

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

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

**Roll Call:**

| <u>Voting Member</u> | <u>Interest Category</u><br><u>(Executive Committee role)</u> | <u>Present (x) / Absent ( ) /</u><br><u>Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Timothy E. Buscha    | Industries (Chair)  | X (In-Person)   |
| Alia Vinson          | Water Districts (Vice Chair)                                  | X (In-Person) *Augustus Campbell (In-Person)                      |
| Erwin Burden         | Counties (Secretary)  | X (In-Person)   |
| 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  | X   |
| Connie Pothier       | Small Business  | X   |
| Paul E. Lock         | Electric Generating Utilities                                 | X (In-Person)   |
| Rachel Powers        | Environmental Interests                                       | X   |
| Stephen Costello     | Municipalities  |   |
| Dena Green           | Flood Districts   | X   |
| Todd Burrer          | Water Utilities   | X   |
| Brian Maxwell        | Coastal Communities   | *Bob Kosar  |
| Christina Quintero   | Public  |   |
| Neil Gaynor          | Upper Watershed   | X (In-Person)   |

| <u>Non-voting Member</u> | <u>Agency</u>                                 | <u>Present(x)/Absent ( ) /</u><br><u>Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Hope Zubek               | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department           | X  |
| Michelle Ellis           | Texas Division of Emergency Management        | *Eric Wright (In-Person)                                       |
| 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 (In-Person)  |
| Melinda Johnston         | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality     |  |
| Justin Bower             | Houston-Galveston Area Council                | X  |
| 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  |
| Eric Stevens             | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers                  | *Lisa Mairs  |

| <u>Liaisons from RFPG</u> | <u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u> | <u>Present(x)/Absent ( ) /</u><br><u>Alternate Present (*)</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Todd Burrer               | Trinity Region RFPG                  | X  |
| Stephen Costello          | Neches Region RFPG                   |  |

|               |                   |  |
|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Michael Turco | Lower Brazos RFPG |  |
|---------------|-------------------|--|

| <u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u> | <u>Entity</u>                          | <u>Present(x)/Absent( )/<br/>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 | X  |

| <u>Technical Consultant Team Members</u> | <u>Entity</u>                           | <u>Present(x)/Absent( )/<br/>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 (In-Person)  |
| Mariah Najmuddin                         | Hollaway Environmental + Communications | X  |

| <u>Project Sponsor</u> | <u>Entity</u>                        | <u>Present(x)/Absent( )/<br/>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: 13

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

#### **Attendees\*\*:**

**In Person:** John Graziano, Reem Zoun (TWDB), Dr. Tina Petersen (HCFCD), Roger Gaskamp (MC MUD 83), Linda Durant (MC MUD 83)

#### **Remote:**

|                          |                 |                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Becky                    | Jishnu Nair     | Susan Chadwick          |
| Brian Edmondson          | Joe             | Susan Fraser            |
| Caitlin Heller           | Mac Martin      | Vince DeCario (Arcadis) |
| Call-in User_2           | Marcus Stuckett |                         |
| Cristian Ayala           | Paresh          |                         |
| James Bronikowski (TWDB) | Peggy Zahler    |                         |

*\*\*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 Dr. Tina Petersen, the Executive Director of Harris County Flood Control District 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. Gaskamp with Montgomery County MUD 83, representing MUD 83 and MUD 84, spoke to the group about maintenance needs for a channel in Montgomery County. Mr. Gaskamp wanted to ensure his concerns are reflected in the Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Buscha invited Mr. Gaskamp to visit with the SJRFPG Technical Consultant, Freese & Nichols, Inc., who had representatives in attendance. No additional public comments were made.

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

Mr. Buscha welcomed Ms. Ingram and Ms. Zoun who attended in-person. Ms. Zoun invited the Chair and Vice Chair to briefly convene after the meeting to discuss the next planning cycle.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2022**

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the June 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett offered minor comments. Mr. Lock confirmed his attendance at the June 9 meeting. Mr. Lock made the motion to approve the minutes, as revised. Mr. Burden seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and stated the motion to approve the June 9 meeting minutes passed.

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

Mr. Buscha announced Dr. Tina Petersen as Dena Green's alternate. Dr. Petersen noted that her acceptance of the alternate role to Ms. Green is subject to Harris County Commissioners Court approval.

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

**a. Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer updated that the Trinity region had published its draft of Chapter 6 (Impact and Contribution to the regional flood plan). Mr. Burrer stated that its next meeting would be July 21, where a vote will take place to approve the draft plan and he will be able to fully report on the outcome at the August 11 SJRFPG meeting.

**b. Neches Region** – Mr. Buscha stated Mr. Costello was not on the call.

**c. Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Wade updated that the Lower Brazos region RFPG is set to approve its draft plan at its next meeting on July 21.

**d. Region H Water** – Mr. Wade stated Region H will be meeting in-person in Conroe, Tx on August 3 at 10:00 am.

**e. Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)** – Ms. Bakko updated that the US Senate will be voting on the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, which includes and would authorize the Coastal Texas Study - Storm Surge Protection System project that is included in the list of FMXs previously voted on by the SJRFPG. Ms. Bakko updated that since the US House of Representatives passed its bill in June, authorizing the project as well, this could mean that it might be on the President's desk before the August recess for a budget request in FY2024.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Presentation and Update from the Technical Consultant on the development of the Regional Flood Plan:**

- a. **Disclaimer(s) added to the Regional Flood Plan**
- b. **Approval of the Draft Regional Flood Plan and authorization to submit the plan and required materials to the TWDB contingent upon incorporation of any necessary, non-substantive comments or changes including, but not limited to:**
  - i. **Updates necessary to adhere to recently issued TWDB guidance**
  - ii. **Non-substantive updates necessary to address recently received comments from the TWDB on the Technical Memorandum**
  - iii. **Updates necessary to address additional or outstanding RFPG comments**
- c. **Future efforts to solicit input on the Draft Regional Flood Plan**

Mr. Buscha stated the goal of the meeting was to approve the draft Regional Flood Plan (draft Plan). Ms. Vinson reminded the group that the draft Plan submittal deadline for submittal to the TWDB is August 1, 2022.

Mr. Stull gave updates on plan developments and next steps. Ms. Puckett reviewed details of the compilation of the draft Plan. Ms. Puckett reviewed recent changes to the draft Plan including addressing feedback from Task 9: Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis and updates to the FMX list. Ms. Puckett reviewed the disclaimers proposed for inclusion in the draft Plan, as requested by the RFPG. Ms. Puckett reviewed the submittal of the draft Plan including Volumes 1 and 2 and all the back-up data such as spatial data. Ms. Puckett reminded the group of the non-substantive feedback deadline of July 18<sup>th</sup> at noon, for the draft Plan. Discussion ensued regarding comments on the draft plan.

Ms. Puckett reviewed the input timeline of the draft Regional Flood Plan. Discussion ensued. Ms. Puckett opened the floor for comments on approval of the draft Plan. Mr. Buscha reiterated the deadline for comments from the RFPG, which is July 18, and opened the floor for comments before taking a vote. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Vinson made a motion to approve the submittal of the draft Regional Flood Plan, as presented subject to any necessary non-substantive comments. Mr. Fisseler seconded. Mr. Buscha took a formal vote and announced the motion passed to approve the submittal of the draft Regional Flood Plan.

Ms. Najmuddin stated the Public Engagement Committee met on July 5 and agreed that the last two weeks of September are ideal for the next public engagement meetings. The Public Engagement Committee identified a couple of potential locations. Ms. Najmuddin stated that due to funding and lessons learned, there will be only one in-person meeting and one virtual meeting. Discussion ensued. Ms. Najmuddin reviewed the meeting accommodations to be considered and advised that the next Public Engagement Committee meeting will be August 5 at 1:30 pm. Mr. Buscha asked any members interested in attending that meeting to let the Project Sponsor know to avoid a quorum.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update and recommendation(s) from the Public Engagement Committee; discussion, and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to the development of the Communications and Media Engagement Plan and the next Public Outreach meeting**

Ms. Najmuddin stated that feedback was received and provided a high-level overview of the changes since the RFPG last saw the Communications and Media Engagement Plan. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Fisseler made the motion to approve the Communications and Media Engagement Plan, as revised, and Mr. Burden seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and announced the motion passed to approve the Communications and Media Engagement Plan, as revised.

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the next public outreach meeting. Mr. Buscha asked the RFPG to consider the details previously reviewed in the meeting by the Communications Consultant, as presented by the Public Engagement Committee. Discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: 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 and Mr. Fisseler seconded. A vote was taken and Mr. Buscha stated the Project Sponsor administrative expenses were approved.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Presentation of 2022 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:**

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to be held on August 11, 2022

Mr. Buscha stated that the RFPG would be approving the final version of the Regional Flood Plan in December. Mr. Buscha mentioned the next RFPG meeting is August 11, 2022.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update and Discussion Pertaining to In-Person RFPG Meeting Location(s)**

Mr. Buscha requested that the Project Sponsor seek to hold the August 11 meeting at the HARC location. Mr. Buscha stated that meetings after that date will likely be held in a central location in Houston.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Reminder Regarding Planning Group Member Training on Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act**

Mr. Buscha reminded the group to complete the training needs and submit records to the Project Sponsor.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

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

- The RFPG will approve the recommendation from the Public Engagement Committee for the next public outreach meetings
- Presentation by the GCPD, confirmed by Ms. Bakko

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: 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. 16: Adjourn**

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.



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Erwin Burden, Secretary



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Timothy Buscha, Chair