

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
October 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: [Link](#)
United Way: 50 Waugh Drive; Houston, TX 77007

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)
Augustus Campbell	Public #1 (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
Hanadi Rifai	Environmental Interests	X
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	X
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	X (In-Person)
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	X
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	X
Christina Quintero	Public #2	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	
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Santiago Franco	Texas General Land Office	X
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	X * Ian Blair
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	
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	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	
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.	
Brian Edmondson	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X
Andrew Moore	Halff, Associates	
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	
Rachel Herr	Halff, Associates	X
Mariah Najmuddin	Hollaway Environmental + Communications	

<u>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Lea Sanford	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-Person)
Mike Garcia	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-Person)

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 10

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

Attendees:**

Remote:

Bob Kosar	Reem Zoun
David Parkhill	Peggy Zahler
Don Johnson	Trae Camble
Gary Bezemek	Vogler Mark

***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

Mr. Chan 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. Bushcha opened the floor for registered comments. None were heard.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Mr. Blair stated that the Texas Water Development Board had a few updates for the planning group. The TWDB on schedule to provide RFI comment letters for the Amended Flood Plan. We anticipate delivering these letters either at the end of October or beginning of November.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2023

Mr. Bushcha opened the floor for comments on the August 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Barrett provided minor comments. Mr. Barrett moved to approve the minutes as revised, and Ms. Vinson seconded. Mr. Bushcha 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. Bushcha announced that Augustus Campbell will hold Public Seat #1.

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

- a. **Trinity Region** – Mr. Burrer didn't to provide an update.
- b. **Neches Region** – Ms. Hasselback was not available to provide an update.
- c. **Lower Brazos Region** – Mr. Turco was unavailable to provide updates.
- d. **Region H Water** – Mr. Wade was unavailable to provide an update.
- e. **Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)** – Ms. Bakko stated that the GCPD is partnering to identify sand sources for beach nourishment activities in the Texas Coastal Project and areas where the General Land Office conducts their beach nourishment. Ms. Bakko and board President Mayor Michel Patel flew to DC to meet the White House Infrastructure Implementation team lead to advocate for funding out of bipartisan infrastructure law money. USACE roughly has a billion dollars in unallocated funding. Ms. Bakko made a strong case to direct funds toward the Texas Coastal Project based on supply chain protection, nature-based solutions, and disadvantaged communities. Ms. Bakko met with congressional delegation member to explain that her effort's align with the priorities of the administration. Ms. Bakko believes that the Assistant Secretary and Chief of Engineers will support the effort in the project. The board will meet again on November 8th. Stephen Costello mentioned to Ms. Bakko that they've been doing a lot of dredging in Lake Houston. They're about 3-4 months away from finishing a master plan for Lake Houston to reclaim storage loss from incoming sediment flow. The USACE spoke to Mr. Costello about using the material for the replenishing work down in the Coastal Spine project. Mr. Costello asked who he needs to speak to to find out if the District will be considering using the dredge material from Lake Houston for the Coastal Spine project. Ms. Bakko said that Tony Williams will be the best point of contact to determine how the GLO is moving forward with that effort.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on the Solicitation Process for the Public Seat #1 Voting Member Representative Vacancy

Mr. Buscha provided an update that the Executive Committee has selected Augustus Campbell for the Public Seat #1 as a voting member. What made Augustus stand out from the other candidates are the following: one is the significant background on regional flood planning groups and the peer organizations that supervise the flood planning group and help implement regional flood planning groups, two his background working with Houston Stronger and West Houston Association and other groups, and thirdly his familiarity with the Texas Water Development Board and long historical background on the planning program, which is a mirror image of what this program is. Mr. Buscha opens to the other member to speak on the topic. Ms. Vinson stated that Augustus Campbell acted as her alternate since she came on with the planning group back in 2020 and has a lot of knowledge ready for the second planning cycle. Ms. Donoran agreed with Tim and Alia that Augustus brings a lot of great insights. Mr. Burden stated that Augustus seems to be very active on how to get the message out to help promote the planning group. Mr. Burrer agreed with the group. Tim Buscha opened the floor for voting members. Ms. Donoran stressed the importance of the role and motioned to approve Augustus Campbell as Public Seat #1 and Alia Vinson seconded the motion. After a vote was taken, Mr. Buscha announced that the Motions passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Update by the Project Sponsor regarding the application for grant funds and contract with TWDB, on behalf of the RFPG

Mr. Burden stated we are not able to apply until November 9th and that the Sponsor has gotten new staff to support RFPG efforts.

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

Mr. Stull submitted the amended plan back in the summer and the Texas Water Development Board is hard at work reviewing and waiting on the RFIs. The RFIs should come later in the month. The earliest the funds will be open is in the first quarter of next year. Sponsor is ready for the FNXs for project to be ready for funding.

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

Ms. Vinson made a motion to approve the Administrative Expenses presented by the Project Sponsor. Ms. Vinson moved to approve the administrative expenses and it was seconded. After taking a vote, Mr. Buscha announced the motion passed.

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 December 14, 2023**

Mr. Buscha recapped the briefing made from the technical consultant; the TWDB has provided comments.

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

Mr. Buscha stated that he hopes there will be more public engagement in 2024 due to the efforts of the public members and networks from the state's involvement.

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

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

- Discuss RFQ for December 14

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

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Adjournment

Mr. Buscha announced the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Erwin Burden, Secretary

Tim Buscha, Chair