

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
June 13, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting
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
Alia Vinson	Water Districts (Vice Chair)	x
Erwin Burden	Counties (Secretary)	x
Augustus Campbell	Public #1 (At-Large member)	x
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	x
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	(*Mary Anne Piacentini)
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	(*Gary Bezemek)
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	x
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	(*Bob Kosar)
Christina Quintero	Public #2	x
Imelda Diaz	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	
Santiago Franco	Texas General Land Office	
Mike Kelly	Texas Water Development Board	(*Anita Machiavello)
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	x
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	x

<u>Liaisons from RFPG</u>	<u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/Alternate Present (*)</u>
Todd Burrer	Trinity Region RFPG	x
Vacant	Neches Region RFPG	
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>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/Alternate Present (*)</u>
Lea Sanford	Harris County Engineering Department	x
Mike Garcia	Harris County Engineering Department	x
Timothy Williams	Harris County Engineering Department	x

Quorum:

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 15 total, (14) at time of quorum

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

Attendees: Remote:**

Alfred Garcia	Harvey
Andy Palermo	Johnny Kim
Brian Edmondson	Maggie Puckett
Cory Stull	Mary Anne Piacentini
Duane Barrett	Peggy Zahler
Gary Bezemek	Hannah Rosette

****Meeting attendee names were gathered from the WebEx meeting platform.**

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
June 13, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting
United Way: 50 Waugh Drive; Houston, TX 77007

MEETING START TIME: 9:01am

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Buscha called the meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order again at 9:15am, due to technical difficulties.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Williams called roll. Online participants were reminded to turn on their cameras. Quorum identified. Quorum met.

Tim Buscha offered thanks and well wishes to Stephen Costello for his service to SJRFPG as a voting member representing Municipalities. Stephen's resignation, effective July 1st, 2024, from his position held with the City of Houston makes him ineligible to serve as the SJRFPG Municipalities representative. The Sponsor will proceed to broadcast the open position.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items

(Limit of 3 Minutes Per Person)

Discussion/Action Items:

There were no registered public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Update

Discussion/Action Items:

Mike Kelly has resigned from TWDB. Interim Manager for Region 6, Anita Machiavello (Team Lead of Regional Flood Planning Program), presented the following updates for TWDB:

- Currently working with contracts department to execute all fifteen regions, for Cycle 2. Region 6, documents have been sent for DocuSign, on approximately 6/12/2024.
- Second planning cycle webpage has been updated. Scope of work has been revised to reflect an updated conceptual schedule planning for second cycle and recent communications regarding amendment process to regional flood plan.
- On 5/28/2024, an email correspondence was disbursed containing additional guidance on Regional Flood Plan amendment processes. Updates to policies regarding the use of grant funds to process, review and approve up to two amendments to 2023 approved regional flood plans, during the second cycle. Updated guidance is reflected in exhibit A, scope of work, as well as contained in aforementioned email.
- Draft state flood plan has been released for public comment, deadline for comments is 6/17/2024.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Discussion/Action Items:

Meeting minutes from April 11th, 2024, meeting was circulated in the meeting materials for this meeting. The minutes have been updated and edited based on comments.

- **Matthew Barrett** – requested a review of the order of the pages of the meeting minutes.
- Motions of approval, Erwin Burden, Alia Vinson. Carried, 9:20am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s) Progress and Status and other Related Entities.

Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Trinity Region – **Todd Burrer** – Most recent meeting, 4/4/2024. All plans have been submitted within deadline(s) and were accepted by Texas Water Development Board. No other relevant news to report.
- b. Neches Region – No reporting member.
- c. Lower Brazos Region – **Mark Vogler** – Mirrors the remarks of Todd Burrer.
- d. Region H Water – No reporting member.
- e. Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) – Tentative that Tim Buscha will attend next GCPD meeting, and update for next Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group meeting.

(Sally Bakko’s comments)

GCPD Update

- **US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) FY 2024 Work Plan** includes:
\$500,000 – Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) Funded for Completion in the FY 2024 Work Plan: Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study (a.k.a. Coastal Texas Project), (Bolivar Peninsula—East Bay on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway breakwaters and marsh habitat feature).

This is a significant step towards completion of PED and finalizing design plans and specifications ready for construction for this project element while advancing the Coastal Texas Project towards a “New Start” designation. With a “New Start” designation, the Coastal Texas Project has access to compete for construction and other funds in the USACE annual appropriations.

FY 2025 CPF Request:

Congressman Randy Weber submitted an FY 2025 Community Project Funding (CPF) request for consideration by the House Appropriations Committee:

Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM)

- \$15 million - West Galveston and Bolivar Beach and Dune Systems
- \$5 million - Bolivar Roads Gate System

Ecosystem Restoration (ER)

- \$20 million - Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) Breakwaters and marsh restoration (G-28)

Design Agreement –The GCPD approved the Design Agreement between GCPD and USACE. The Design Agreement will cover detailed pre-construction engineering and design, up through preparation of plans and specifications for the initial construction contract for the Coastal Texas Project. The final agreement is under review USACE Headquarters.

USACE Galveston District awaits instructions to execute the agreement.

GCPD has in place:

Texas A&M University at Galveston Study – Storm Surge Barrier Gate System Alternatives

Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Texas A&M University at Galveston Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT) at Texas A&M

- Evaluate barrier gate design alternatives - sector gate, arch gate, and barge gate systems to identify better protection solutions, operability, navigation, and environmental impact.
- Recent ship simulations conducted by Houston and Galveston pilots showed the USACE proposed double sector gate system is not a preferred marine navigation alternative.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Update by the Project Sponsor regarding the application for grant funds, RFPG’s contract with TWDB and status of the Request for Qualifications for the Technical Consultant for the 2028 Regional Flood Planning Cycle

Discussion/Action Items:

- **Mike Garcia** – Project sponsor submitted the grant application to the Texas Water Development Board, and it was received. RFQ for technical consultant is in advertisement. An addendum, based on Texas Water Board submittal for re-scope is being processed. The addendum will delay receipt of submittals by two weeks.
- **Erwin Burden** – Contract for SJRFPG with TWDB is currently routing, it will need to go through Commissioner’s court for grant acceptance.
- **Anita Machiavello**, requesting court date for grant contract with TWDB for signatures. Per Erwin Burden court date is not yet confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: General discussion and membership thoughts on the Draft 2024 State Flood Plan issued in May by TWDB and plan for formal comments from the planning group

Discussion/Action Item:

Comments are due by June 17, 2024, 5 o’clock pm. Web page includes instructions on how to provide to comments.

Please alert Tim Buscha and sponsor of pertinent comments, for incorporation into letter form by Monday June 17th, 2024.

Comment, per Erwin Burden that the document shows that Harris County does not regulate flood plain, which needs to be corrected. Harris County does regulate its flood plain. Comments have been made to correct this error.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion about future amendments to the regional flood plan to add a new FMX or modify an existing FMX

Discussion/Action Items:

- Per Anita Machiavello, TWDB scope of work has been modified and adjusted and sponsors will include this into RFQ for the technical consultant. The changes allow for a process for funding to support an amendment process (to the 2023 Regional Flood Plans) over the next cycle period. Per Tim Buscha, SJRFPG could support stakeholders and entities by the following:
 1. Workshop on how to submit an amendment into Region 6 Flood Plan.
 2. Workshop on how to respond with, and explain further, an abridged request.
- Anita Machiavello confirms, allowing of up to two amendments (within the 5-year cycle) using grant funding. Amendments must be made before the submission of draft.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Presentation of 2024 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:

Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones – Receipt of Statements of Qualifications for Technical Consultant for Regional Flood Planning Group. Scoring and ranking of consultant candidates will begin late July/Early August. Sponsor is working to appoint a Technical Consultant by the end of 2024.
- b. Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held August 8, 2024 – Meeting location, TBD.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Discussion/Action Items:

- Continued updates from sponsor on funding, contract with TWDB, and Technical Consultant selection.
- Comments on State Flood Plan amendments.
- Recommendation from Executive Committee on stakeholder representative for Municipalities.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

Discussion/Action Items:

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjournment

Discussion/Action Items: N/A

MEETING END TIME 9:41am



Erwin Burden, Secretary



Tim Buscha, Chair