

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group**  
**August 11, 2022 at 9:00 AM**  
**Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: <https://bit.ly/3zo6ArX>**  
**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
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)
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	X
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	X (In-Person)
Rachel Powers	Environmental Interests	*Charlotte Cisneros
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	X
Dena Green	Flood Districts	*Dr. Tina Petersen
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	X
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	*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	X
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
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	X
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	X

<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.	
Andrew Moore	Halff, Associates	X (In-Person)
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	X
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	X
Rachel Herr	Halff, Associates	X (In-Person)
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: 15

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

**Attendees\*\*:**

**In Person:** Mr. John Graziano

**Remote:**

Brian Edmondson

Caitlin Heller

Call-in User\_2

Christian Ayala

Ericka

Sam Hinojosa

James Bronikowski (TWDB)

Jill Boullion

Nicole Sunstrum (GCPD)

Peggy Zahlaer

Samantha Haritos

Susan Chadwick

Terry Barr

*\*\*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.

**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 and there were none.

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

Mr. Buscha yielded the floor to Ms. Ingram for Texas Water Development Board updates. Ms. Ingram reported that the draft Regional Flood Plan was reviewed and deemed administratively complete. Ms. Ingram stated that the Texas Water Development Board will now formally conduct a technical review of the draft plan.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2022**

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the July 14, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett offered minor comments. Ms. Fisseler moved to approve the minutes, as revised, and Mr. Burden seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and Mr. Costello abstained. Mr. Buscha announced the motion to approve the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes passed.

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

Ms. Berrios announced three new alternates:

- Charlotte Cisneros for Environmental interests (Rachel Powers)
- Dr. Tina Petersen for Flood Districts (Dena Green)
- Isabel Fung for Counties (Erwin Burden)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Nomination, discussion, and possible action to elect the SJRFPG Secretary**

After reviewing the Secretary duties, Mr. Buscha opened the floor to discussion of nominations for the Secretary position and discussion ensued. Mr. Fisseler moved to nominate Mr. Burden to serve as Secretary and Mr. Costello seconded. A vote was taken with Mr. Burden abstaining. Mr. Buscha announced the motion carried to elect Mr. Burden as Secretary.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s) Progress and Status:**

**a. Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer reported on the Trinity Region Flood Planning Group. He directed members to [www.trinityrfp.org](http://www.trinityrfp.org) for more information.

**b. Neches Region** – Mr. Costello updated that the Neches Region draft Flood Plan is posted for review. Mr. Costello directed the group to [www.nechesfloodplanning.org](http://www.nechesfloodplanning.org). Ms. Haselbach noted that on September 9<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 p.m. at Lamar University the first public input meeting on the draft Flood Plan for the Neches Region would be held.

**c. Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco reported that the Lower Brazos Region had posted its draft plan. Mr. Turco continued to update that a meeting was scheduled on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, for public input. Mr. Wade, the Lower Brazos Region Chair, confirmed.

**d. Region H Water** – Mr. Wade stated that during the last Region H meeting, the group went over population demands. The next meeting is November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**e. Gulf Coast Protection District (GCDP)** – Ms. Bakko yielded her time to the next agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Presentation by Gulf Coast Protection District – Overview of the Gulf Coast Protection District**

Mr. Buscha reminded the Group that the GCPD had previously offered to provide a presentation. Ms. Bakko introduced Nicole Sunstrum, the Executive Director of GCPD. Ms. Sunstrum gave an overview of the GCPD and its charge. Ms. Bakko continued the presentation with updates on recent Congressional actions regarding the 2022 Water Resources Development Act. Ms. Bakko and Ms. Sunstrum concluded the presentation and opened the floor to comments or questions. Discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Presentation and Update from the Technical Consultant on the development of the Regional Flood Plan**

Mr. Buscha yielded the floor to the Technical Consultants. Mr. Stull gave an update on the submittal of the draft Regional Flood Plan. Ms. Puckett discussed amending the draft Regional Flood Plan and future public meetings. She briefed the group about the public comment period, differing methods to call for public input on the draft Regional Flood Plan, and other considerations. Ms. Puckett reviewed the upcoming schedule of further development of the draft Regional Flood Plan. She stated that Tasks 11- 13 are largely focused on increasing outreach to key stakeholders and elevating projects to be considered by the Texas Water Development Board.

Ms. Puckett presented details of Task 12: Perform FMEs for additional FMPs and mentioned the Technical Committee would be meeting to discuss a prioritization framework. Discussion ensued.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Update and recommendation(s) from the Public Engagement Committee; discussion, and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to the location and strategies for the upcoming Public Outreach meetings and locations for the hard copy draft RFP**

Ms. Najmuddin stated that during the Public Engagement Committee meeting, its members came to a consensus to have two meetings: one in-person and one virtual meeting. They are set for September 27<sup>th</sup> and September 29<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Ms. Najmuddin reviewed further considerations such as locations and meeting formats. Discussion ensued. Ms. Najmuddin also stated the considerations taken into account when choosing locations for housing the hardcopy draft Regional Flood Plan for the 60-day public input period. Ms. Najmuddin opened the floor to comments. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Buscha called for a vote to be taken to approve the locations to house the hard copies of the draft Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Fisseler moved to approve the suggested locations recommended by the Public Engagement Committee and Ms. Vinson seconded. Ms. Pothier offered to send the information to additional key stakeholders. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and announced the motion carried to approve the locations to house the hard copies of the draft Regional Flood Plan.

Mr. Buscha reviewed the recommendations by the Public Engagement Committee for the upcoming public outreach meetings. Mr. Fisseler made a motion to approve the two-meetings identified and Mr. Barrett seconded. Mr. Buscha took a vote and announced the motion carried to approve the Public Engagement Committee's recommendations regarding the draft RFP public outreach meetings.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Approval and Certification of Administrative Expenses Incurred by The Project Sponsor for the Development of Regional Flood Plan**

Mr. Buscha reported that he had reviewed and confirmed the Project Sponsor Administrative Expenses. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the Project Sponsor expenses. Mr. Costello seconded. A vote was taken and Mr. Buscha stated the motion to approve the Administrative Expenses carried.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Presentation of 2022 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:**

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to be held on September 8, 2022

In addition to the items listed above, Mr. Buscha stated that during the planning meeting that falls on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the RFPG would be tasked with approving the final version of the Regional Flood Plan. All members should "save the date" of that meeting. Mr. Buscha reminded the group that the next RFPG meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Update and Discussion Pertaining to In-Person RFPG Meeting Location(s)**  
Mr. Buscha requested that the Project Sponsor seek additional venues for the September meeting. Mr. Buscha indicated that the September meeting would potentially be at HARC.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: 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.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting**  
Mr. Buscha identified the following items for the next RFPG Meeting agenda:

- Update after the next Technical Committee meeting and possible recommendations
- Presentation by the GLO

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person**  
Mr. Buscha opened the floor to public comments. Mr. Graziano suggested to the RFPG to reach out to the various Farm Bureau offices to clarify the message the RFPG is intending to communicate. Mr. Graziano expressed additional concerns and Mr. Buscha acknowledged his statements and offered to exchange contact information for further discussion.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Adjourn**  
Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

  
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Erwin Burden, Secretary

  
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Timothy Buscha, Chair