Districts and the Counties voting members.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

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

- Technical Consultant will add agenda items for SJRFPG approval

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

Mr. Buscha opened the floor to public comments. Ms. Berrios stated there were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Adjourn

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.


Timothy Buscha, Chair