

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group**  
**December 8, 2022 at 9:00 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: <https://bit.ly/3fV8klR>**  
**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)
Erwin Burden	Counties (Secretary)	X (In-Person)
Gene Fisseler	Public (At-Large member)	X
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	X
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	X (In-Person)
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	X
Rachel Powers	Environmental Interests	X
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	X
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	X
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	X
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	*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	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	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	
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> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Todd Burrer	Trinity Region RFPG	X
Stephen Costello	Neches Region RFPG	X
Michael Turco	Lower Brazos RFPG	

<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)
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:** Brian Edmondson (FNI)

**Remote:**

Briana Gallagher

Christina Lindsay

Craig Maske

Cristian Ayala (Torres)

Dena Green

Ericka Reyes (FNI)

Gary Bezemek (HCFCD)

Marcus Stuckett

Peggy Zahlaer

Rebecca Andrews

Susan Chadwick

*\*\*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 9:01 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call**

Ms. Garcia took attendance and 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 any registered comments and none were made.

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2022**

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the November 10, 2022 meeting minutes and none were heard. Mrs. Vinson moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Burden seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and noted that he abstained due to his absence at the November meeting. Mr. Buscha announced that the motion passed.

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

Ms. Berrios stated there were no new announcements. Mr. Buscha asked for member alternates to be provided by the February 2023 meeting.

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

- a. **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer stated that the Trinity Region was requesting mitigation projects for potential inclusion in the region's amended flood plan. Data requested by January 2023.
- b. **Neches Region** – Mr. Costello updated that the Neches Region was aligned with the Region 6 timeline. The regional meeting to be the following week.
- c. **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco was unavailable to provide an update.
- d. **Region H Water** – Mr. Wade was unavailable to provide an update.
- e. **Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)** – Ms. Bakko stated that Congress would be taking action on the National Defense Authorization Act, inclusive of the Water Resources Development Act, which authorizes the Coastal Texas Study project. Ms. Bakko stated the project would have to be authorized by the President. GCPD is preparing budget details for the funding request, which would be the next step after authorization. Total \$600 million. Ms. Bakko further discussed regarding funding for the project and the next steps of the project.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Presentation and Update from the Technical Consultant on the development of the Regional Flood Plan; discussion, and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to:**

- a. The approval of formal responses to public comments received during the comment review period as well as TWDB comments;
- b. The recommendation of flood mitigation projects in the final plan;
- c. The approval of the Final Regional Flood Plan due January 10, 2023 and authorization to submit the plan and required materials to the TWDB contingent upon incorporation of any necessary, non-substantive comments or changes; and

**d. The authorization for the Technical Consultant to submit written request to the TWDB to use Task 13 funds to consider and incorporate new data and actions submitted by sponsors for potential inclusion in the Amended Regional Flood Plan due July 14, 2023.**

Mr. Stull stated that the Planning Group would be adopting the final Regional Flood Plan and would be covering the amended Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Stull thanked the planning group members and committees for working to develop the Regional Flood Plan. He also thanked the members of the public for their participation stating that it was deeply appreciated.

Mr. Moore reviewed a comment received on the draft Regional Flood Plan regarding FMEs for the City of Houston, which had enough data to be elevated to FMPs in the Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Moore stated that the City of Houston submitted the additional data needed and requested approval to include these projects in the final plan. Mr. Moore reviewed the projects individually. Under agenda item 8b., the Technical Consultant requested a vote to approve the addition of the City of Houston projects. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the projects and Dr. Gaynor seconded. Mr. Buscha announced the motion carried after taking a vote.

Ms. Puckett gave an overview of the public comment and review period of the Regional Flood Plan. She reviewed the comments received and the responses to the comments. Ms. Puckett displayed an example of the formal response letters with detailed responses to the comments received on the plan. Ms. Puckett requested approval to responses that would be distributed under agenda item 8a. Discussion ensued. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the responses to public comments and Mr. Burden seconded. After taking a vote, Mr. Buscha announced that the motion passed.

Ms. Puckett stated that under agenda item 8c., the Technical Consultant requested that the SJRFPG adopt the final Regional Flood Plan for submission to the TWDB on January 10, 2023. Ms. Puckett highlighted that the meeting materials contained track changes to the updates in the final Regional Flood Plan, stemming from the comments received. Ms. Ingram provided clarification regarding there being a broader feedback opportunity during the Flood Plan's formal public comment period next Spring. Discussion ensued. Mr. Buscha thanked the Technical Consultant team for its hard work on the plan development. Mr. Buscha called for a vote for the SJRFPG to adopt the final Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Costello moved to approve the final Regional Flood Plan and Dr. Petersen seconded. A vote was taken and Mr. Buscha announced that the motion passed.

"The San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group **adopts** the **Final 2023 Region 6 Flood Plan** and authorizes the Technical Consultant to submit the plan and required materials to the TWDB contingent upon incorporation of any necessary, non-substantive comments or changes"

Ms. Puckett reviewed the amendment process of the plan and upcoming deadlines. Ms. Puckett requested that due to the volume of FMXs to be elevated to FMPs, the Planning Group authorize the Technical Consultant request to TWDB to include additional projects in the plan, under agenda item 8d. Clarifying discussion ensued. Ms. Vinson moved to authorize the Technical Consultant to submit written

request to include additional projects in the plan. Mr. Burden seconded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and announced the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Presentation and Update from the Technical Consultant on the ongoing outreach activities; discussion and possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to ongoing efforts**  
Ms. Najmuddin gave an overview of the Story Map tool and the intentions of the tool. Ms. Najmuddin demonstrated the draft Story Map for the meeting attendees and reviewed the updates since the rollout for comments. Discussion ensued. The Technical Consultants requested approval to post the Story Map on the website from the RFPG. Mr. Buscha stated that no formal vote was needed as the SJRFPG has given positive feedback thus far.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Approval and Certification of Administrative Expenses Incurred by The Project Sponsor for The Development of Regional Flood Plan**

Mr. Buscha stated that the Project Sponsor deferred the Administrative Expenses to the next RFPG meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Presentation of 2023 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines; possible action from the RFPG as it pertains to the 2023 meeting schedule:**

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to be held on February 9, 2023
- c. Next potential meeting dates: April 13, 2023 & June 8, 2023

Mr. Buscha stated that the Technical Consultants would be working on Task 12 and Task 13. Mr. Buscha highlighted the upcoming SJRFPG meetings and the schedule looking ahead. Ms. Vinson reminded the group about the process and policy for outreach speaking requests.

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

Mr. Buscha announced that the upcoming hybrid planning meetings would be at a new venue at the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District. Mr. Buscha requested that the Project Sponsor send out a calendar hold for the upcoming meeting and location.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

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

- Officer elections to be held in February, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person**

Mr. Buscha opened the floor to any public comments and none were heard.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Adjournment**

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.



Erwin Burden, Secretary



Tim Buscha, Chair