

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
February 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: <https://bit.ly/3WYgSs6>

Harris-Galveston Subsidence District: 1660 West Bay Area Blvd., Friendswood, TX 77546

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> (Executive Committee role)	<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
Gene Fisseler	Public (At-Large member)	X (In-Person)
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	X
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	X
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X (In-Person)
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	X
Rachel Powers	Environmental Interests	
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	X
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	X (In-Person)
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	X
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	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	X *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
Lisa Mairs	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	

<u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Mark Vogler	Lower Brazos RFPG	
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	X
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)
Brian Edmondson	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X (In-Person)
Andrew Moore	Halff, Associates	X (In-Person)
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	X *Cristian Ayala
Rachel Herr	Halff, Associates	X (In-Person)
Mariah Najmuddin	Hollaway Environmental + Communications	X *Connor Stokes

<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: 14

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

Attendees:**

Remote:

Auggie Campbell	Melvin Spinks	Rebecca Andrews
Briana Gallagher	Michael Bloom	Reem Zoun (TWDB)
Ericka Reyes (FNI)	Mike Dach	Sandra Ortiz
Gary Bezemek (HCFCD)	Mel Vargas	Shane Porter
James Bronikowski (TWDB)	Peggy Zahler	
Jim Robertson	Ray Mayo	

***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 9:04 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Ms. Berrios 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. Mr. Buscha stated that a written public comment received was made available to all members and the Technical Consultant.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Ms. Ingram stated that the Texas Water Development Board was amid the final plan review. No additional updates to be made.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2022

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the December 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett offered minor comments. Mrs. Vinson moved to approve the minutes, as revised and Mr. Costello seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and announced that the motion passed.

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

Mr. Buscha announced that Mr. Gary Bezemek would be alternate for Tina Petersen (Flood Districts) and Lisa Mairs is now representative for the US Army Corps of Engineers.

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 adopted the Trinity Regional Flood Plan and called for additional data with a January 27th deadline for submission. The planning group will present the amended plan at the same time as the SJRFPG.
- b. **Neches Region** – Mr. Costello updated that the Neches Region was in a process similar to the SJRFPG of elevating FMEs to FMPs.
- c. **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Buscha noted that Mr. Turco was unavailable to provide an update.
- d. **Region H Water** – Mr. Buscha noted that Mr. Wade was unavailable to provide an update.
- e. **Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)** – Ms. Bakko stated that a (House and Senate) BASE budget bill (a budget containing all related legislative appropriations) will be presented to the State legislature and she discussed funding needs for the Coastal Texas Study project. Ms. Bakko stated that she would update the group on the upcoming hearings, during the next RFPG meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Officer Elections – Discussion, possible action, and consideration of nominations to the RFPG Executive Committee, including members At-Large

Mr. Buscha stated that the three officer positions and two At-Large member positions that make up the Executive Committee were to be voted on, as required by the bylaws. Mr. Buscha offered the sitting members an opportunity to speak about the opportunity to continue serving. Discussion ensued. Ms. Vinson expressed her wishes to continue to serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Burden expressed his desire to continue to serve as Secretary. Mr. Barrett expressed his willingness to continue to serve as an At-Large member. Mr. Fisseler stated that he was stepping down in his role leaving one At-Large seat vacant. Mr. Buscha expressed his wishes to continue to serve as Chair. Discussion ensued pertaining to the vacant

At-Large seat. After nominations were heard for all five positions, a vote was taken and all nominees were approved by the RFPG.

The 2023 elected officers are as follows:

- Chair – Tim Buscha: Nominated by Mr. Fisseler, Seconded by Mr. Costello
- Vice Chair – Alia Vinson: Nominated by Dr. Petersen, Seconded by Mr. Costello
- Secretary – Erwin Burden: Nominated by Ms. Vinson, Seconded by Mr. Costello
- At-Large Member (#1) – Matt Barrett: Nominated by Mr. Costello, Seconded by Ms. Vinson
- At-Large Member (#2) – Tina Petersen: Nominated by Mr. Costello, Seconded by Mr. Fisseler

Dr. Petersen agreed to serve as At-Large #2 member of the Executive Committee. No further discussion or considerations were heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: 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. Amending RFP Task Budgets to shift remaining budget in Tasks 1 – 11 to Tasks 12 – 13

Mr. Stull gave an update on the current state of the development of the Regional Flood Plan (the “Plan”). The final Plan was successfully submitted on January 10, 2023 and Ms. Puckett discussed the details of the final Plan’s submission. Ms. Puckett shared that the data from the Regional Flood Plan was made available to other flood planning efforts, namely to the Texas General Land Office’s Combined River Basin Flood Studies. Mr. Stokes with Hollaway Environmental and Communications gave an overview of public outreach efforts during the development of the Plan and noted statistics regarding email subscribers and website visits.

Ms. Puckett reviewed major accomplishments during the development of the Plan. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Puckett reviewed the budget within Tasks 1 – 11 and in Tasks 12 & 13 and requested that the group vote to shift remaining budget from Tasks 1 – 11 to Tasks 12 & 13 equaling a total amount of \$66,269.09. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and Mr. Costello made a motion to approve the budget allocation. Mr. Fisseler seconded. After a vote was taken, Mr. Buscha announced the vote was approved.

Mr. Stull gave an update on Task 12 FMEs. Ms. Puckett presented results on sponsor outreach and concurrence. Discussion ensued. Ms. Puckett briefly reviewed specific FMEs that were being elevated to FMPs through Tasks 12 and 13. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: 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

Covered under agenda item 9.

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

Mr. Buscha stated he certified the Administrative Expenses presented by the Project Sponsor. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the Administrative Expenses and Mr. Fisseler seconded. After a vote was taken, Mr. Buscha announced the motion passed to approve the expenses.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Presentation of 2023 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:

a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones

b. Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held on April 13, 2023

Mr. Buscha reviewed the upcoming timeline. Ms. Puckett explained the upcoming vote planned for the April meeting regarding the Amended Plan. An overview of additional upcoming milestones and review periods was presented.

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

Mr. Buscha announced that the Project Sponsor will continue to search for a more centralized location. In the meantime, the RFPG will meet at Harris-Galveston Subsidence District through June 2023.

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

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

- Review new FMX data and vote to recommend
- Amended Plan update

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

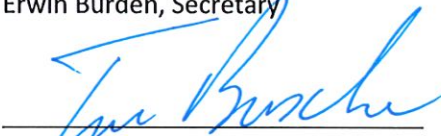
Mr. Buscha opened the floor to any public comments. Mr. Mike Dach (AFMN) discussed AFMN's comments to the Plan. Discussion ensued. No further comments were heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjournment

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.



Erwin Burden, Secretary



Tim Buscha, Chair