

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
April 13, 2023 at 9:00 AM

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

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 (In-Person)
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X (In-Person)
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	
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	*Rachel Wolfe
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	*Brian Koch (In-Person)
Santiago Franco	Texas General Land Office	X (In-Person)
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	*Richard Bagans
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	*Steven Johnston
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	
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	
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.	
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 (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: 14

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

Attendees:**

In-person: James Canfield (LCWCID #1), Bob Lux (WWA-BOT),

Remote:

Auggie Campbell

David Parkhill

Ericka Reyes (FNI)

Gary Bezemek (HCFCD)

Jim Robertson

Joe Myers

Marcus Baskin

Matt Nelson (TWDB)

Matthew Brand

Melissa Byers

Peggy Zahler

Reem Zoun (TWDB)

Rod Pinheiro

Susan Chadwick

Wendy Sidwell

***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 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. Ms. Berrios stated that three individuals had registered to make comments. Councilwoman Byers provided a statement regarding the City of Southside Place and a related ditch project as a Flood Mitigation Project. Mr. Brand representing Brookshire Katy Drainage District provided a comment regarding the district and a related Flood Management Evaluation project in the Regional Flood Plan. The third public comment was reserved for the end of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Mr. Bagans stated that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) extended the feedback period for the Methodology for FMX Ranking to April 14, 2023. He stated that the TWDB held a ranking webinar which included a brief overview and a Question & Answer session. Mr. Bagans indicated that materials regarding criteria were on the TWDB website for review. Mr. Bagans reminded the group that amended plans were due July 14, 2023 and reminded the group to start preparing for terms of office determination for the next planning cycle. Mr. Bagans opened the floor to questions. Discussion ensued.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2023

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for comments on the February 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett offered minor comments. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the minutes, as revised, and Mr. Costello seconded. Mr. Buscha called for a vote and announced that the motion passed to approve the minutes.

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

Ms. Berrios announced that the new representative of the Texas General Land Office (GLO) was Santiago Franco and announced that Mr. Tom Pothier would be the new Alternate to the Small Business interest category. Mr. Buscha welcomed the new members and reminded them to take the trainings for the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act that are required.

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

- a. **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer was unavailable to provide an update. Mr. Buscha stated that the Trinity region was at the FMX update stage aligned with Region 6 and that he had an opportunity for discussion with the Trinity region Chair.
- b. **Neches Region** – Ms. Hasselback updated that the Neches region met March 28, 2023 to discuss and evaluate FMX rankings and stated the Neches region provided suggestions to the TWDB. She stated the next meeting will be April 25, 2023 and they would be welcoming a new Chairman, Steve Moon.
- 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 the Texas House of Representatives passed a budget bill for funding for GCPD through the GLO. Ms. Bakko stated that the Texas Senate had a similar bill going through legislature. Ms. Bakko updated on

additional bills on the floor for funding for GCPD, including trust funds, and provided comments on additional legislature activities as they pertained to GCPD.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: First Planning Cycle Committee Meeting Minutes Closeout – Discussion and possible action from the Executive Committee, Public Engagement Committee, and Technical Committee to finalize and approve previous Committee Meeting Minutes, for record

Mr. Buscha opened the floor to discussion after explaining the agenda item. Discussion ensued. No action was taken, but the Project Sponsor was tasked to provide further details regarding specific minute close-out requirements at the next meeting.

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. Recommending Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs), Flood Management Strategies (FMSs) and Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs) to be included in the Amended Regional Flood Plan due to the TWDB on July 14, 2023

b. Texas Water Development Board methods for ranking Flood Management Evaluations (FME), Flood Mitigation Projects (FMP), and Flood Management Strategies (FMS) in the 2024 State Flood Plan

Mr. Stull provided an update on the Regional Flood Plan progress. Ms. Puckett provided a more detailed update on the Plan since the February RFPG meeting. Ms. Puckett gave an overview on FMEs elevated to FMPs. Ms. Puckett discussed the process for Task 12 and Task 13 which helped develop the additional FMXs. Ms. Puckett reviewed the new FMXs including new sponsors. Mr. Buscha opened the floor to discussion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Gaynor moved to recommend the list of additional FMXs to be added to the Amended Regional Flood Plan and Mr. Fisseler seconded. Discussion ensued. After taking a vote, Mr. Buscha announced that the recommendation for agenda item 9a was approved.

Ms. Puckett gave an overview of agenda item 9b regarding statewide ranking methods. The TWDB has given Region 6 an extension to April 20, 2023 for an opportunity to discuss and compile feedback due to TWDB. Ms. Puckett reminded the group of the materials that the TWDB has on their website for reference. Ms. Puckett identified the objectives for today's meeting to include deciding how to submit the RFPG's feedback to the proposed ranking methods. Considerations such as including feedback on criteria Region 6 agrees with and providing actionable recommendations were also provided to the RFPG voting members. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Puckett discussed upcoming schedule milestones such as revising the content of the Plan, submitting formal ranking methods feedback, and upcoming materials for comments from the RFPG in May. Ms. Puckett stated that in June the RFPG would be voting to approve revisions to the Amended Plan.

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

Ms. Puckett stated that following the meeting, emails will be sent to proposed project sponsors advising them that the projects have been recommended by the RFPG.

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 reviewed and certified the administrative expenses presented by the Project Sponsor. Ms. Donovan moved to approve the administrative expenses and Ms. Powers seconded. After

taking a vote, Mr. Buscha announced the motion passed to approve the administrative expenses for this period.

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

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next SJRFPG Planning Meeting to be held on June 8, 2023

Mr. Buscha reviewed the upcoming timeline. Mr. Buscha added for the group to email the Technical Consultants with additional comments to the ranking methods feedback.

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

Mr. Buscha announced that the RFPG would meet at the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District through June. Mr. Buscha announced that the United Way would be available starting in October 2023. Mr. Buscha asked the RFPG to provide thoughts on moving to the United Way venue west of Downtown Houston. Ms. Vinson requested an update on public transportation accessibility at the United Way location be provided at the June 8 meeting.

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

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

- Adopting amended Plan and accompanying FMX data.
- Update or possible action on the closeout of committee meeting minutes.
- Project Sponsor to solicit for the Environmental Interests vacancy, considering Rachel Powers' resignation on April 13, 2023.
- Voting member office terms – per bylaws. Draw lots at the June meeting for term limits.

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

Mr. Buscha opened the floor to any public comments. Mr. Myers provided a public comment on behalf of MUD 365 related to a project in the Regional Flood Plan. Mr. Bob Lux from the Woodlands Water Agency provided a public comment to the RFPG. No additional comments were heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjournment

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.



Erwin Burden, Secretary



Tim Buscha, Chair